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COMMUNIQUE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

MESECVI

Follow-Up Mechanism to the
Belém do Pará Convention

Committee of Experts of the MESECVI rejects the advancement of legislative initiatives on false reports in Bolivia and Argentina

Washington, DC, August 11, 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 opposition to the advancement of legislative initiatives on false reports in Bolivia and Argentina. The Committee warns with deep concern that, if adopted, these initiatives would create an additional legislative barrier to women's effective access to justice. It therefore considers that their adoption would constitute a violation of the obligations undertaken by both States under the Belém do Pará Convention and could engage their international responsibility.

The Committee of Experts (CEVI) has become aware, through information received from civil society organizations as well as publicly available reports, of the advanced stage of legislative proceedings in both Bolivia and Argentina concerning bills that seek to increase criminal penalties for false reports, despite the fact that this offence is already criminalized under the criminal legislation of both countries.

In a [communiqué](#) issued in December 2025, the CEVI warned of the risks posed by the dissemination of public narratives and legislative initiatives based on an alleged high prevalence of false reports in cases of violence against women and their children. The advancement of these bills heightens that concern, particularly in light of the levels of violence against women reported in both countries and the persistent barriers women face in reporting violence and accessing justice.

In Argentina, according to the National Register of Femicides prepared by the Office for Women of the Supreme Court of Justice, 200 women were victims of femicide in 2025, of whom only 15 per cent had previously reported acts of violence. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, according to data from the Public Prosecutor's Office, more than 500,000 complaints have been filed under Law No. 348 since its enactment. However, only 7% of the cases resulted in a conviction. In contrast, cases involving false accusations accounted for just 0.13% of all cases filed, according to data from the Public Prosecutor's Office for 2024.

During the [Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round](#) on the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention, the CEVI identified the persistence of legal, institutional and cultural barriers that discourage women from reporting violence, foster impunity and perpetuate violence against women, including State and institutional violence, as one of the principal obstacles to women's access to justice.

In this context, legislative initiatives aimed at increasing criminal penalties for false reports in cases of violence against women constitute an additional legislative barrier, as they have a deterrent effect on the exercise of the right to effective access to justice and on the establishment of prompt and effective mechanisms for the protection of women, increase fear of retaliation, and deepen processes of revictimization, particularly in contexts where violence against women is significantly underreported. This is contrary to the guarantees of access to justice enshrined in Articles 8 and 25 of the American Convention on Human Rights, as reinforced by the specific obligations established under Articles 7 and 8 of the Belém do Pará Convention.

This type of measure shifts the focus away from the State's obligation to investigate violence with due diligence and towards heightened scrutiny of those who report it. In doing so, it weakens guarantees of access to justice and is incompatible with the standards established under the Belém do Pará Convention, which require States to remove barriers that restrict the exercise of women's rights and to refrain from adopting measures that represent a regression in their protection.

Furthermore, CEVI considers that the establishment of a harsher regime for women who file complaints constitutes a violation of the prohibition against discrimination enshrined in the Convention and in various international instruments on women's human rights.

In light of the foregoing, the Committee of Experts urges the authorities of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and of the Argentine Republic, particularly members of their legislative bodies, to refrain from adopting legislative initiatives that contravene the obligations established under the Belém do Pará Convention and instead strengthen measures aimed at ensuring effective access to justice for women victims of violence and for those who report violence against their daughters and sons.

The Committee also issues a strong call for other States in the region where similar legislative initiatives are being promoted to ensure that any legislative reform fully complies with the Inter-American human rights standards on women's rights and contributes to strengthening, rather than limiting, women's right to report violence and to have access to effective judicial protection.

The Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention, through its Committee of Experts, remains at the disposal available of the authorities of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and of the Argentine Republic to provide any technical assistance they may require in this regard.

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.