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FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE  
BELEM DO PARA CONVENTION (MESECVI)  
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THIRD FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE  
MESECVI

FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION

2020



## FOREWORD

*[... T] he gender stereotype refers to a preconception of attributes, behaviors or characteristics possessed or roles that are or should be performed by men and women respectively [...].*

*In this sense, [the] creation and use [of gender stereotypes and prejudices] becomes one of the causes and consequences of gender violence against women, circumstances that are aggravated when they are reflected, implicitly or explicitly, in policies and practices, mainly in the reasoning and language of state authorities.*

*I / A Court HR, Case of González et al. V. Mexico ("Campo Algodonero")*

This phase focused on the follow-up of the general recommendations of the “Third Hemispheric Report on the implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, Paths to Follow”, where the prevention of violence against women was analyzed based on the eradication of stereotypes in legislation, national plans, access to justice, information and statistics, and the intersectional approach to the diversity of women and girls.

We hope that the result of this report, built with the response of 18 States Parties to the Convention, can work as a roadmap for the States Parties to the MESECVI: that is a reflection of the efforts, but also a compass to continue traveling through the roads that still have to be covered and an instrument for women's national mechanisms to drive a wedge in those roads that we are not yet traveling.

This monitoring continues to account for important efforts, some of which are public policy designs that seek to build bridges for women's access to justice, training processes for personnel of the justice administration system, expansion of complaint offices, training, information and promotion mechanisms on women's rights aimed at different levels of education and also processes of transformation and inclusion of the educational curriculum. However, the extreme violence that women experience has intensified. The violence in the context of the pandemic shows that many of these efforts were obstructed and, above all, were limited, at a time when both the implementation of awareness-raising measures and their impact have not yet been measured.

And the fact is that, in the evaluation and monitoring, the States present important weaknesses. According to the information sent by the States, most of the efforts aimed at the design and implementation of public policies are not accompanied by measurement mechanisms that account for the positive or negative impact of these policies. Neither was information received that would allow for a clearer identification of the coverage of these plans and policies that are being developed with so much effort.



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The Committee appreciates the efforts made by the States to eradicate gender stereotypes, through a regulatory framework that recognizes their negative effects. In this sense, it is worth highlighting some of the experiences to move forward with actions aimed at incorporating work with the media and advertising agencies for the dissemination of women's rights. Likewise, we observe important progress in relation to the development of protection protocols, reception of complaints, and mechanisms for the protection of women and girls and other instruments to investigate crimes committed against women based on gender.

However, the progress in efforts to eradicate gender stereotypes and fight violence is not being reflected in the lives and daily lives of women. Some of the figures in the report tell us that violence against women in the region continues to be in the foreground. For example:

- Between 50% and 60% of women in the American States have been victims of some type of violence in their lifetime;
- Home continues to be the most unsafe place for women;
- The main perpetrators of violence are men from the intimate environment of women and girls;
- Violence that occurs in educational and work spaces is mostly perpetrated by teachers and bosses; and
- The types of violence with the highest number of incidences are physical, sexual and psychological violence.

The pandemic caused by Covid-19 also forced millions of women and girls to lock themselves up with their aggressors and to reduce their chances of protection and complaining. In this context, the majority of the States reported an increase in calls to the hotlines and support, but at the same time a significant decrease in the formalization of complaints.

Integrated prevention and reparation processes are the cornerstone of the cultural transformation of unequal power relations, which are the cause of discrimination and violence against women and girls, and in a pandemic these routes were excluded from the analysis and crisis cabinets processes.

The Committee recognizes that the programs aimed at addressing the right of women and girls to be valued and educated free from stereotyped patterns of behavior and from social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority or subordination, remain very limited and not very structural, and where tolerance to sexist violence continues to be continuously present.

There is still a need to build a greater commitment to follow-up and monitoring mechanisms, which allow the permanent evaluation of the public policy implemented, in dialogue with civil society, the organizations that work on these issues and that allow the intergenerational view of women and girls. girls who suffer this violence every day. We need data, disaggregated figures on the impact of the policies, the coverage of the programs, the monitoring processes and the assigned budget.



We continue without an intersectional perspective for the eradication of violence against women in other relevant national plans and actions, such as in the field of health and labor, education and migration policies.

The creation and use of gender stereotypes and prejudices in this region continues to be the breeding ground for the causes and consequences of violence against women and girls, and they continue to be present and reflected implicitly and explicitly in default policies and practices fixed throughout the entire region, evidenced by extreme tolerance by state authorities, which is manifested in limited policies or the absence of policies.

The efforts are unquestionable, but avoiding the constant aggressions suffered by women in the region requires strengthening the networks for the exchange of information, action and work with the States. Eradicating unequal power relations and gender stereotypes must be a coordinated action between the public sector, the private sector and social organizations, among others, and international organizations have an inescapable duty to join these efforts and work together to continue promoting and activating public policies that guarantee sooner rather than later that the fight cry “Ni Una Más” (*Not One More Woman*) becomes a reality.

Tatiana Rein Venegas  
President of the CEVI

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (CEVI) dedicated the Third Multilateral Evaluation Round on the Implementation of the Convention (Third Evaluation Round) that began in October 2015, to the obligation of the States Party to prevent violations of the human rights contained in the Convention, including the theoretical and doctrinal elements on the human rights of women developed in international law. The Evaluation Phase ended in 2017 with the publication of the Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention, entitled *Prevention of Violence against Women in the Americas: Paths to Follow*,<sup>1</sup> and 28 National Reports.<sup>2</sup>

2. In these reports, the CEVI performed a special assessment of the educational processes under development in the Region to eradicate gender stereotypes in different areas of society and, especially, in formal and informal educational settings.

3. It also highlighted the information on the progress of these processes to change the States Parties' educational curricula and the civil servants' training processes in charge of enforcing the laws that protect women and girls from gender-based violence. The Report further emphasized the progress made in the laws that punish the violent death of women and femicide/feminicide throughout the Region, the impact of the laws in place, and the results achieved thus far. The CEVI also issued a series of recommendations to the States to implement such laws, emphasizing the budgetary aspects.

4. This report describes the most relevant aspects presented by the States Party within the context of the Follow-up Phase of the Third Evaluation Round, which began in December 2018. It focuses its analysis on evaluating the progress made on the implementation of the recommendations included in the Third Hemispheric Report of the MESECVI on the issues mentioned in the paragraph above, and on a review of the specific recommendations made in the national reports to each State participating in the Third Evaluation Round.

5. For this follow-up phase, the CEVI selected 83 indicators from the System of Progress Indicators to Measure Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention,<sup>3</sup> which includes structure, process, and outcome indicators, as well as qualitative signs of progress through the following modules:

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<sup>1</sup> *Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. Prevention of Violence against Women in The Americas. Paths to Follow.* Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI). Organization of American States (OAS). 2017. Available at <https://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/docs/TercerInformeHemisferico-EN.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/NationalReportsThirdRound.asp>.

<sup>3</sup> *Practical Guide to the System of Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention.* Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI). Organization of American States (OAS). 2015.

legislation (20 indicators); national plans (32 indicators); access to justice (12 indicators); information and statistics (eight indicators); and diversity (ten indicators).

6. Regarding the collection of information to respond to the indicators, the CEVI recognizes a greater capacity of the States to provide information on the structural indicators, while the information referred to the process and outcome indicators still represents a relevant challenge for almost all States in the Region. In general, the States maintained the trend established with respect to the previous Report to provide information on the structural indicators enquired on existing laws and policies, while the process and outcomes indicators regarding the implementation mechanisms of such laws and policies provide more limitations to be answered.

7. The CEVI appreciates the States Parties' efforts made to respond to the indicators since the responses, in many cases, were much more profound and complete than those in prior phases, thus permitting an in-depth analysis. The CEVI expresses its permanent commitment to strengthen state capacities to collect relevant information to design public policies that guarantee the obligations established by the Convention.

8. In like manner, the Committee of Experts appreciates the information provided by civil society organizations to enhance this report.

9. The CEVI also emphasizes that the path forward to prevention involves investing resources and efforts in legislative changes and establishing effective mechanisms to ensure the implementation of regulations and programs to eradicate violence and measure the coverage and actual impact of these efforts.



## CHAPTER 1 LEGISLATION, NATIONAL PLANS, INFORMATION AND STATISTICS, AND BUDGET

### I. LEGISLATION

10. In this follow-up phase, the CEVI focused on various general recommendations included in the Third Hemispheric Report, namely a) the adaptation of national legal systems to protect, punish, and eradicate violence against women and girls in public and private spheres; b) follow-up to the internal regulations and sub-legal rules that provide protocols for action and care for victims of violence against women in the entities where complaints are received and throughout the victim care system; c) the adaptation of public policies in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention<sup>4</sup> by promoting measures aimed at eradicating gender stereotypes and their consequences in all levels of educational systems; and d) the impact of public spending on the eradication of violence against women, as well as its availability, publicity, and the participation of women and women's groups in the design, control, and monitoring of the same.

11. In this report, the CEVI reviews and updates this information as it relates to the most relevant or urgent aspects identified during the Evaluation Phase to follow up on the efforts made by the States to eradicate violence against women and the forms of discrimination that exist against women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

#### **1. Adoption, modification, or amendment of national legal systems to prevent and eradicate cultural or discriminatory behaviors and practices based on the concept of inferiority or subordination of women and girls.**

12. As part of the process to follow up on the implementation of the general recommendations contained in the Third Hemispheric Report, the CEVI validated the general will of the States to continue taking actions to adapt national legal systems in correspondence with the Belém do Pará Convention.

13. During this follow-up period, the Committee observed that legal modifications were made to harmonize national criminal codes, reform legislation, or legal instruments to protect victims of violence and adopt national laws to protect and eradicate violence against women.

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<sup>4</sup> The right of every woman to be free from violence includes, among others: a. The right of women to be free from all forms of discrimination; and b. The right of women to be valued and educated free of stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority or subordination.



14. Notably, Paraguay approved Law Number 5777/16,<sup>5</sup> “Comprehensive Protection of Women Against All Forms of Violence,” in 2016, as one of the legislative initiatives following the Committee’s recommendations.<sup>6</sup> This Law incorporates the definition of violence included in the Convention and elaborates on women’s protection. Thus, it includes definitions of reproductive, physical, psychological, sexual, financial, work-related, symbolic, dignity, mediatic rights, and femicide.

15. In addition to other responsibilities, the Law commissions the National Mechanism for Women and the Ministry of Education and Culture to “review and update the textbooks and teaching materials used in the educational system to promote equal rights, opportunities, treatment, and outcomes for women in relation to men, in general, but mainly in indigenous education.” The Law further grants the Information and Communication and Public Function bodies and to the Ministries of Labor, Social Action, Housing and Habitat, Justice, Health, and Children and Adolescents, among others, a preponderant role, thus advancing towards a vision that incorporates public policies aimed at eradicating violence against women.

16. Another positive aspect of this Law includes the single and standardized system for registration of women victims of violence and their perpetrators, including budget funds allocated to care for women victims of gender-based violence. The Committee notes this progress and looks forward to the development of the legislation and public policies needed to ensure proper implementation, not only to prosecute and punish femicide but also other acts classified as violence that have yet to be included or modified in criminal law or other regulations that punish such behavior.

17. The Committee also notes that in 2017, Uruguay adopted Law Number 19.580 that addresses Gender-based Violence Against Women,<sup>7</sup> by which the government declares the eradication of violence against women and the obligation of due diligence as a matter of public and general interest. This Law covers violence against women in public and private spheres. It expands the definition of violence to include symbolic, physical, sexual, obstetric, labor, political, institutional, ethnic, and racial violence.

18. The Law also stipulates the creation of the National Advisory Council for a Life Free from Gender-based Violence Against Women. Among other tasks, it must prepare an annual report on compliance with its duties and gender-based violence in the country. As in Paraguay, this Council comprises representatives of the Ministries of Health, Housing, Education, Labor, Security, and others. The Law also provides for the creation of an observatory of gender-based violence against women that must evaluate the impact of public policies on the subject matter and make recommendations to

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<sup>5</sup> See Law Number 5777/16. Available at <http://www.bacn.gov.py/leyes-paraguayas/8356/ley-n-5777-de-proteccion-integral-a-las-mujeres-contra-toda-forma-de-violencia>.

<sup>6</sup> See, Paraguay Report. Third Evaluation Round, para. 6, p. 3. Available at <https://www.oas.org/es/mese cvi/docs/FinalReport2017-Paraguay.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Uruguay, Law Number 19.580, Gender-based Violence against Women Act. Available at <https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/19580-2017>.



strengthen these policies. It also incorporates a relevant evidentiary assessment element for women victims of violence, among other tasks.

