



Communique Committee of Expert

Committee of Experts expresses concern about misogynistic insults and violence against women in the lower house of Congress of Argentina.

Washington, DC, December 13, 2022. The [Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women](#) "Belém do Pará Convention" (MESECVI) expresses its concern over violence in the political arena against the President of the lower house of Congress, Cecilia Moreau, who during the session of Thursday, December 1, 2022, was the victim of misogynistic gestures.

After a session where several sexist insults were addressed to female lawmakers during the discussion of a Bill for the creation of new universities, congressman Cristian Ritondo made an obscene gesture evoking a rape, amid shouts at the president of the body, and sexist and xenophobic insults made by other members of his party, indicating that they had defeated her by not getting the bill approved.

The actions denounced constitute political violence against women and weaken democracy by replacing arguments with insults and violent gestures, during legislative debates. Furthermore, they show an escalation of aggressions against women in political office.

These illegal acts violate international human rights treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the American Convention on Human Rights, incorporated into the Argentine National Constitution. Likewise, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women "Belém do Pará Convention" has been violated, along with national regulations, such as Chapter XX of the Rules of Procedure of the National Chamber of Deputies; and Laws 26.485, 27.533 and 23.592.

The Committee of Experts recalls that Article 3 of [the Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women in Political Life](#) defines violence against women in political life as "any action, conduct or omission, carried out directly or through third parties that, based on gender, causes harm or suffering to a woman or to various women, which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of their political rights."

According to Article 6 of the same instrument, one of the manifestations of such violence is the carrying out of actions that "threaten, frighten or intimidate in any way one or several women and/or their families, with the effect or purpose to limit her political rights, including the renunciation of the office or function they hold or run for."

In this regard, the Committee requests the State of Argentina to take the necessary measures to punish these aggressions in an exemplary manner, as well as, to continue generating prevention mechanisms to identify and prevent these types of cases that affect women's access to the political life and the development of their political career.

The Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention, through its Committee of Experts, makes itself available to the Argentine State for any technical support it 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.