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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

MESECVI

Follow-Up Mechanism to the
Belém do Pará Convention

Committee of Experts of the MESECVI Expresses Deep Concern and Rejection Regarding Bill Seeking to Eliminate the Criminalization of Femicide in Peru

Washington, DC, June 17, 2026. [The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women "Belém do Pará Convention"](#) (MESECVI) expresses its deep concern and rejection regarding Bill No. 10342, currently under consideration by the Congress of the Republic of Peru, which seeks to eliminate the criminal offence of femicide and replace it with the offence of “intimate partner homicide.” If adopted, this initiative would undermine Peru’s compliance with the obligations assumed under the Belém do Pará Convention and other international instruments on women’s human rights.

The Committee of Experts (CEVI) has become aware, through concerns raised by civil society organizations and other relevant actors, as well as information reported by the media, that the bill under discussion would fundamentally replace the offence of femicide with a criminal category limited to killings committed within the context of intimate partner relationships. This change would remove the explicit recognition of the gender-based killing of women and exclude a range of circumstances currently covered under the existing legal definition of femicide.

The CEVI observes with particular concern that the proposed legislative changes would weaken the State’s capacity to prevent, address, investigate, punish, and provide reparations for the violent deaths of women and girls. Furthermore, it would also affect/impede effective access to justice for victims and their families and could contribute to impunity for perpetrators of gender-based violence. Furthermore, the proposal would also compromise the State’s ability to produce specialized information, formulate evidence-based public policies, and develop timely and comprehensive responses to violence against women.

In this regard, the Committee recalls that the Belém do Pará Convention, to which Peru is a State Party, recognizes in Article 2 that violence against women may occur within the family or domestic unit, in any other interpersonal relationship, within the community, or may even be perpetrated or tolerated by the State. Likewise, Articles 7 and 8 establish the States' obligation to act with due diligence to prevent, investigate, punish and eradicate all forms of violence against women, as well as to adopt progressive measures that prevent setbacks in their protection.

Since its 2008 Declaration on Femicide, the Committee has emphasized that femicides constitute the most extreme manifestation of discrimination and violence against women and has defined them as the gender-based violent killing of women, whether occurring in the

private sphere, within the community, or perpetrated or tolerated by the State. The CEVI has consistently maintained that the legal recognition of femicide constitutes a fundamental tool for making this specific form of violence visible, combating impunity, and guaranteeing access to justice for women and their families.

Similarly, the Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide), developed by the Committee of Experts, recognizes the importance of criminalizing femicide as one component of a comprehensive response to this form of violence. This Model Law emphasizes that criminalization alone is not sufficient; it also requires public policies and coordinated, intersectoral government actions aimed at its prevention, response, investigation, punishment, and redress.

In light of the foregoing, the Committee of Experts calls upon the Peruvian authorities, and in particular the Legislative Branch, to preserve and consolidate the progress achieved in the criminalization of femicide and to continue strengthening comprehensive responses aimed at preventing, addressing, investigating, punishing and providing reparations for this form of violence that violates the human rights of women and girls. The Committee reaffirms that preventing and eradicating femicide requires strengthening State capacities, as well as the legal and institutional frameworks necessary to ensure an effective response to this extreme form of violence against women.

The Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention, through its Committee of Experts, makes itself available to the State of Peru 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.