19. The Committee believes that both laws further conceptualize violence and the commitment to make comprehensive progress on violence prevention matters.<sup>8</sup>

20. Ecuador issued on March 3, 2018, through Official Registry Supplement 175, the Comprehensive General Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women and its Regulations, provisions that create the National System to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women, which articulates 22 institutions of three functions of the State: Executive, Judicial and Transparency and Social control, so that a comprehensive response to a structural problem can be granted. This regulation considered of second generation aims to the prevention of violence and the reflection upon positive masculinities, broadens the types and areas where violence occurs, and advocates for a comprehensive response.

21. Chile reported that its Bill on the Right of Women to Live a Life Free from Violence (Bulletin 11077-07) is in the second legislative process in the Senate and aims to provide a comprehensive look at the problem of violence against women.<sup>9</sup> The Committee expects this effort to materialize and ensure a comprehensive look at violence against women in order to address the corresponding legal remedies, both in public and private spheres.

22. Brazil reported that in this period Law 13.718 / 2018 was introduced, which modifies the Penal Code, in order to classify the crimes of sexual harassment and disclosure of the scene of rape; establish increased penalties for crimes against the sexual freedom of vulnerable people; and define collective rape and corrective rape as causes of increased penalties; as well as Law No. 13.641 / 2018, which establishes sanctions for the aggressor who fails to comply with the emergency protection measures granted to women in situations of violence. In addition, with the approval of a new regulation that reforms and expands the Maria da Penha Law, another legislative advance was made. This is manifested in Law 13.827 / 2019, which establishes that both the judicial authority and the police have the power to grant emergency protection measures to women in situations of violence, or their dependents, whose life or physical integrity is in danger, and determines the registration of these emergency protection measures in a database maintained by the National Council of Justice.

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<sup>8</sup> *Idem*. Article 46.

<sup>9</sup> *See*, National Chile Report. Third Evaluation Round, para. 5, p. 3. Available at <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/FinalReport2017-Chile.pdf>.

23. In the case of Mexico, the Committee has mentioned the need to create processes that permit uniform progress to punish violence from a legal perspective and a substantive point of view. With respect to this recommendation, Mexico presented several federal efforts to harmonize the national legislation needed to prevent, address, punish, and investigate violence against women and girls and the reform of state criminal codes to classify femicide/feminicide as a crime in all states.<sup>10</sup>

24. While Bolivia made progress in the decriminalization of abortion on the grounds of rape and incest by amending Article 266 of its Criminal Code, Colombia's progress was reflected in the adoption of mechanisms to reduce the high-levels of impunity that exist in cases of violence against women, included in the 2016-2020 strategic plan of the Office of the Prosecutor of the Nation, where the urgent and effective investigation of three forms of violence against women has been made a top priority based on the criminal behavior described in the Criminal Code, namely domestic and sexual violence, and femicide, and establishes specific goals to improve investigation and prosecution procedures, such as (i) doubling the indictment rate and increasing the conviction rate for these crimes by 50%, while also (ii) reducing by half the cases of homicide victims following reports on domestic or sexual violence.

## 2. Legislative Challenges

25. In the Honduran case, no advancement was identified on the recommendations associated with the inclusion of various forms of violence, trafficking of women and girls, sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, or the corresponding prevention mechanisms and measures to assist and treat victims. There was also a lack of progress made to incorporate the conceptualization of violence in the public sphere to adapt it to the provisions established by the Belém do Pará Convention.

26. Mexico did not provide information on the legislative harmonization in all states of conciliation and mediation in cases of violence against women based on the types of violence described in the Belém do Pará Convention. Lastly, Peru did not report any progress on Bill 01688, which includes rape as a crime against humanity.

## 3. Regulations governing people's right to be educated in educational institutions in an environment free from violence and discrimination.

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<sup>10</sup> National Human Rights Commission, Mexico, Criminal legislation of states that classify femicide as a crime. Available at [https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/all/doc/programas/mujer/6\\_MonitoreoLegislacion/6.0/19\\_DelitoFeminicidio\\_2015dic.pdf](https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/all/doc/programas/mujer/6_MonitoreoLegislacion/6.0/19_DelitoFeminicidio_2015dic.pdf).

See also, National Human Rights Commission, Mexico; State laws and regulations on the prevention, care, punishment, and eradication of family or domestic violence. Available at [https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/all/doc/programas/mujer/6\\_MonitoreoLegislacion/6.0/5\\_LeyesReglamentoViolenciaFamiliar\\_2015dic.pdf](https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/all/doc/programas/mujer/6_MonitoreoLegislacion/6.0/5_LeyesReglamentoViolenciaFamiliar_2015dic.pdf).

27. Article 6, subparagraph b) of the Belém do Pará Convention introduces a woman’s right to be “educated free of stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority or subordination.”

28. Therefore, in this follow-up phase, the Committee decided to consult the States Party on the existence of mechanisms and public policy to eradicate violence and cultural practices found in educational institutions, which function as multipliers of a system that discriminates and subordinates women and girls.

29. During the Evaluation Round, only 12<sup>11</sup> of the 26 States that participated provided information on the subject matter. Since 15 States responded to this indicator, including Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Paraguay, which did not provide information in the previous Evaluation Phase, we observed limited awareness of the problem in this follow-up phase.

30. In contrast to 2016, when the information received focused on the existence of regulations and protocols for academic coexistence, in 2019, the responses received covered sexual and reproductive education, bullying at school, respect for diversity, inclusion, the right of adolescent girls to receive an education while they are pregnant, and information regarding school coexistence remained the same. Also, Argentina,<sup>12</sup> Chile,<sup>13</sup> El Salvador, Mexico, and Paraguay refer to the regulations contained in the laws dealing with violence against women and/or the regulations regarding education in force.

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<sup>11</sup> Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay, provided information on the regulations that govern the right to be educated free from discrimination. Third Hemispheric Report, para. 127, p. 47.

<sup>12</sup> In the context of the Federal Council of Education, Article 11, point 3, subparagraph a) of Law 26.485, “Comprehensive Protection Act to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women in the Spheres of their Interpersonal Relations,” addresses the inclusion of the gender perspective; the practice of tolerance, respect, and freedom in interpersonal relationships; equality between the sexes; the democratization of family relationships; the validity of human rights; and the undermining of violent models of conflict resolution.

<sup>13</sup> Law number 20.370. the General Education Act safeguards the equity of the educational system, ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to receive quality education, paying special attention to individuals or groups that require special support, promoting the inclusion of students from different social, ethnic, religious, economic, and cultural backgrounds. Article 5, paragraph 2 of this Act establishes that “It is also the responsibility of the State to promote integrity, the development of education at all levels and forms, and promote the study and knowledge of the essential rights originating from human nature; promote a culture of peace and arbitrary non-discrimination [...] Moreover, it is the duty of the education professionals to teach in an appropriate and responsible manner; [...] respect both the rules of the institution where they work and the rights of students, and to treat students and other members of the educational community in a respectful manner and without arbitrary discrimination” (www.bcn.cl - National Chilean Congress Library).



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31. The CEVI also observed positively that certain States participating in this phase did not respond to this indicator in 2016, either because they did not participate in the process or did not provide specific information. In this regard, Bolivia reported that Ministerial Resolution Number 001 of the Ministry of Education establishes that students who are victims of violence, bullying, and sexual violence must be transferred to other schools. At the same time, Ministerial Resolution Number 0656/2016 prohibits schools from expelling students who are pregnant.

32. Brazil reported that Law 13.663/2018 includes measures to raise awareness, prevent, and combat all forms of violence in the national education guidelines and bases. Law 13.185/2015 establishes the fight against systematic intimidation.

33. Nicaragua emphasized that Law Number 582, the Act to Reform the General Education Act, and Ministerial Agreement Number 134-2009 ensure compliance with the provisions established by Article 49 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code in public and private schools, prohibiting teachers, authorities, civil servants, employees, and workers in the educational system from applying harsh measures or punishment that could cause physical, psychological damage, or pain and suffering. However, this State did not express having any specific measures to protect girls and adolescents in schools or universities or general measures to reduce discrimination against women and girls, sexual harassment, or other forms of violence.

34. Paraguay noted that Law Number 5777/16 for the Comprehensive Protection of Women Against All Forms of Violence includes equal rights for men and women, non-discrimination, respect for human rights, and training on peaceful dispute resolution in the academic curriculum at all levels.

35. With respect to eradicating educational discrimination due to pregnancy, the CEVI emphasized two States' regulatory experiences. Chile created Exempt Resolution Number 0193 of 2018, which approves a Regulatory Circular on students who are pregnant or parents, and orders all registered academic facilities to implement a protocol to retain and support students who are pregnant or parents and include the protocol in the School's Internal Regulations. In El Salvador, the General Education Act reforms include the right of pregnant girls/adolescents to receive an education free from any form of discrimination.<sup>14</sup>

36. On the other hand, through Resolution DM-3566-2016 dated December 23, 2016, Costa Rica made progress regarding gender identity recognition in the official documentation of the Ministry of Public Education (MEP, acronym in Spanish) for students and civil servants, while Circular DM-040-07-2018 dated July 18, 2018, provides the "Guidelines to adapt procedures, documents, and records to the right to identity and gender recognition for students and graduate students of the Costa Rican educational system, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Decree Number 41173-MEP."

37. Costa Rica also reported on Decree Number 39689-MP-MEP, "Reform and addition to various Articles of the Teaching Profession Regulations, Executive Decree Number 2235 of April 16, 1972,"

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<sup>14</sup> El Salvador. Legislative Decree Number 735 dated May 26, 2011, published in Official Gazette Number 118, Volume 391 dated June 24, 2011.

which emphasizes that teachers are bound to refrain from incurring in or promoting discriminatory practices towards any employee, student, or individuals who are not part of the institution due to ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, or any form of discrimination that is contrary to human dignity.

38. Concerning **academic coexistence and the prevention of violence**, the CEVI notes that El Salvador created the National Policy for School Coexistence and a Peaceful Culture in 2018, aiming to progressively build comprehensive, inclusive, gender-balanced, safe, and comfortable school settings, to improve safety environments in educational centers.

39. In Guatemala, the Ministry of Education established national Regulations for Peaceful Coexistence and Discipline for a Culture of Peace in Educational Centers through Ministerial Agreement Number 01-2011, which, in its 2018 reform, includes measures to prevent harassment, intimidation, social blocking, manipulation, and coercion.

40. In conclusion, the States' responses provided evidence of the broad spectrum of regulations, policies, and programs to provide and create educational spaces free from discrimination against women, girls, adolescents, and equal access to basic education, reaching 88% of positive responses. However, the information regarding the regulations that govern higher education spaces and the protection framework for girls, adolescents, and adult women in these spaces has yet to be developed. No additional in-depth information was received in this regard.

### 3.1 Existence of systematic educational processes in elementary, secondary, and university curricula and society at large, on gender stereotypes, gender equality, and the promotion and protection of women's rights and punishment for the violation of the right to a life free from violence.

41. This indicator aims to monitor the States' efforts explicitly aimed at eradicating gender stereotypes at the educational level. In the evaluation phase, only six countries<sup>15</sup> provided information on this indicator. Once again, there is a positive trend where 12<sup>16</sup> of the 18 participating States provided new information on the subject matter.

42. While Costa Rica, Paraguay, and Peru combine information on school curricula with training programs and/or measures established for civil servants, Brazil and El Salvador said that they have no data on the subject matter, so it was impossible to determine if this is because the information is not collected or because such processes are not in place.

43. Most States included information on the inclusion of systematic educational processes in elementary, secondary, and university curricula and society at large, on gender stereotypes in the policies implemented by the Ministries of Education and in Universities, or between the national women mechanism and other government agencies. This is the case in Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican

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<sup>15</sup> Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

<sup>16</sup> Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, and Paraguay.

Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, Peru, and Uruguay, in a joint effort with the Ministries of Women.

44. Chile also reported that non-violence is one of the Ministry of Education's work plan's priority lines of action, in conjunction with the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity, to provide education with gender equity. This features multiple measures, including the signing of a collaboration agreement between these institutions to implement the gender approach in School Councils and a Technical Assistance Plan for Higher Education Institutions to work against discrimination, harassment, and sexual abuse, and the creation of a mechanism to report gender-based violence online.

45. Costa Rica reported that the Gender Equality and Equity Policy of the National University for the 2018-2030 period "Promotes a professional training curriculum with the operational inclusion of gender, and a humanistic and human rights perspective as a transversal axis" and that systematic and critical review processes are carried out from the perspectives of gender, human rights, and the diversity of the study plans. The CEVI also notes that this university offers a junior college degree in Gender and Development, a bachelor's degree in Gender and Development, and a master's degree in Gender Perspective on Human Rights, among other courses addressing gender issues.

