

# SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY



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The Committee of Experts of the MESECVI recommends that States legalize the termination of pregnancy, guaranteeing the sexual and reproductive health of women and their right to life, eliminating unsafe abortions and establishing laws and public policies that permit the termination of pregnancy.

## OF THE 32 STATES

PARTY TO THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION:

**28 countries have legalized abortion on one or several grounds**

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela

**4 countries absolutely prohibit it:** Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua

The absolute prohibition of abortion not only constitutes a violation of women's right to choose, but also violates their rights to health, autonomy, privacy, and security, among others. Such criminalization particularly affects women living in conditions of vulnerability.

**Challenges:** To eliminate total bans on pregnancy termination and to establish treatment protocols that make possible the effective use of abortion.

## WHAT DOES THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION SAY?

Article 4: Every woman has the right to the recognition, enjoyment, exercise, and protection of all human rights and freedoms embodied in regional and international human rights instruments.

*Additional source and resources: Second Follow-Up Report on the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, available at <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/docs/MESECVI-SegundoInformeSeguimiento-EN.pdf>*

<sup>1</sup> Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Belém do Pará Convention."  
<sup>2</sup> The law passed in 2014 will enter into force on December 16, 2015 (in Spanish): <https://voces.intec.edu.do/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/251865974-Ley-No-550-14-Que-establece-el-Codigo-Penal-de-La-Republica-Dominicana.pdf> article 110