



Communique Committee of Experts

Committee of Experts welcomes the enactment of the law on protection and reparation for victims of femicide and their families in Chile.

Washington, DC, May 25th, 2023. The [Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women](#) "Convention of Belém do Pará" (MESECVI) welcomes the enactment by the Chilean authorities of Law 21.565, which establishes a regime of protection and reparation for victims of femicide and femicidal suicide, and their families. This law represents an important step forward in the efforts to guarantee effective reparation for the victims, in compliance with the State's international obligations.

This law, which came into force on May 9, recognizes the "systemic impact" of femicides and the serious consequences they entail, not only for the victims and their families but for society as a whole. For this reason, it establishes a series of actions to repair the harm caused, including the right to a pension for the children of victims of femicide or femicidal suicide, and the right to protection at the workplace for the surviving victims of attempted femicides.

The Committee of Experts acknowledges the efforts of the government authorities and representatives of the Legislative Branch to promote this law that incorporates international standards for the protection of women, including the obligations established by the Belém do Pará Convention, to which Chile is a State Party. Under Article 7, paragraph g, of that instrument, States undertake to "establish the necessary legal and administrative mechanisms to ensure that women subjected to violence have effective access to restitution, reparations or other just and effective remedies."

Likewise, the experts of this Committee highlight the important role played by women's organizations and organizations of family members of victims of femicide in the design of the bill and its subsequent approval, which represents a step forward in strengthening the capacity of the Chilean State to assist to and protect the victims and survivors of femicide and their families.

According to the [Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls](#) (femicide/feminicide), reparation is an obligation of the State and must be transformative, adequate, effective, rapid and proportional to the damage suffered. According to Article 25 of this Model Law: "the State must ensure the sustenance of the dependents of the victim of femicide/feminicide and of those who assume the care of them, including persons with disabilities, or seniors. It must include comprehensive

care, which guarantees psycho-social services and a monthly benefit or monetary subsidy that ensures housing, food, education and health.”

For all these reasons, the Committee of Experts welcomes the efforts of the State of Chile to move toward comprehensive reparations for the victims of femicide and their families. It also encourages the authorities to continue working to guarantee women's right to a life free of violence, and in particular, the Committee urges the Chilean State to redouble its efforts to ensure that the comprehensive bill on violence against women, currently in the legislative process, becomes law.

The Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention, through its Committee of Experts, makes itself available to the authorities of the Republic of Chile for any technical support they may require in this matter.

The [Committee of Experts](#) is the technical body of the MESECVI, responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Convention of Belém do Pará. It is made up of independent Experts, appointed by each of the States Parties from among their nationals, who perform their duties in a personal capacity.