46. Guatemala reported on teaching processes in institutions that resulted from the National Action Plan (PAN 1325) of the Inter-Institutional Board on Women, Peace, and Security of the Ministry of the Interior in 2019, which includes more than 14 government institutions and international and civil society organizations. Guatemala also indicated that the National Base Curriculum addresses violence against women in the Social Sciences and Citizen Education at elementary, secondary, and other levels.

47. Nicaragua stated that the Ministry of Education applies a free Educational Model with many transversal axes in its educational curriculum, including education on Gender Equity and Diversity.

48. In the follow-up phase, Paraguay provided information about the Directorate General of Inclusive Education that implements the Compensatory Educational Assistance Service for pregnant girls and adolescents and those who are mothers, and the Project to Strengthen a Preventive Culture. Also, according to DGDE Memorandum Number 345, the Directorate General for Educational Development approved the *Ñañe'ẽke* Program for the educational prevention of sexual violence and teenage pregnancy.

49. Peru broadened the information reported in 2016 regarding the measures adopted by the Ministry of Education in terms of including gender equality and the promotion and protection of women's rights into the National Curriculum at the basic education level. Therefore, for 2017 and 2018, the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations and the Ministry of Education signed a Framework Agreement for Inter-institutional Cooperation to strengthen joint efforts and measures to implement programs to prevent and eradicate violence against women and their family members.

50. In the evaluation phase, the Dominican Republic reported on the review and update of the university curriculum and, for 2019, it adds that this is a joint initiative between the Ministry of Women and the Ministries of Education and Higher Education to mainstream the perspective of gender in the educational curricula at the elementary, secondary, university, and technical levels. In this sense, in 2019, the Dominican Republic held a workshop on good practices at the higher education and technical levels.

51. The CEVI noted considerable growth in the processes carried out by the States to comply with this indicator; however, it emphasizes that there is a need to comprehensively change school curricula to ensure that all education includes a gender perspective and that these efforts are maintained with the measures required to meet the objective of the indicator effectively.

**3.2 Existence of systematic education, training, and awareness processes for civil servants regarding legal tools to punish, protect, and promote women's rights, especially the right to a life free from violence.**

52. In general, the information provided by the States shows that they made a greater effort to systematize the measures implemented in terms of education and training for civil servants and move forward with implementing continuous and permanent processes. However, there is still a need to focus the measures on the personnel directly in charge of providing assistance and protection services to women victims of violence and to reduce the intermittence of these measures, which is still observed in some cases.

53. Among the matters addressed in these activities stand out women's human rights, gender perspectives, violence against women and their families, gender-based violence, judgments with a gender perspective, interview techniques, taking official information statements, preparing reports for investigators, comprehensive health, victims of sexual violence, sociocultural gender stereotypes, new masculinities, domestic violence, workplace harassment, sexual harassment, and labor relations. The measures were aimed at personnel who provide services addressing violence, the application of justice, forensic sciences, and education, among others.

54. Most of the measures reported are associated with the governing body in charge of women's rights or violence against women, either because the measures are part of their own plans and programs or because they resulted from coordination efforts with other entities.

55. In general, permanent participation entities include national mechanisms for women, judicial branches and agencies, ministries of education, and systems to protect boys and girls and adolescents. However, some States reported consolidated national structures to prevent or eradicate violence against women, such as the Special Taskforce to Fight Violence in Bolivia, an inter-agency team that includes the training processes provided by the School of Judges and the processes provided by the Judicial Branch (Supreme Court of Justice, Agro-Environmental Court, and Council of the Judgeship).

56. Other States, such as Chile, emphasized reinforcement of specific programs such as the Violence Against Women Prevention Program aimed at reducing the naturalization of violence against

women among the Chilean population by addressing sociocultural gender stereotypes for priority sectors, such as the health, education, police, justice, and community sectors.

57. Other non-traditional but especially relevant bodies that have participated in these processes include the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences of Colombia that has offered “Gender-based violence” online course nationwide for civil servants working at the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences since 2014, or the School of Leadership of Guatemala, which is aimed at the young women in public schools at the departmental level who are in charge of the Women’s Forum that is part of the Secretariat of Peace, and the permanent voluntary program called the Culture of Peace School created in 2016.

58. Lastly, Honduras highlighted the measures adopted by the Ministry of Education through the National Strategy for School Prevention and Safety.

59. In general, it primarily highlights the activities deployed by the national mechanisms; however, in the responses provided there is no evidence that from all the States’ levels they are implementing and integral joint work to achieve comprehensive coordination from the State organs and civil society as a whole to work together to ensure the existence of permanent systematic education, training, and awareness processes in place for civil servants on the legal tools to punish, protect, and promote women’s rights, especially the right to a life free from violence.

60. Only a few States referred to the programs reported in the Evaluation Phase, and only a few provided information on the mechanism used to monitor the impact of these training processes in terms of tolerance of civil servants to deep-rooted gender stereotypes in the States Party to the Convention.

### **3.3 Existence of mixed participation mechanisms to evaluate sexist advertising and propaganda.**

61. A positive trend is observed in this indicator’s response levels. Only Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay did not provide any information on this indicator, while Brazil, Guatemala, and Honduras said that they do not have this type of mechanism. Nicaragua also stated that it does not have formal evaluation mechanisms; however, it affirmed that it permanently provides training on the subject matter to its employees and media contacts.

62. States in the rest of the Region have formal mechanisms in place that are fully operational, not only for evaluation but also to address cases of violence and the development of measures that prevent the media from broadcasting sexist or discriminatory content against women.

63. Notably, Costa Rica received an average of 120 complaints filed per year between 2015 and 2019 through the Control and Propaganda Office of the Ministry of the Interior, involving an administrative procedure to withdraw advertising guidelines on sexist or discriminatory content, which have been fully addressed and resolved.

64. In Argentina, the National Observatory of Symbolic and Media Violence of the National Women's Institute<sup>17</sup> was created to promote the removal of sociocultural patterns that promote and maintain gender inequality and power relations over women in the media and developed a communications Guide with a gender perspective. The Office of the Public Defender has guidelines in place for handling gender identities, sexual orientation, and intersexuality and the responsible handling of cases of violence against women.

65. In Bolivia, Law Number 348 contains a provision regarding the media's responsibility that binds them to carry out and provide spaces for civil society and the State to participate in evaluation processes. It also requires them to adopt codes of ethics that make it impossible to broadcast discriminatory content linked to violence against women, reinforcing or justifying tolerance or violating women's rights.

66. Chile signed the Media Pact for equality between women and men that involved the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, UN Women, and the owners of media outlets who pledged to promote women's rights and gender equality through editorial articles, reports, and news coverage; address the treatment of women who are victims of consummated and frustrated femicide and prevent their re-victimization and the undermining of their testimonies; and adopt the booklet "Recommendations on how the Media Should Treat Girls and Women Victims of Violence," prepared by the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity, the National Television Council, and the Undersecretariat for the Prevention of Crime. Furthermore, the General Secretariat of the Interior, the National Television Council, and the Regional Association of Television Channels planned joint training activities on how the media should deal with violence against women.

67. In other States, these types of mechanisms fall under the jurisdiction of the national bodies of the telecommunications sector, such as Commissions or the Ministry of the Interior that assess content in terms of national legislation, including the laws related to women's protection and gender equality, as is the case in Panama and Ecuador. These laws expressly state that the media must refrain from promoting, encouraging, or broadcasting sexist and discriminatory content against women and must create spaces to encourage dialogue and monitoring of media content, as in El Salvador and Paraguay.

68. The CEVI believes that greater efforts must be made to make mass media a powerful tool for social transformation that contributes to the deconstruction of gender stereotypes and the construction of equal societies.

**3.4 Existence of spaces, mechanisms, and tools with the recognition and legal status for inter-agency coordination between government agencies and civil society organizations, based on promoting and protecting the right to a life free from violence.**

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<sup>17</sup> It is important to mention that this Institute was shut down in 2019, when the country created the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversities.

69. Bolivia, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, and Uruguay reported that they have more than one coordinating body that deals with issues of violence against women, violence prevention, or other matters related to human trafficking, migrants, boys, girls, and adolescents, persons with disabilities, or families, with transversal axes aimed at protecting the right to a life free from violence. Mexico mentions one agency based on the General Act on Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence, establishing the creation of the National System for the Prevention, Care, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women.

70. Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Uruguay, Peru, and Uruguay also mention inter-institutional bodies that are State structures involving civil society's participation.

71. The CEVI notes that Chile created the "Intersectoral Circuit to Assist Direct and Indirect Victims of Femicide" as an Intersectoral Protocol aimed at assisting boys, girls, and adolescents who are the indirect victims of homicide or parricide within the context of violence against women.

72. In like manner, Nicaragua reported on the inter-institutional mechanism under development through the Early Warning System to prevent violence, in coordination with the Ministries of Family, Health, and Education. Nicaragua also uses Law Number 779 to strengthen inter-institutional coordination and specialization of the National Police Force, the Public Prosecutor, and the Judicial Branch.

73. Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Paraguay reiterated the information provided in the evaluation phase. Costa Rica further provided other coordination entities, including those related to the Human Trafficking Act and the creation of the National Coalition Against Human and Migrant Trafficking; the Network of Rural Women with the National University; the Advisory Forum for persons with disabilities; the Council of the Young Individuals;<sup>18</sup> and the Tripartite Technical Commission for Gender Equality at Work.

74. The CEVI positively valued the fact that, in general, for this phase, the States elaborated on the information previously presented to the MESECVI, evidencing the existence of coordination entities between the State structures and civil society on matters of women's rights and non-violence. The challenge lies in the fact that such bodies' functions and activities must positively and effectively result in a life free of violence, discrimination, and stereotypes for women and girls.

### **3.5 Action protocols on the different forms of violence for justice personnel, health care providers, educators, and civil servants.**

75. This indicator received a high response rate, reaching 82,35% in the evaluation phase of total responses and 88,24% in the follow-up phase. Except for Argentina and Brazil, which did not provide information in this regard, the rest of the participating States provided an ample description of their protocols in different levels of assistance, especially regarding education, justice, and health care for victims of violence.

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<sup>18</sup> Law Number 9155, "The appointment of two representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities within the National Youth System who are political entities and must be appointed on the basis of gender parity."

76. In the last two years, the States have also approved many instruments with a special emphasis on protecting the LGBTI community, both in law enforcement and educational spaces. There is evidence of instruments to assist victims of domestic violence and harassment in politics. In this section, we highlight the protocols implemented after the evaluation phase and that are especially relevant to the CEVI.

77. Notably, in Bolivia, are Ministerial Resolution Numbers 0485/2016 and 2709/2017 issued by the Ministry of Education that approve specific prevention measures and identify the transgender and transsexual population in educational facilities, and, in 2017, the guarantee of the right for pregnant students to receive an education. In terms of health, we must mention the Bolivian Comprehensive Care Model for victims of sexual violence and National Standards for clinical care to address violence and its effects. In terms of justice, it is important to emphasize the Manual of minimum guidelines for investigating criminal acts that threaten women's lives based on gender. The CEVI also observed several health-related instruments on violence and specialized forensic psychology for women victims of violence.

78. In Chile, between 2018 and 2019, the Ministry of Education published the "Protocol for the Prohibition and Prevention of Harassment in Universities" and the "Suggestions for the Preparation of the Protocol against Sexual Harassment in Higher Education." The Judicial Branch also published the Notebook of Good Practices to include the gender perspective in sentences and plans to publish the Protocol for Access to Justice for Women Victims of Gender Violence. Lastly, Chile has implemented the following instruments in terms of health: Technical guide to prepare local guidelines for a comprehensive approach to health sector workers victims of violence by a current or former partner or spouse (2017); and Technical Guidelines for the detection, care, and first response in health to individuals who are victims of human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, and sexual and commercial exploitation of boys, girls, and adolescents (2018).

79. Bearing in mind the recommendation of the CEVI on this issue, Colombia reported on the Protocol of Comprehensive Health Care with a Psychosocial Approach for Victims of the Armed Conflict. One of the many objectives of this Protocol is to guide human talent on related matters for comprehensive care with a differential (including the gender approach that recognizes gender orientation and identities) and psychosocial approach as a means to assist and rehabilitate victims of the armed conflict. However, in the context of access to information, in 2017, Colombia launched the web-based checklists of gender-oriented criteria.<sup>19</sup>

80. Costa Rica provided an extensive list of Protocols of the Judicial System.<sup>20</sup> Costa Rica issued the Protocol to detect and report sexual harassment at the National University in terms of education.

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<sup>19</sup> Available at <https://www.ramajudicial.gov.co/web/comision-nacional-de-genero/lista-de-verificacion>.

