



# Communique Committee of Experts

## **Committee of Experts Expresses Concerns about Setbacks in Women's Institutional Framework in Argentina.**

Washington, DC, February 22, 2024. [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 concern over the discourse from the highest authorities, accompanied by several initiatives promoted by the public authorities, all of which represent a setback in the legal and institutional frameworks developed by the Argentine State to guarantee the right of women to a life free of violence.

This Committee acknowledges the extensive legal framework established by the Argentine State to protect women's rights, as well as, the international commitments adopted that remain in force, and its active participation in various forums and initiatives related to women's rights. However, certain proposals promoted in recent weeks are cause for concern, as they imply a reversal of the progress made by the country in the protection of women's human rights.

In this regard, the Committee of Experts (CEVI) regrets the decision to downgrade the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity to the rank of undersecretary, which has a direct impact on the State's capacities to prevent, address, and protect women from gender-based violence. Similarly, there is concern that the new institutional structure established as a replacement does not have the necessary budget allocations to develop and implement public policies that guarantee women's right to a life free of violence.

In the past, the CEVI has commended the progress made by the Argentine State in the creation of institutions, the enactment of legislation, and the implementation of public policies designed to comply with the commitments adopted through the Belém do Pará Convention, which recognizes violence against women as a violation of their human rights.

For this reason, the Committee of Experts notes with concern, and interprets as a step backward, the legislative attempts to close institutions and reduce the scope or repeal laws and regulations that guarantee women's rights.

The Committee of Experts recalls that, through the Belém do Pará Convention, the States Parties undertake a series of duties to move toward its effective compliance, among them: to adopt, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies aimed at preventing, punishing, and eradicating such violence, as well as, specific measures to promote education, knowledge, and observance of women's right to a life free of violence, and the right to have their human rights respected and protected.

Likewise, through its national reports on the implementation of the Convention and the reports of the successive evaluation rounds, the CEVI has recommended that the Argentine State continue to strengthen state capacities, among them, the allocation of adequate budgetary provisions to prevent and eradicate violence against women.

For all the reasons outlined above, this Committee of Experts urges the Argentine authorities not only to guarantee the continuity of the institutions, norms, and mechanisms that protect women but also to continue strengthening gender institutions in the country in compliance with its international obligations. Likewise, in the midst of a climate of tension surrounding these measures, a call is made to guarantee a plural, democratic debate free of violence, especially against women with a public voice who are the target of attacks based on their gender.

The Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention, through its Committee of Experts, makes itself available to the authorities of Argentina for any technical support they may require in this matter.

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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.*