

## **New MESECVI Thematic Report and General Recommendation address gender-based violence against girls and women with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

*Washington, DC, July 28, 2023.* Girls and women with disabilities suffer disproportionately from gender-based violence, amidst the tolerance and normalization of violations of their fundamental rights. They also experience greater obstacles and barriers to accessing justice in cases of gender-based violence against them. These are the main findings of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the [Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention \(MESECVI\)](#) in two new publications, the "[Thematic Report on Gender-based Violence against Girls and Women with Disabilities](#)" and the "[General Recommendation \(No.4\) on Gender-based Violence against Girls and Women with Disabilities](#)".

The documents provide tools to address the differential impact and specific acts of violence experienced by girls and women with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean. These specific acts are committed due to the girls' and women's dual condition of gender and disability, as well as, other vulnerability factors that affect them.

From the stereotypes that question their capacity and their right to make autonomous decisions, to the lack of accessibility and adequate means to prevent, address, investigate, punish, and repair violence against them, the thematic report and the General Recommendation examine the issue in depth, providing recommendations to the States for compliance with their obligations under the Belém do Pará Convention and other international treaties.

The thematic report presents the normative frameworks and international standards on the subject, analyzes the various forms and manifestations of violence, and delves into the barriers experienced by girls and women with disabilities to access justice. In turn, the General Recommendation takes up these points and makes recommendations to the States on legislation, national plans, information and statistics, and access to justice.

Both documents, prepared with the support of the European Union's [EUROsociAL+](#) program, were presented at the 53rd session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), during a side event co-organized by the MESECVI, the Permanent Mission of Spain to the OAS, and ONCE Social Group, with the participation of prominent panelists from Latin America and Europe.

During the presentation, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), Alejandra Mora, pointed out the need to approach the issue using the lens of intersectionality to better address the situation of women and girls with disabilities in the region. "Throughout the region, practices of structural violence are still

in place, such as institutionalization and the imposition of treatment without free and informed consent, forced sterilization, isolation and mistreatment of institutionalized persons," she said.

Patricia Sanz Cameo, Third Vice-President of ONCE Social Group, called for the differential impact of this violence to be made visible: "Let us demand more data in public studies in all the countries of the region so that we can truly see that this impact affects more and, not only for having a disability but also because this violence generates disability in women.

The Permanent Observer of Spain to the OAS, Ambassador Carmen Montón, pointed out her country's commitment to the fight against the specific violence experienced by women and girls with disabilities, as well as, against the various forms of gender-based violence: "The agenda we share with the OAS must include the fight against all types of gender-based violence: femicide, trafficking and sexual exploitation, prostitution and pornography, harassment, sexual abuse and rape, reproductive exploitation, forced marriages and genital mutilation, among other manifestations of violence".

The event was attended by the Ministers of Women's Affairs of Chile, Antonia Orellana, and Panama, Juana Herrera Araúz, who spoke about the structural efforts made in their countries to address these specific forms of violence.

With these publications, the MESECVI and its Committee of Experts seek to contribute to the adoption of legislative measures and public policies that help guarantee the rights of women, adolescents, and girls with disabilities, as well as their access to justice.

Access the documents by clicking here:

[Thematic Report on Gender-based violence against girls and women with disabilities](#)

[General Recommendation of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI \(No.4\): Gender-based violence against girls and women with disabilities](#)