<sup>20</sup> The protocols are: i) Protocol to Assist Seniors and Minors who are Victims of Sexual Crimes and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Committed by legal age individuals; ii) Protocol to Assist Seniors and Minors who are Victims of Domestic Violence committed by legal age individuals; iii) Protocol to provide Legal Assistance to Victims of Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence committed by minors; iv) Protocols to Assist Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence in the Department of Forensic Sciences of the Judicial Branch; v)

The Protocol to address bullying against the LGBTI population has been included in educational centers. In April 2019, the health sector prepared the National Standard for health services to assist victims of violence.

81. In August 2019, Ecuador approved the 911 Emergency Response Guidelines for Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, and in January and March 2018, it published the Guidelines and action parameters for the prevention and assistance of physical, psychological, and sexual violence in public or private services, aimed at girls, boys, adolescents, older adults, and persons with disabilities nationwide, as well as the General Action Protocol for violence against boys, girls, adolescents, women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. As for the LGBTI community, in 2017, Ecuador approved the “Police Protocol for the detention or arrest of individuals from priority care and LGBTI groups.”

82. In Guatemala, while the Human Rights Prosecutor’s Office and the Public Prosecutor created the Protocol to assist and investigate cases of sexual violence during the internal armed conflict, the Institute of Public Criminal Defense created the Protocol to assist women who are victims of any type of violence, which is based on international standards and good practices.

83. It is also important to point out other guiding instruments, such as the Comprehensive Route of Assistance for pregnant girls under 14; the Strategy for comprehensive and differentiated health care for transexuals in Guatemala (2016 -2030); the Guide for the implementation of friendly spaces and birth control for adolescents and the Circle of Pregnant Adolescents; the Manual for the approach to reproductive sexual health; and the Strategic Agenda for Addressing the Human Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities 2017-2023.

84. Peru reported that in April and May 2019, it approved the Protocol for joint action between the Women’s Emergency Centers and Health Establishments to assist victims of violence against women and family members; the Base Protocol for Joint Action for comprehensive assistance and protection regarding violence against women and family members; the inter-institutional action protocol against femicide, attempted femicide, and high-risk current or former partner or spouse violence; and the Guidelines for assistance to LGBTI individuals in the assistance services of the National Program Against Physical and Sexual Violence of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations.

85. In 2018 and 2019, the judicial sector of Uruguay published a series of instruments, such as the Assistance and Rapprochement Guide for boys and girls from 0 to 3 years old who are exposed to violence; and Violence against boys, girls, and adolescents: Tools for the judicial process published in 2019. The health sector in Uruguay published the Protocol for addressing sexual abuse towards boys, girls, and adolescents (2018); the Clinical Health Care Manual for Women Who Have Suffered

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Protocol to Assist Victims of Domestic Violence in Domestic Violence Courts; vi) Protocol to Assist Victims of Sexual or Domestic Violence in the Department of Social Work, Criminal Headquarters; and vii) Protocol to Assist Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence in the Legal Medicine Department. The PANI has a management model for complaints.

Violence from their Current or Former Partner or Spouse or Sexual Violence (2018); and the Protocol for addressing abuse towards boys and girls and adolescents (2019).

86. Paraguay and the Dominican Republic developed instruments regarding the investigation of domestic violence cases and the treatment of victims of domestic violence and sexual violence. However, the dates of their publication or adoption were not provided.

87. The CEVI shows that most of these protocols are from specialized agencies and respond to specific areas such as the Judicial Branch, the health sector, education, and specific areas of the Executive Branch. However, the CEVI draws the attention of the States to the need for a comprehensive approach to violence against women to guarantee not only their effective protection but also comprehensive reparations and non-repetition mechanisms with a diversity perspective.

88. In this phase, the Committee did not observe any guidelines or protocols from the Judicial Branches for comprehensive assistance to victims in the context of reparations in cases of violence against women. In like manner, no special procedures were observed to assist women from indigenous communities or groups who are victims of violence, including the production of materials in indigenous languages or bilingual assistance at the victim care centers. For this reason, the Committee urges the States to evaluate the necessary coordination mechanisms through existing protocols and those implemented to ensure the comprehensive care and reparation for women victims of violence.

### **3.6 Existence of administrative entities to file complaints about failure to implement the obligations associated with the right to an education free from discrimination.**

89. Based on the evaluation, it was possible to identify that the entities to file complaints on this matter include superintendencies of education (Chile), disciplinary affairs departments (Costa Rica), district conflict resolution boards and student counseling departments (Ecuador), teaching boards and courts (El Salvador), federal or state councils (Mexico), directorates of educational centers (Uruguay), and other educational bodies (Peru). Also, most existing structures are part of the governing education body and are established in the law, except for Peru, which mentions, in general, that various entities of the governing education body follow up on cases registered through the *Portal SíseVe* digital application.

90. In general, the matters addressed by such structures are sexual assaults, rape, abuse, statutory rape, corruption of minors, sexual harassment, discrimination, and physical/psychological abuse of adult students and among students (Chile, Costa Rica), physical and psychological (Ecuador), gender-based violence (El Salvador), behavior among teachers (Honduras), discrimination and violence (Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay).

91. It is important to mention that Bolivia, Dominican Republic, and Guatemala referred to entities to file complaints regarding discrimination and/or violence against women. Still, it was not possible to identify a link with education free from violence. The two remaining States that offered partial

responses described issues regarding non-discrimination in the educational system. Still, they did not specifically refer to an entity where people can file complaints.

92. In general, terms, although the CEVI observed an improvement in the responses, based on the information obtained, it is concluded that greater efforts are needed on the part of the States to create a specialized body in educational settings to file complaints regarding discrimination and violence.

### **3.7 Number of known and decided cases of the violation of the rights of women and girls to be educated free from stereotyped patterns of behavior and social practices based on concepts of inferiority or subjugation in public and private institutions of learning**

93. The CEVI raises its special concern that this indicator obtained one of the lowest response levels, despite the increase in responses regarding new protocols in education to eradicate violence against women and a notable increase with respect to the number of offices that receive these complaints at the Regional level.

94. This shows that despite the significant number of protocols developed in the educational sphere, the CEVI has no evidence of their use or effectiveness or that they are used to address cases of violence against girls and women in education or to prevent the reproduction of gender stereotypes.

95. In fact, during the period under analysis, the CEVI learned of mass demonstrations in several States of the Region against university professors and educational institutions that failed to implement protection mechanisms against sexual harassment in the educational sphere. The absence of information on this indicator compared to the large number of protocols reveals that these cases, which require special attention from the States Party, have not been addressed. For this reason, the CEVI reiterates the importance for the States to guarantee these cases will be followed up on and resolved in accordance with the Belém do Pará Convention standards.

96. Costa Rica reported that between 2015 and 2018, 15 cases of sexual harassment were addressed at the National University, which is consistent with what the country reported regarding the existence of the Protocol for the detection and reporting of sexual harassment at the National University.

97. In the Department of Disciplinary Management of the Ministry of Education, 469 sexual connotation cases were reported against civil servants over the course of three years (2016 to 2019), of which 285 were committed against girls, representing more than 60% of the reported cases. The results of these disciplinary processes were not reported.

98. Ecuador reported information from the National Education System, which between 2014 and July 2019, recorded 8.706 complaints of sexual violence cases with a total of 9.473 victims, of which 5.653 were girls or female adolescents and 3.820 were boys or male adolescents. In like manner, in 5.515 of these complaints, the alleged aggressor was a person outside the educational system, while the alleged aggressor was part of the educational system in 3.191 cases. Since October 2017 to date, interventions have been carried out in 13 educational institutions regarding cases of sexual violence;

two of these institutions continue with the intervention process, and the remaining nine have concluded the process. However, they continue to be monitored. The Office of the Public Defender of Ecuador reported that 54 lawsuits were filed between 2016 and 2019, plus 31 administrative proceedings for crimes of sexual integrity committed against boys, girls, and adolescents in schools nationwide, from which only nine of these have been completed.

99. Based on the information reported by these two States, the CEVI observes that the main crime in schools consists of violence and sexual harassment, which is a warning that most victims are girls and female adolescents. Moreover, the scant information reported on the figures related to the cases heard and resolved in public or private schools on the violation of women's and girls' rights to be educated free from stereotyped patterns made it impossible to determine the cause for lack of information provided in this regard.

100. Therefore, the CEVI believes that the States must further analyze their obligation to prevention by developing processes that will allow them to know of such cases, follow up on them, and keep records of the violation of the rights of women and girls to be educated free from stereotyped patterns of behavior and social practices based on concepts of inferiority or subjugation in public and private institutions of learning.

### **3.8 Number of reviews and curricular changes conducted to eliminate gender stereotypes by material and instructional level**

101. The States that responded refer to plans, projects, and publications that affect the school curriculum and the curricular reviews themselves; however, the number of measures in this regard cannot be determined. Regarding the subjects addressed by the different school curricula, it is important to emphasize the approach to gender, equality, human rights, and sexual and reproductive rights provided mostly at the elementary and secondary levels, where the education authorities lead such actions. Only Panama referred to higher education levels.

102. Only Costa Rica responded specifically to the number of reviews it has performed through the Ministry of Public Education under agreement 07-64-2016 of the Superior Council on Education, which approved the Curricular Policy "Educating for a New Citizenship." Chile reported that the Ministry of Education has the Curriculum and Evaluation Unit that designed an evaluation guideline to review gender bias used in all the materials prepared by the unit. This unit also developed a procedure to purchase textbooks that includes three moments that allow it to monitor that the textbooks do not contain gender biases.

103. El Salvador, through the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women, reported that in 2016, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology performed a revision and curricular readjustment of the contents regarding comprehensive sexual education and incorporated the Educational Programs with Curricular Guidelines of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in 1.459 schools (28.4% of the total).

104. In Mexico, the educational reform led to the review of several subjects that included human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination, and risk situations. In 2017, the country added four new

educational programs with three online courses with a gender focus and activities on gender equality and human rights at the elementary and secondary levels. Moreover, during the 2017-2018 school year, the curricular approach of Higher Secondary Education was updated to include diversity, gender approach, and the prevention of violence.

105. Also, the National Program for School Coexistence strategies included the reduction of discrimination and the recognition of equality between men and women to fight against gender stereotypes. This program integrated the Gender Equality Strategy on its website, which consists of infographics, videos, and animated capsules on gender equality, stereotypes, masculinity, and social pressure, aiming to make the school community reflect on gender roles to avoid sexist prejudices.

106. The conclusion is that performing continuous and systematic curricular reviews at different academic levels continues to represent a challenge for the States aiming to review the results of the transversal handling of the elimination of stereotypes at all educational levels and in all subjects. They are applied throughout the nation and not only to certain subjects, programs, and institutions.

#### **4. Reports on monitoring knowledge, understanding, and applying protocols and specific regulations on women's rights as part of the periodic evaluation process to access incentives, loans, and ranks in the justice, health, and education sectors.**

107. This indicator aims to determine if the States follow up on the actions carried out by civil servants in the application of specific protocols and regulations on women's rights and if they have access to specific incentives based on these results. This, to ensure that State actions are carried out under the principles of non-discrimination and non-violence and free from stereotypes. Although this indicator obtained a high-level of partial responses from the participating States, it did not provide specific information about the evaluation and monitoring of the application of action protocols on matters related to women's rights.

108. The States that sent in partial results referred to other types of information related to management reports, annual reports on the work done by the Judiciary, and the annual Accountability Report providing a status update of compliance with the National Plan for Attention and Prevention of Violence Against Women or repeated the information about existing protocols without addressing the evaluation of how those protocols are applied.<sup>21</sup>

109. As can be seen, the States reported different issues not directly linked to the indicator, which shows that this type of evaluation action and its consequent monitoring report on the exercise of civil service, linked to the prevention and attention of cases of violence and/or discrimination against women and girls constitutes a task that must be carried out by the States, which is also evident and consistent with the absence of responses related to the number of complaints about violence and discrimination in education, and the comprehensiveness of the actions derived from the protocols for the protection of women and girls victims of violence.

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<sup>21</sup> Response presented by Costa Rica.

#### 5. National budget act identifying funds allocated to women's mechanisms, specialized offices, and the health and education sectors, among others.

110. In general, the observation is that the States have a National Budget Act that includes labeled expenditures for offices specializing on violence or women's right laws that include a budgetary obligation for the competent or related institutions that must be addressed by the bodies governing budgetary matters.

