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# COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

MESECVI

Follow-Up Mechanism to the  
Belém do Pará Convention

## **Committee of Experts of the MESECVI Expresses Solidarity with the People of Venezuela Following the Recent Earthquakes and Calls for the Protection of the Rights of Women and Girls in Disaster Situations**

*Washington, DC, June 26, 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 profound solidarity with the people of Venezuela and with all those affected by the tragedy caused by the recent earthquakes. The Committee also extends its condolences to the families of the victims and calls for all emergency response efforts to incorporate a gender and human rights perspective that ensures the effective protection of women and girls.

In situations of disaster and humanitarian emergency, women and girls face differentiated risks that are often exacerbated. International experience shows that, following natural disasters, different forms of gender-based violence intensify and increase, including sexual violence, domestic violence, trafficking in persons, exploitation and other human rights violations, while access to essential protection, health, justice and psychosocial support services becomes more difficult.

In light of this reality, the Committee recalls that, under Article 9 of the Belém do Pará Convention, States shall take special account of the vulnerability to violence faced by women in contexts that increase the risk of gender-based violence and discrimination.

The Committee also recalls that, in the Fortaleza Declaration adopted during the Tenth Conference of States Party to the MESECVI, States recognized that climate emergencies and natural disasters have a disproportionate impact on women and girls and reaffirmed their commitment to incorporating a gender perspective into prevention, response, recovery and reconstruction policies.

Accordingly, the measures adopted in response to the current emergency should incorporate a gender, intersectional and intercultural approach that prevents specific risks and guarantees the comprehensive protection of the rights of women and girls.

In this context, while expressing its solidarity and support for the people of Venezuela, the Committee of Experts calls upon the State to adopt all necessary measures to prevent, address

and punish violence against women and girls during the emergency, while ensuring their comprehensive protection and effective access to essential services.

In particular, the Committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that humanitarian assistance mechanisms include:

- specific measures to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls;
- safe and accessible spaces for women, girls and persons in situations of particular vulnerability;
- timely access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, as well as psychosocial support;
- reporting and protection mechanisms that remain operational throughout the emergency; and
- the active participation of women in response, recovery and reconstruction efforts;
- the gender-responsive allocation and distribution of the financial, human and humanitarian resources mobilized to respond to the emergency.

The Committee of Experts reiterates its full readiness to provide technical assistance to the Venezuelan State, the competent institutions and international and humanitarian organizations in support of a gender-responsive approach throughout the emergency and recovery process.

During these difficult times, the Committee stands with the people of Venezuela and with all those affected by this tragedy. At the same time, it recalls the importance of ensuring that the humanitarian response incorporates specific measures to protect the rights of women and girls, who face differentiated risks in disaster situations while playing a fundamental role in sustaining their families and communities, leaving no one behind.

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*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.*