

RAPE WITHIN MARRIAGE OR DE FACTO UNIONS



Organization of
American States | More rights
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The Committee of Experts of the MESECVI¹ recommends that States criminalize sexual violence, not just in marriages, but in all interpersonal relationships.

OF THE **32 STATES**

PARTY TO THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION:

18 countries criminalize rape within marriage or de facto unions:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, and Venezuela.

14 countries do not criminalize it: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.



Challenges: To eliminate sexist and preconceived ideas, procedures, obstacles, and prejudices that make it difficult for women to obtain justice in these cases, in particular through the justice system.

WHAT DOES THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION SAY?

Article 2: Violence against women shall be understood to include physical, sexual, and psychological violence (...) that occurs within the family or domestic unit or within any other interpersonal relationship, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has the same residence with the woman, including, among others, rape, battery, and sexual abuse.

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>

¹ Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Belém do Pará Convention."