111. With respect to the three States that provided partial responses, we find that Colombia notes that the Pluriannual Investment Plan for the 2018-2022 National Development Plan includes resources linked to equity programs. Costa Rica does not specifically mention a national law. However, it does mention the laws of institutions that establish certain budgetary obligations regarding women's rights. In this sense, in conformity with the provisions established by Law 7801, the National Institute for Women receives 2% of all annual, ordinary, and extraordinary revenues received by the Social Development Fund and Family Allowances to finance its budget, as well as the National Learning Institute, which, between 2017 and 2019, was allocated a budget for gender equality and equity advisory purposes. In the case of Panama, the allocated budget is distributed across the 14 National Institute for Women Centers (indigenous provinces and regions), and the management of two shelters and a short-stay house; however, it does not indicate the name of the law used to allocate the funds.

112. Argentina, for its part, did not speak of the existence of a national law of this nature but presented a detailed report on the monitoring of spending related to gender policies in the National Budget, for the first quarter of 2019, as part of a joint effort made by the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Ministry of Finance, within the framework of the Plan for Equal Opportunity and Rights promoted by the National Institute for Women. It should be noted that the Ministry of Finance has pledged to measure and monitor public spending linked to gender policies every quarter.

113. The following list includes the laws reported by States that allocate funds to women's mechanisms, specialized offices, and the health and education sectors.

##### - **Bolivia**

- Multiannual and Annual Budgeting and Planning and Public Investment Guidelines for each fiscal management's budget. These define the funds allocated to guarantee women a life free from violence and determine the provisions for their application, as "mandatory expenses"; and
- General State Budget Act for 2018 and 2019 approved by the committee of the House of Representatives, as the channel used to grant budgets for the education sector, for the Ana María Romero Plurinational Service for Women and Depatriarchalization, the Genoveva Ríos Special Force to Fight Violence, and the Gender Strategy for the empowerment of women in the productive, industrial, and commercial sector of the Ministry of Productive Development and Plural Economy.



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## - Chile

- The Budget Act coordinated by the Budget Directorate of the Ministry of Finance includes financing for the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity.

## - Dominican Republic

- The Budget Act contemplates the line items allocated to the Ministry of Women and the other ministries independently. The Ministry of Finance also coordinated the guidelines for gender-sensitive budget allocations currently being implemented within the framework of the gender mainstreaming project in the public sector.

## - Ecuador

- Article 14 of the Organic Code of Planning and Public Finance establishes that “[...] the exercise of planning and public policy will incorporate gender, ethnic-cultural, generational, disability, and mobility approaches.”
- Article 4, numeral 12 of the Comprehensive Organic Law to prevent and eradicate violence against women, defines the Expense Classification Guide as a tool developed by the governing body of public finances that seeks to link institutional program activities and budgets with components of equality policies (gender, disabilities, interculturality, and human and generational mobility). Also, Article 5 establishes that the State has the unavoidable obligation to promote, protect, guarantee, and respect human rights for women, including girls, adolescents, and adult and older women, [...] through a specific action plan included in the General State Budget.

Article 18, numeral 4, establishes that a response must be sent through special and expeditious services and mechanisms created to attend and protect the preservation, repair, and restoration of the rights of women victims of violence, appropriate to the situation prevailing in each locality, with the budget required to ensure its fulfillment. The first general provision indicates that all institutes in the National System must register the budget assigned to gender equality policies in violence matters.

## - El Salvador

- The General Budget Act for Fiscal Year 2018 allocated an amount labeled as an expense for the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women and 12 other State institutions.

## - Guatemala

- Decree Number 25-2018 of the Guatemala Congress, the General State Income and Expenditure Budget Act for Fiscal Year 2019; Decree Number 50-2016 of the Guatemalan



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Congress, the General State Income and Expenditure Budget Act for Fiscal Year 2017, and Government Agreement Number 300-2017.

## - Honduras

- Article 9 of the General Income and Expenditure Budget provides gender-labeled budgetary allocations for public administration institutions for the fiscal year 2019.

## - Mexico

- The Federal Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act includes an exhibit specifically allocating funds to gender equality units (specialized offices) in each federal agency.

## - Nicaragua

- Since 2014, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit has applied a methodology to incorporate Gender Practices into the General Budget of the Republic and to the Medium-Term Institutional Spending Framework at 11 government agencies.

## - Paraguay

- Law Number 5777/16 for the Comprehensive Protection of Women Against all Forms of Violence. Article 8 of this law establishes that public institutions with responsibilities bound by this law must include the specific programs intended to meet their obligations in their budgets.

## - Peru

- Supreme Resolution Number 129-2018-PCM of the Multisectoral Committee of a temporary nature called “Emergency Committee, in charge of proposing actions for the protection, prevention and attention of cases of violence against women,” that designed a Joint Action Plan with four strategic guidelines, one of which includes comprehensive prevention of violence against women. The Public Budget Act for the year 2019 allocates amounts to finance the measures provided for in the Joint Action Plan.

## - Uruguay

- Operation and investment projects codes 121 and 840, respectively, and the denomination “Gender Equality” (“labeling”), of the National Institute for Women, and the Office for Planning and Budget of the Republic.

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- **CONCLUSIONS**



114. For the Third Round Evaluation and Follow-up Report, the CEVI asked for information to evaluate the implementation of public State policies to modify social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, to counteract prejudices, customs, and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes or on the stereotyped roles for men and women which legitimize or exacerbate violence against women, according to Article 8, subsection b of the Convention.

115. In this sense, indicators were selected to account for these efforts and the gaps between the recognized right and the processes carried out to guarantee its free exercise. Specifically, the CEVI analyzed, for this period, not only how the States incorporated into their legislation the right of women to live free from discrimination, but also the right to be educated free from gender stereotypes. In this regard, in the evaluation phase, the CEVI highlighted the efforts made but recommended deepening the commitments and guaranteeing greater involvement in developing this work by other sectors involved, such as the education sector, media outlets, and advertising agencies.

116. From the analysis of the indicators referred to in the legislation module, the CEVI concludes that the States have made a relevant manifested through a progressive and sustained increase for the development of legal and sub-legal standards to address women's and girls' equality and the eradication of violence. These norms are translated into national legislation, protocols, and codes of action, among others, in which competence is attributed primarily to the national mechanisms for women, the ministries of education and health, the judiciary, the state security forces, and public ministries.

117. With the attribution of competencies on the subject matter, this breadth of agencies has also been developing sublegal instruments that allow them to generate education, investigation, prosecution, and attention processes that seek to guarantee women's rights and facilitate access to justice. At this point, the CEVI also recognizes the important effort the States have made to move forward in terms of information, promotion, and training processes on women's rights aimed at the community and society as a whole.

118. The CEVI also recognizes and positively values the increase in mechanisms to prioritize the budgets of certain States, aimed at public policies intended to address women's rights and efforts to mainstream these efforts, beyond the national mechanisms of women, thus incorporating other sectors such as the education and health sectors. The CEVI hopes that this progress will be maintained and that the resources allocated to it will be expanded, in this same sense, to the other bodies involved in the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women.

119. For its part, in terms of sustained processes in the period under study, the CEVI welcomes not only the increase in training processes at different levels of education in certain states that have been expanding but have also been accompanied by transformation and inclusion processes, such as a curricular review of the training processes at the different levels of education, and the incorporation of legal and sub-legal regulations that recognize the needs of various groups of women and girls.

120. On the other hand, the CEVI recognizes that it may be too early to evaluate the results of these advances; however, it also notes that the implementation of the laws and other sub-legal standards requires efforts not reflected in this follow-up phase. In this sense, the CEVI underscores its deep concern over the weakness of the mechanisms that exist to file complaints on discrimination and violence, the reproduction of gender stereotypes both in the educational sphere and in other sectors such as the health and labor sectors, which, as the Convention itself points out, are places where violence against women occurs in all its forms.

121. In particular, the CEVI regrets that, given the extensive evidence of violence and sexual harassment against girls and women in the Region at different educational levels, the response to these complaints, the monitoring of cases and the punishment of those responsible is practically nonexistent, or, at least, it is not relevant enough to ensure the availability of automated information that systematically makes it possible to note efforts made in this regard throughout the Region and to generate public policies for their prevention, care, and punishment.

122. The Committee also draws attention to the scarcity of resources to address violence in the public sphere, such as early warnings, contextual studies, and link networks to analyze cases. Lastly, the CEVI also regrets that the States have not provided information on percentages and statistics related to the subject matter. The Committee's attention was specifically drawn to the fact that only two States responded to the indicator on the number of complaints filed in educational institutions.

123. The Committee reiterates the importance of the harmonization and adaptation processes accompanied by follow-up and monitoring mechanisms that permit a permanent evaluation of the public policy implemented. Accordingly, information transparency, monitoring, and data collection are essential to determining the implemented policy's effectiveness.

124. The CEVI again recalls the importance of guaranteeing permanent dialogue mechanisms for civil society, women's groups, organizations focused on these issues, and with women and girls in the evaluation and monitoring of these policies, to ensure the permanent reception of information that would contribute to this evaluation and guarantee its effectiveness.

125. Lastly, the CEVI, aware of the impact of gender stereotypes on violence against women and of the role that the media and advertising agencies play in multiplying or eradicating them, welcomes the efforts made by several of the States that participated in this phase to advance coordination mechanisms for the eradication of gender stereotypes in those spaces.

## II. NATIONAL PLANS

126. During the preparation of the Third Hemispheric Report, the CEVI focused its analysis on five specific areas as follows:

1. Execution and implementation of national plans, strategies, and actions to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women;



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2. The incorporation of a gender perspective and the eradication of violence against women in a transversal manner in other Intersectoral National Plans and Actions for development, human rights, inclusion, and social justice;
3. The execution of education and training plans on human rights for women, forms of violence and the state and regional means established for their eradication, aimed at the entire public administration, with emphasis on Justice Operators, and civil servants working for the State security bodies, and the public health and education systems;
4. Effective and quality incorporation of civil society organizations that defend human rights for women, in each of the phases of the design, execution, and measurement of the impact of national plans, strategies, and actions related to the promotion and protection of women, the rights of women contained in international human rights instruments and national legislation; and
5. The participation of media outlets and advertising agencies in disseminating women's rights and the role the media plays in promoting gender equality and equity, eliminating gender stereotypes, and the war against violence and discrimination against women.

127. Within the framework of this analysis, the CEVI emphasized the importance that the plans, policies, and actions that are implemented to eradicate, prevent and punish violence against women have formal follow-up mechanisms that include the participation of civil society and the preparation of monitoring reports that allow for an impact evaluation and preparation of the respective reports, in a manner that they constitute fundamental tools both for adjusting the actions of competent personnel and improving public policies in the Region.

128. The CEVI also raised the need for States to adequately disaggregate the information they produce on the policies implemented, their coverage, the budget allocated to this end, and the production of the information and statistics necessary to ensure the proper monitoring of evaluation of such.

129. Under these premises, the CEVI recommended focusing actions and plans aimed at eradicating gender stereotypes at all levels, considering the intersectionality affecting girls and women in the Region in the design of these plans, policies, and actions; reinforcing awareness among educational authorities and teachers to demonstrate the need to carry out curricular reviews to eliminate gender stereotypes and be educated in an environment free from violence without maintaining practices and prejudices that discriminate against women and girls, and expanding the mechanisms and coverage of psychological care and support services to ensure the social reintegration of women and girls who are victims of any form of violence.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> See the *Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. Prevention of Violence against Women in The Americas: Paths to Follow*, 2017, p. 210 et seq. Available at <https://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/docs/TercerInformeHemisferico-EN.pdf>.



130. On the other hand, the CEVI raised the need to strengthen work with the various sectors of society and, in a special way, highlighted the importance of programming, intensifying, and implementing continuous training processes aimed at journalists, communicators, and others involved in communications, on issues of women's rights, gender stereotypes, and non-violence against women.

131. In this regard, in this phase, we can observe how the efforts made by the States translate more into the development of structural capacities to develop policies, while there are still limits on the capacity to provide disaggregated information on the impact of the same, coverage on how these programs are addressed, as well as the monitoring processes, and the budget allocated to the same. However, although the CEVI welcomes the efforts made by the States to expand their programs, policies, and projects, it also reiterates the importance that they can be evaluated within the framework of the processes being developed and the results.

132. In this chapter, we will see how these policies have progressed according to the information provided by the States and the progress made both in terms of the economic context and in the information and statistics publicly available.

## **1. Execution and implementation of national plans, strategies, and actions to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women in their diversity.**

133. The 17 countries participating in the monitoring phase provided relevant information for this indicator, which means that it was one of the surveys that obtained the best response with 100% of answers, surpassing the 88.24% response to the evaluation phase. This shows that, at least in this number of countries in the Region, there is a national plan, policy, action, or strategy for preventing, addressing, and eradicating violence against women and girls, which is positively valued.

134. The plans implemented by these 17 countries include the prevention of violence against women, either specifically or through a particular theme such as domestic violence (Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru), prevention of adolescent pregnancy (Argentina, Chile, and Ecuador), trafficking or exploitation, or in more general actions such as human rights (Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay), equal opportunity (Argentina), racism (Bolivia), sexual and reproductive rights (Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Paraguay), human trafficking (Bolivia and Peru), and disability (Bolivia, Costa Rica, and Ecuador).

135. In this sense, it is interesting to note that the areas covered by the prevention of violence and care plans are centered primarily on health and education, while others include the community, family, and care services. In Chile and Ecuador, access to justice was notable as an aspect that is fundamental both for the prevention and eradication of violence against women, considering that the responses to the access module to justice continue to represent a challenge addressed later on.

136. On the other hand, we observed the existence of national plans, as well as sectoral and multisectoral plans that make a direct reference to the elimination of violence and discrimination against women, girls, and adolescents based on gender and punish discriminatory practices of

exclusion and subordination through mechanisms, institutions, and normative instruments, or that include a strategic objective related to non-violence.

137. With respect to the actions carried out by the States, there is the design of public policies, including the Comprehensive Public Policy for a Dignified Life of Bolivian Women; the Women's Policy promoting Equality and Violence Faced 2016-2019, and the National Policy System for Women in Brazil; the State Policy with a Human Rights Approach for the Eradication of Gender-Based Violence against Children, Adolescents and Women of Ecuador; the National Policy for Effective Equality between Women and Men in Costa Rica 2018-2030; the National Policy for the Promotion and Integral Development of Women 2008-2023 of Guatemala, and the National Policy of Equality of Peru.

138. We also identified other actions, such as strategies, work agendas, institutional and intersectoral roundtables and development models that accompany the implementation of policies and plans to address violence against women, including the Integrated Bolivian Model of Action against Gender-Based Violence of the Ministry of Justice and Transparency, and the Strategy for Attention and Prevention of Intrafamily Violence and Extrafamilial Sexual Abuse of the National Institute of Learning 2017-2019 of Costa Rica; the National Government Pact with Boys, Girls, and Adolescents, as one of the seven axes of the Ecuador 2030 Agreement; the Strategy for the Prevention of Femicide and Sexual Violence and the National System of Attention for Women who face Violence in El Salvador; the National System for the Prevention, Attention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women in Mexico; strategies for the prevention of violence against women and members of the family group of the National Program against Family and Sexual Violence (Community and Communication Strategies) of Peru; and the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2030 of Uruguay.

139. The institutions that promote the implementation of these policies, plans, and strategies are the agencies that govern matters related to women, the governing planning bodies of each State's broad and comprehensive plans, or the ministries of health or education on more specific issues. Most of the plans establish coordination between various institutions and, in some cases, include the participation of civil society organizations.

140. Concerning the target population, most of the plans and policies reported focus on girls, boys, and adolescents, in addition to women. Other states, such as Costa Rica and Ecuador, expand their view of violence to the different intersectionalities.

141. Nicaragua also focuses on the priority attention groups that are part of the National Council for Gender Equality and the National Strategy for the Fight against Intrafamily and Gender-Based Violence, considering girls and adolescents, adult and older women who are ethnically diverse, of African descent, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences based on their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom.

142. In like manner, we observed that most of the plans are in force and that some countries are in the process of formulating or designing them. For example, Chile is developing a working table for a new national 2019-2030 plan with the participation of civil society, institutions, and ministries. In

like manner, in Ecuador, the National Plan for the prevention and eradication of violence against women, girls, boys, and adolescents 2013-2017 (whose validity was extended to 2018), is in an evaluation process created by the National Secretariat of Planning and Development, in a partnership with the International and Ibero-American Foundation and the Latin American School of Social Sciences of Ecuador and to this date it has updated the aforementioned Plan with broad participation of civil society, effective from 2020 to 2025. In Guatemala, the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women 2019-2028 is also being updated. It is the most important public policy instrument on the subject matter.

143. In this regard, the CEVI believes it is important that the plans for the prevention, care, and eradication of violence against women include objectives aimed at addressing the specificities of violence against ethnically diverse women, of African descent, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences based on their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom.

#### **1.1 The incorporation of a gender perspective and eradicating violence against women in a transversal manner in other Intersectoral National Plans and Actions for development, human rights, inclusion, and social justice.**

144. All the States that participated in this Follow-up Phase presented plans for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women, as well as other plans related to equal opportunity, equity, eradication of child or adolescent pregnancy, and eradication of the trafficking of persons. However, only some linked them to other national development, human rights, or social inclusion actions and plans.

145. Bolivia and Chile linked the plans for the Eradication of Violence against Women with the National Justice plans. In the case of Mexico, the National Development Program 2019-2023 drew our attention, as it includes femicides, family, workplace, educational, community, and institutional violence as part of its thematic axes. For its part, Peru linked these actions with the National Plan for Citizen Security for 2019-2021, in which the third objective consists of performing a series of actions to prevent and address gender-based violence cases.

#### **1.2 Number of programs specifically aimed at addressing the right of women and girls to be valued and educated free from stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on the concepts of inferiority or subordination:**

- **In the family,**
- **In territorial spaces and local governments,**
- **In the Office of the Attorney General,**
- **In the Ministry of Health,**
- **In the police,**
- **In media outlets,**
- **In religious spaces, and**
- **In the field of education.**

146. The Progress Indicators System directs its attention through this indicator to measure the how and the scope of national plans, policies, and programs in the different public and private spheres, such as regional or local levels of government, the health, education, and police sectors, as well the family, religious spaces, and the media.

147. In general, national plans tend to transform into plans of a transversal and intersectoral nature across State institutions, providing an integral space to develop policies aimed at protecting the rights of women victims of violence and actions to eradicate discrimination based on gender identity. However, when observing the specific capacities of States in each of the areas indicated in the statement of the indicator, the response levels drop considerably, generating future challenges that must be specifically addressed by national authorities.

148. The Committee draws attention to the fact that State responses on the subject matter stood at only 8.09% of the expected responses. The percentage of gaps or no responses stood at 68.38%, making it hard to specify the effects of national plans in specific areas of State actions. The following are some examples that can be used to visualize the level of response according to the information requested from the States.

- **Family**

149. Only Ecuador and Nicaragua presented information in this regard. In the case of Nicaragua, it reported on a collaborative care system between the Ministries of Family, Education, and Health for the prevention of intra-family violence, established to care for girls, boys, and adolescents living in conditions of neglect, bullying, addictions, teenage pregnancy, sexual abuse, trafficking, and sexual exploitation and violence, among over situations.

150. In Ecuador, the Ministries of Education and Economic and Social Inclusion have implemented the “Super Parents” and “Not One Child Less” campaigns, plus the “Let’s all Protect Life Without Violence” Family School Program campaign. We did not obtain any information regarding the scope and content of these campaigns.

- **Territorial spaces and local governments**

151. Only Costa Rica and Nicaragua provided information in this regard. In Costa Rica, local governments implement different programs that respond to the National Policy for Gender Equity and Equality provisions.

152. In Nicaragua, there are training processes for mayors, vice mayors, and secretaries of municipal councils within the framework of the National Human Development Plan and the National Training Plan, addressing issues of women’s leadership and participation in the country’s social development and reinforcing the commitment to work with a focus on gender equity and equality to develop spaces for social coexistence, harmonious relationships, and healthy affective bonds.

- **Police**

153. Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Nicaragua reported on this section. In Costa Rica, the Ministry of Security maintains a permanent Basic Workshop program in police forces to address domestic and intrafamily violence.

154. In Ecuador, efforts were focused on training senior managers through the Seminar on Human Rights, and Courses to Train the Trainers on the “Awareness of Operators of Justice and National Police against Gender-Based Violence,” in the specialization of human rights instructors with a gender approach, and Seminars on Gender-Based Violence and Specialization in Intrafamily Violence Procedures.

155. For its part, Nicaragua reported that the National Police ran the Campaign for the Prevention of Intrafamily, Sexual Violence and Trafficking in Persons, promoting the right to live a life free from violence.

- **Office of the Attorney General**

156. Only Nicaragua provided information on the subject matter by reporting the existence of the Special Unit for Crimes against Gender-Based Violence of the Office of the Attorney General that has included a social worker since 2014, aimed at providing an assessment of risk or social work that serves as evidence in the defense of victims, among other things.

- **Ministry of Health**

157. Costa Rica reported on the integration of issues related to the protection of girls and women’s rights in the Education and Nutrition Centers and the Children’s Comprehensive Care Centers through dissemination at the Regional and local levels.

158. Ecuador ran the *Esa ES. Sexual Education to Prevent* campaign and the online course on gender-based violence on the Technical Standard for Comprehensive Care of Gender-Based Violence.

159. The Mexican Secretariat of Health operates the Violence Attention and Prevention Program consisting of i) re-education for perpetrators of intimate partner violence; ii) prevention of gender-based violence in adolescence and youth; iii) prevention of dating violence; and iv) prevention of sexual violence at the community level, targeting adolescents.

- **Media Outlets**

160. In Ecuador, the Information and Communication Council has implemented several training activities, notably the online course titled “Equity and inclusion of women in the media”; the workshop titled “The role the media play in the fight against violence against women”; and the training plan titled “Non-discriminatory communication content: language in the reproduction of discrimination.”

- **In the field of education**

161. The Committee was positively drawn to the fact that the highest response levels are found in programs targeting this sector. Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru responded to specific programs, while the Dominican Republic and Guatemala reported on their programs and workshops without providing further details on the type of activities, scope, coverage, duration, and focus of the training plans. Brazil stated that it does not have the information about these programs.

162. Chile presented information on various initiatives designed to ensure the inclusion of women under equal conditions, the eradication of discrimination based on gender identity, and the protection of women in education. Colombia focused more on the pregnancy prevention strategy and the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights. In Costa Rica, the Ministry of Education and the National Children's Trust implement violence prevention programs as part of the main lines of action provided by both agencies, as in Ecuador, where the Ministry of Education advances the Strategic Plan on the prevention of violence, the Action Plan against human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and the Strategic Plan for sexual and reproductive rights.

163. Through the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, El Salvador implements an inclusive and non-sexist training program on gender and education, targeting staff, school authorities, and technical staff. It also presented several initiatives for the inclusion of women in the area of Higher Education in Natural Sciences and Technology.

164. Mexico, for its part, presented the *Construye T* (Build Yourself) Program that transversely and continuously addresses the right of women and girls to be valued and educated free from stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on the concepts of inferiority or subordination.<sup>23</sup>

165. Nicaragua mentioned a campaign focused on developing national partnerships for respectful, harmonious, and dignified family living with safe coexistence in all spaces shared by men and women, especially in the educational system, churches, families, and organizations.

166. As can be seen, State participation levels were low. Each of the areas in this indicator is essential to guaranteeing women's right to live a life free from violence. Therefore, the Committee of Experts believes that it is important to consider that the effectiveness of the States' efforts should be measured through the specific interactions between women and the institutions in each of these areas. Hence, an information system and management organization must be created to account for public policy's true impact on reducing violence against women and any other form of discrimination based on gender identity.

### 1.3 Rate of Use of Services

- **By victims of violence in its different forms,**
- **Helplines,**

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<sup>23</sup> Details on the program are available at <http://www.construye-t.org.mx>.



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- Legal services,
- Health care services, and
- Provision of antibiotics, antiretrovirals, and emergency contraception in the case of rape.

167. Another indicator that helps the CEVI measure the implementation of projects, actions, and plans in practice is the rate of use of services that serves not only to determine the capacity of the States to measure the services provided to female victims but also to ensure the availability of administrative records of the services requested by women victims, survivors, or relatives. However, like the previous indicator, the low number of responses presented by the States Party show the limited capacity to collect information or to systematically automate it to evaluate the use of services and their quality, among other relevant factors.

168. In fact, the participating States' failure to respond to the use of care services for women victims of violence or in vulnerable situations stood at 62.35%. The Committee of Experts believes that this situation showcases the need to reinforce the mechanisms used to collect information, evaluate services, and adapt monitoring systems to State administration activities to ensure the reliable collection of the level of care provided to female survivors in order to guarantee their right to live a life free from violence. However, it can be observed that, in some cases, there is a formal record of the care provided by services such as helplines and legal and health care services to women victims of violence.

169. In closing, some cases reported absolute figures on certain services; however, only Nicaragua presented the utilization rates required by this indicator, standing at 67 victims per 100.000 inhabitants in the year 2015; and 40, 41, and 35 victims in the years 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively.

170. The reports mentioned above are as follows:

- Assistance to victims of violence in its different forms

171. Only six out of the 17 States that participated in this follow-up phase provided information on the assistance provided for victims of any type of violence. The lack of a response to this indicator is of particular concern to the CEVI, as assistance for women victims of violence is the most important service that can help women who have been victims of violence and prevent the recurrence of such violence. These services also meet two main objectives: keeping administrative records that can be used to identify the magnitude of the problem and the effectiveness of the services provided to move towards comprehensive reparation for women.

172. Consequently, the CEVI recognizes the efforts made by Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, and Uruguay in responding to this indicator to keep a record of the efforts being made to account for the services provided.



173. The Integrated Plurinational Justice Services of Bolivia have 27 offices nationwide and provide legal guidance and sponsorship, as well as extrajudicial conciliation services. In 2018, they addressed 8.940 cases nationwide, providing legal sponsorship for 2.637 cases.

174. Costa Rica reported caring for 365 women and 293 girls in the Specialized Care Centers and Temporary Shelter for Women Affected by Violence of the National Institute for Women of Costa Rica in 2018. It also stated that the National University of Costa Rica has two institutions that provide services to the student population: the Student Public Defender and the Office of the Prosecutor or Sexual Misconduct. No figures were presented for the number of services provided in those spaces.

175. Ecuador, through the Directorate of Judicial Response of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Religion, registered 303 cases of femicides and other crimes committed against women between June 2017 and December 2018, including 530 sexual crimes against girls, boys, and adolescents, 36 deaths of people from the LGTBI community, 65 missing persons, and 186 cases of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. In 2019, a total of 3.306 women were cared for in shelters and 39.739 through care centers and 63.308 women, children and adolescents through the integral protection services.

176. In Mexico, the National Network of Justice Centers for Women operates 44 centers in 27 states. The Centers served 76,286 women between January and June 2019, providing psychological, legal, and health care services, channeling, and information on temporary shelters, and imparting social and financial empowerment workshops to help break the cycle of violence. Specialized care was also provided to the women's sons and daughters. Of the population reported as treated, only 347 were indigenous women.

177. In Paraguay, the Women's Aid Center served 1.896 women in 2018, including 164 women who attended for the first time and 832 women treated as part of a follow-up program; 139 women have been accompanied by lawyers, psychologists, and social workers to different institutions such as the National Police, Justice of the Peace, and the Office of the Attorney General, among others. Shelters provided by 1.957 services by professionals specialized in the subject matter, including 664 psychological support services, 246 counseling, legal support services, and 608 social assistance services. A total of 2.589 women received help through 4.780 services provided by the Regional Centers for Women in the departments of Alto Paraná, Amambay, Boquerón, and Canindeyú.

178. In Uruguay, the National Institute for Women, through the services provided to Assist Women Experiencing Gender-Based Violence, provided psychosocial and legal care to 2.564 and 2.726 women in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

- **Helplines**

179. In Brazil, a large number of telephone calls were answered through the central helpline. However, no further information was provided with respect to the type of help provided or the requirements and actions carried out.



180. Chile presented the attention rate on the total female population for the year 2018, which was 3.01 for every 1.000 women living in the country, through the helpline provided by the National Service for Women and Gender Equality.

181. In Costa Rica, 10.297 calls were answered by the National Institute for Women, which were transferred through the Emergency Number 911.

182. In Ecuador, 142.532 calls were registered through three helplines, including 119.134 calls received by the 911 Call Center; 818 calls through Number 151 for legal guidance provided by the Office of the Public Defender, and 22.580 calls for counseling on mental health and sexual and reproductive health through the Number 171 provided by the Ministry of Health.

183. Honduras reported that 6.41% of calls to the National Emergency Number 911 correspond to domestic violence complaints between 2016 and 2018.

184. In Mexico, the toll-free number 01 800 *háblalo* (talk about it) provided by the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women answered a total of 23.085 calls in 2018, 20.748 made by women. The helpline was canceled as of 2019.

185. In Nicaragua, the National Police offers toll-free National Emergency Number 118 that is available 24/7.

186. In Paraguay, the SOS Woman Helpline received 8.785 calls in 2018, in response to which it offered 9.678 specialized services in different fields and 4.821 cases of advice related to various legal procedures on how to deal with domestic violence.

- **Legal Services**

187. The Bolivian Public Defender's Office reported handling 1.518 complaints in 2018, of which 37 cases were processed for violation of physical integrity, 104 related to psychological integrity, 28 for violation of maternity protection, 1.267 for violence, four for acts contrary to the dignity and violence of persons deprived of liberty, and 78 related to the right to live a life free from violence.

188. Brazil reported 452.988 new cases brought to court for crimes associated with domestic violence under the *María da Penha* Act; however, it did not indicate the year in which these cases were admitted or the result of the complaints filed.

189. In Ecuador, the Comprehensive Expert Assistance Unit of the Office of the Prosecutor handled 144.071 cases between 2018 and June 2019. In like manner, 24.7% of all citizen requests addressed to the Victims Unit of the Office of the Public Defender were related to domestic violence for 19.946 cases.

190. The Committee regrets that the remaining States did not provide information in this regard.

- **Health Care Services**

191. Brazil attended 175.899 female victims, registered by the Information System of Notification Offenses of the Ministry of Health for 2016.

192. In Costa Rica, the Ministry of Health has a reporting system for public health events, including reports of intrafamily violence attended primarily by health care services nationwide. For the year 2018, the number of services reached 8.801 women. Furthermore, in 2018, the Ministry of Health provided care for close to 800 cases through the family planning service while also providing care for 17.146 cases in initial reception rooms.

193. In Mexico, in 2018, the State Health Services identified 1.8 million women in situations of violence, while the Specialized Service for Women in Situations of Family and Sexual Violence responded to 261.544 women.

194. For its part, Nicaragua presented the rate of care for victims of domestic violence for the years 2015 to 2018, standing at 83.32 women per 100.000 inhabitants.

195. As can be seen, only Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, and Nicaragua provided information on this section. In this regard, the Committee of Experts reiterates the need to continue promoting the structuring of information and data production to provide answers to the instruments used to measure the conditions of women living in the Region.

196. The Committee was also pleased to observe that the States have transformed their national legislation and public policy catalogs to do a better job protecting women victims of violence in its different forms. However, it is very important to now move towards the institutional adaptation that serves to obtain the necessary data and information from management, to establish improvements or changes in the situation and the living conditions of women and, hence, the exercise of the fundamental right to live a life free from violence and discrimination.

## **2. The incorporation of a gender perspective and the eradication of violence against women in a transversal manner across other Intersectoral National Plans and Actions on development, human rights, inclusion, and social justice.**

197. The CEVI analyzed two indicators to determine the progress made by the States in the analysis of intersectionality for women victims of violence or to prevent violence in sectors subject to high vulnerability rates. In this sense, the CEVI analyzed the national laws and policies implemented to incorporate this perspective and the measures used to recognize intercultural citizens.

### **2.1 National law or policy to guarantee a life free from violence aimed at protecting ethnic diversity (women and peasants of indigenous origins), rural, and of African descent.**

198. A total of 13 countries provided information related to this indicator, which represented 76.47% of the total, rating it as a high-level response.



199. From the information provided, we observed the existence of normative provisions regarding rural women, with ethnic diversity, and of African descent, included in violence laws, expressly in certain cases (Bolivia and Ecuador) or in general, in which the legal statement assumes the inclusion of diverse populations as in the case of El Salvador.

200. Specific laws were also found, especially against racism and discrimination, which state the equality of people in terms of dignity and rights and include provisions on the design of intercultural plans, as in the case of Bolivia, and specific laws aimed at indigenous peoples, as in the case of Mexico, which is expressly linked with the anti-violence against women system.

201. We also found countries, such as Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, and Nicaragua that mentioned that their constitutional text considers ethnic diversity, the existence of indigenous peoples, the multi-ethnic nature of the country, and their commitment to generating policies to maintain and develop an ethnic identity and a cultural and indigenous worldview, among other elements.

202. We also found evidence of State actions that are in the process of consolidation and include these issues. For example, in Chile, Article 1 of the Bill on the Right of Women to Live a Life Free from Violence (Bulletin 11077-07), which at the time of publishing this report is in the second legislative process in the Senate, establishes the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women, regardless of their age, marital status, ethnicity, language, religion or belief, political or other ideology or opinion, national or social origin, affiliation, and socioeconomic or job situation, among other aspects. For its part, Honduras reported that it is in the process of proposing the Comprehensive Violence against Women Act, inferring the inclusion of ethnic diversity.

203. Other plans include ethnic diversity to accompany legislative development. In this sense, both Costa Rica and El Salvador have implemented the 2018-2021 National Health Plan for Persons of African Descent established by the Ministry of Health, while Peru has published the National Gender Equality Policy for 2019 that includes women of indigenous origins, of African descent, mixed racial backgrounds, and urban and rural women, among others.

204. In general, we observed significant progress made on the subject matter; however, the CEVI notes that the States must move forward, through plans or legislation, on defining specialized actions and strategies that clearly establish the link between the guarantee of a life free from violence and the diversity of women based on their characteristics of territorial, ethnic, or of African descent.

## **2.2 Recognition of intercultural citizens in national legislation, taking into account rural, indigenous communities' rights and their practices and knowledge.**

205. A total of 13 countries responded to this indicator to stand at 70.59%. It is important to note that this indicator obtained 47.06% of responses during the evaluation phase; that is, there was a significant increase in this monitoring phase, rating it as a high-level response. The CEVI positively identifies intercultural citizen recognition in the constitutional texts of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia,

Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama. In the case of Panama, the Constitution and the Organic Charters recognize the lands and territories of indigenous populations.

206. Some States establish such recognition through specific laws, namely Bolivia, Chile, and Nicaragua, with the approval by the national legislation of ILO Convention 169 concerning indigenous and tribal peoples in independent countries. Progress was also observed by States not linked to legislative recognition but to State actions that integrate the intercultural variable into their actions and plans. Such is the case of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Honduras. Lastly, the Dominican Republic and Honduras reported that they are about to approve the Free, Prior, and Informed Consultation for Indigenous Peoples Act.

207. The Committee concludes that although there is progress, it still a challenge for the States the legislative recognition of intercultural citizens.

**3. The implementation of programs to promote the education and training of all those involved in the administration of justice, police and other law enforcement officers, and other personnel responsible for implementing policies for preventing, punishing, and eradicating violence against women.**

208. As well as the training and education of civil servants, the States report the efforts made to train male and female educators on gender stereotypes and prevention of violence. Thus, this indicator had a high level of response. Although the indicator statement does not expressly inquire about the systematic or permanent quality of such training actions, the CEVI positively valued the fact that Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Nicaragua considered these characteristics in their responses.

209. It was observed that training actions are carried out through courses, workshops, and diploma programs, especially at the initial, elementary, and secondary education levels. On this occasion, only Costa Rica and Ecuador reported the generation of this type of action at the higher education or university level. Also, most of the activities are carried out in person. Only Ecuador, Dominican Republic, and El Salvador reported online courses and activities. The governing body in education is the one that usually leads these initiatives, in coordination with other government agencies or international organizations.

210. The topics covered by the training courses are highly diverse, such as a gender approach, women's rights, sexual harassment, and gender stereotypes. Bullying and new masculinities are clearly identified while maintaining the reported approach to coexistence, peace, and sexual and reproductive rights. The target population is centered on teachers and specialists. Nicaragua and Paraguay reported training for managers, consultants, and other personnel associated with the educational system.

211. Certain cases provided very specific reports on training activities. However, the CEVI did not obtain information about their specific effect on preventing and reducing violence. In this regard, Argentina mentions training on the National Comprehensive Sexual Education Program, while the Dominican Republic creates joint education workshops with elementary and secondary level

teachers to discuss stereotypes. Uruguay mentions its gender-related workshops for teachers in the Department of Rocha and the online course, which encourages reading about human rights and gender perspectives.

212. As for reports that demonstrate more permanent actions, we have Chile's case, which holds two permanent training courses for teachers at all levels of education through the Ministry of Education and its General Education Division and the Center for Improvement, Experimentation, and Pedagogical Research.

213. For its part, Colombia mentions the completion of the Diploma Program on Attention to Diversity that includes a module on the differential approach model to rights and patterns of socialization and upbringing free from stereotypes, carried out by the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare. In 2018, a total of 2.079 educational agents who work with girls and boys in early childhood took the Diploma program, plus 640 teachers who took the program in 2019, before the State presented its report. Colombia also taught the Training Course on Violence Prevention and Promotion of Protective Environments that specifically addresses the prevention of gender-based violence, which resulted in the qualification of 1.000 educational agents in 2019.

214. Costa Rica spoke of the permanent workshops offered to educators on the Prevention and Attention to Sexual Harassment; Masculinities and Sexual Harassment; Prevention and Attention to Violence against Women: for a University Free from any Form of Violence; Dating Violence and Masculinities; Transversality of the Gender Perspective in Teaching; and Inclusive Language.

215. In the case of Ecuador, within the framework of the Restorative Practices and Education for Peace Plan there were conducted training processes within the framework of the National Plan for Harmonious Coexistence and Culture of Peace in School Spaces, to Guidance and School Counselors.

216. The country also provided continuing education on the Prevention and Attention to Violence in the Educational system, aimed at teachers and authorities in the MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) modality, developed by the Organization of Ibero-American States and implemented in the *Mecapacito* platform, starting in 2018; teacher training on the Manual for the facilitation of the Participatory Tour for the prevention of sexual violence; the socialization of action protocols in the face of situations of violence detected or committed in the national educational system; and the online course Building Equality in Higher Education, carried out in June 2017, aimed at students, teachers and authorities of higher education institutions.

217. Between 2017 and 2018, El Salvador, through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, completed different training activities for teachers specializing in the Global Approach to the Gender Gap in Mathematical, Computing, and Natural Sciences: How to Measure It, How to Reduce It? A total of 400 specialists were trained through these actions. In 2018, a total of 252 teachers from 34 schools were trained in comprehensive sexuality education.

218. Mexico indicates that the Basic Program for Teacher Professional Development has provided training to teachers, technical teachers, principals, supervisors, and pedagogical, technical advisors through diploma programs, national and state courses, and workshops on different topics of social

relevance such as peaceful school coexistence with a gender perspective, substantive equality between men and women, human rights, the approach to intercultural education, and the eradication of violence.

219. Nicaragua noted that the Ministry of Education provides continuing education for teachers, educators, and civil servants, including refresher courses, diploma programs, and several master's degrees. The country also reported that it has strengthened the capacities of 44,304 teachers in comprehensive sexuality education, and educational materials have been prepared for these levels.

220. In Paraguay, there is a Training Plan on Law Number 5777/2016 for the comprehensive protection of women against all forms of violence, aimed, in its first phase, at civil servants working in the central administration of the Ministry of Education and Sciences, and to teachers and students nationwide, in phase two.

221. The Committee considers that significant progress has been made on training education agents, according to the information reported; however, countries must work on the systematicity, permanence, continuity, and scope of such actions to contribute to the prevention and eradication of violence against women and girls.

222. If we link these findings with the results obtained in the indicators related to the existence of protocols in educational matters, or the existence of specialized instances to file complaints in educational settings, the number of known and decided cases in public or private schools by the violation of the rights of women and girls, and the number of exams and curricular reviews to eliminate gender stereotypes by subjects and academic level, we find that there is still a large gap between the opportunity that States have to strengthen their obligations with non-violence in the educational field.

**4. The effective and meaningful incorporation of civil society organizations working for the defense of the human rights of women at every phase of the design, execution, and measurement of the impact of the plans, strategies, and national actions related to the promotion and protection of women's rights included in international human rights instruments and national legislation.**

**4.1 Number and characteristics of civil society organizations that participate in budget control initiatives and their execution.**

223. The CEVI believes that civil society's participation in the implementation of public policy targeting women and girls covers at least two objectives, the first of which refers to the possibility that the States receive information from the social actor the public policy is directed to, which are women, in this case; while the second objective refers to their direct or indirect participation in the formulation or implementation of the policies. The CEVI does this by identifying qualitative progress indicators as a measurement tool that allows society as a whole, but women, in particular, to assess these policies.



224. This indicator maintains a very low trend in the participating States' capacity for response, with only 29.41% positive responses. In fact, both in the evaluation and current phases, the States have found it hard to provide this information. In this regard, the CEVI recalls that it is absolutely relevant, in terms of democratization, that all related decisions and the design of public gender policies be made with the participation of women and organizations with experience on the subject matter.

225. Even in the positive mentions observed, civil society's participation is very limited and is mentioned as a concession of the States when including these organizations or their representatives in the plan and program monitoring phases, within the framework of spaces created for dialogue training activities. However, none of the States described the type of participation of women's organizations in the design, approval, or control of budget execution.

226. For example, Argentina, one of the few States that made a direct reference to the participation of women's organizations in the joint development of public policies, does so generally within the framework of the follow-up and monitoring of the National Action Plan for the Prevention, Assistance, and Eradication of Violence against Women 2017-2020, including its budgetary allocating, spoke of the participation of 33 civil society organizations. However, it does not describe the type of participation or their real capacity to influence or decide on the status and evaluation of the plans.

227. In Guatemala, the Inter-Institutional Budget for Equity between Men and Women was created in 2016, which, according to the State, includes the participation of only one women's organization, the NGO called the Collective for the Defense of Women's Rights in Guatemala. However, the country did not describe the type of participation by civil society to influence or actively participate in the design, control, or execution of budgets allocated to protecting women.

228. In Bolivia, between 2016 and 2018, the Gregoria Apaza Center for the Advancement of Women has prepared reports on the allocation and execution of resources allocated to prevent violence at the territorial level.

229. In Costa Rica, the Women's Forum was established by Law 7801 to promote women's participation, including a representative to sit on the National Institute for Women's Board of Directors, thereby reducing the organization's participation to this single representative. Therefore, the CEVI believes that it is relevant to learn of the type of mechanisms used to select the women's organizations participating in the Women's Forum and the decision-making methods that exist in this space, as well as the influence and manner in which the Forum relates to senior management at the National Institute for Women.

230. In Mexico, the Support Program for the Instances of Women in the Mexican States, known as the National Institute of Social Development in the 2016-2018 period, connected with 193 civil society organizations that participated during fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018. However, the country did not provide information on the manner of participation or their ability to influence the decision-making processes.



231. The remaining States stated that they do not have this type of figure or information in this regard, which shows that this vital aspect is at a clear disadvantage in relation to other advances observed in the adoption of legal measures or the execution of national plans. Therefore, the CEVI believes that the work and attention directed to achieving higher levels of real and effective civil society participation should be maintained and be specifically designed for and by women.

**4.2 Number and characteristics of civil society organizations that participate in the promotion and protection of the right to live a life free from violence, specifically considering organizations working with girls and adolescents, indigenous and older women, women of African descent, rural, with disabilities, with diverse sexual preferences based on their gender identity, migrants, refugees, women displaced, and women deprived of their freedom. Indicate the manner and type of participation.**

232. This indicator obtained a positive response from 11 States for a 64.71% response from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Mexico and Peru should also be included. Although they did not provide information in this phase, they did provide a detailed description of organizations during the evaluation phase. The Committee observes considerable participation by civil society in promoting and protecting human rights for women and, particularly, the right to live a life free from violence.

233. Based on the information provided by the States, there is a wide range of social organizations dedicated to improving the living conditions of women in the Region that direct their work to promoting the equal and fair participation of women in politics, labor and trade unions, and organization, the rights of women to sexual diversity, care for victims and survivors of violence, the promotion, training, and dissemination of women's rights, and indigenous and rural women's organizations, among others.

234. They also described the participation of these organizations in spaces of political coordination with the State and international organizations or study centers of an academic or private nature, dedicated to investigating and monitoring women's situation in their geographic spaces or at the national level. Women's networks and platforms that bring together organizations and women's organizations for political and electoral purposes were also mentioned at another level.

235. On this occasion, the States' responses were more precise. They provided a detailed account of the number and type of women's organizations with permanent relationships. For example, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Uruguay collectively listed more than 100 civil society organizations.

236. The Committee also observed that various women's organizations are engaged in promoting and exercising indigenous, peasant and rural women's rights in countries such as Bolivia and Guatemala's rights, providing specific protection to this population group.

237. In Argentina, Chile, and Paraguay, the CEVI observed several study centers engaged in the monitoring and follow-up of women's conditions in those countries. In the Dominican Republic, the

State finances a group of 45 women's organizations to ensure their joint responsibility in fulfilling their obligations. We were also pleased to see Ecuador's contributions in providing a specific directory of women's organizations and their telephone contacts distributed in nine areas nationwide.

238. From the information analyzed, the CEVI can provide conclusions on three elementary issues. The first is that civil society is active and organized in protecting all expressions of the population of women in the Region. The second is that States are increasingly forced to provide better spaces for participation and joint responsibility in preventing and protecting women's rights. The third conclusion is that there is not enough information to learn about the effectiveness of women's organizations' participation in the decision-making process and monitoring the execution of national budgets on the subject matter.

#### **4.3 Existence of public or private observatories for discriminatory behavior or institutional practices against women or seeking to reverse them in all areas, with special attention to education, health, and justice.**

239. Notable progress is observed for this indicator, compared to the evaluation phase. On this occasion, unlike the evaluation phase Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, and Paraguay provided information allowing for a positive response from 15 of the 17 participating States to reach 88.24% of the expected responses.

240. Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama have civil society organizations engaged in monitoring activities of a specific or general nature, based on each organization's specific line of action, some of which focus on transgender groups of women, indigenous women, sexual and street harassment, gender equality and access to opportunities.

241. For their part, the States carry out follow-up studies and monitor the status of violence against women in their respective countries, primarily through the judicial and legislative branches and national mechanisms for the advancement of women. The Ministries of Education and Social Development, as well as Statistics Institutes, were also mentioned, as they measure the phenomenon of discrimination and violence against women, either from a criminal approach or from a population or demographic approach.

242. Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru, specifically mentioned the work done by the State on monitoring the situation of violence and discrimination against women, as well as the role played by the legislative and judicial branches, and the national mechanisms for the advancement of women.

243. Lastly, through the University Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security, the National Autonomous University of Honduras studies various social behavior patterns, including violence against women and, specifically, the incidence of the violent gender-related killing of women.

244. In conclusion, the CEVI expresses its appreciation for the overall capacity available in the Region to carry out this type of monitoring activity in education, justice, and health. However, the impact



of these observatories and their research on the process of designing laws, public policy, and national or sectoral budgets to combat and eradicate violence against women remains to be seen.

## **5. Participation of the Media and Advertising Agencies in the diffusion of women's rights and the role communication media play to promote gender equity and equality, eliminate gender stereotypes, and the war on violence and discrimination against women.**

245. Although the States, through the Pachuca Declaration<sup>24</sup>, pledged to eliminate gender-based stereotypes from the media and, in general, to promote their transformation into agents of change in relation to violence against women, this was one of the indicators that obtained the lowest level of response during the Evaluation Round.

246. For this reason, in this phase, the CEVI considered necessary evaluating the relationship with media outlets and the training of journalists. Therefore, the CEVI looked into the existence of training processes for the media and journalists in relation to women's rights while also looking into the number of professionals who participated and benefited from this process. These questions made it possible to show the States the existence of a better interrelation with the media. However, it has still been impossible to measure the impact and results of these measures effectively.

### **5.1 Existence of communication campaigns to educate the population on gender stereotypes and what causes them.**

247. The CEVI is pleased to note that nine countries in the region, including Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, did provide information on this indicator this time, raising the level of positive response to 64.71 % of expected responses. This group is joined by Chile, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic that provided in-depth responses to this indicator in the previous phase.

248. In the case of campaigns *to educate the population on gender stereotypes and what causes them*, these are carried out by various State bodies. In the cases of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, the CEVI welcomes the participation of the Ministries of Education, Science and Technology that promoted the inclusion of women, young women, and girls in the study of science and in the use of technological tools to combat both gender-based violence and discrimination against women.

249. For their part, national systems for the protection of women, through the National Mechanism for the Protection of Women or in conjunction with other institutions, carry out training campaigns comprising ads in media outlets and lectures or workshops aimed at the general public or people working in media outlets.

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<sup>24</sup>MESECVI, Declaration of Pachuca. Available at <https://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/DeclaracionPachuca-EN.pdf>.

250. Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay promote both women's rights and new approaches to deconstructing gender stereotypes. Between 2017 and 2018, these countries deployed campaigns to create educational spaces free from gender stereotypes, raise awareness of domestic violence, and promote human rights for women and national laws to prevent and eradicate violence against them. Campaigns were also observed to promote romantic relationships free from violence, as well as methods to detect and combat harassment and discrimination against women.

251. In light of this scenario, the CEVI observes valuable contributions to reduce and eradicate violence against women. However, it is necessary to measure the impact of these actions on the levels of existing violence and expand the scope of these campaigns to all areas of society and the State.

**5.2 Existence of training processes for journalists, communicators, and other communication professionals and media representatives on women's and girls' rights to be free from all manner of discrimination and behavioral stereotypes and social and cultural practices based on the concepts of inferiority or subordination.**

252. A substantial increase is observed in the response level of this indicator, from 52.94% in the evaluation phase to 76.47% in the follow-up phase. The States carry out this type of activity, generally through various entities such as consumer protection agencies, official telecommunications agencies, national mechanisms for women's advancement, and universities.

253. For example, in Argentina, the Office of the Public Defender and the National Council of Women promoted the creation of the International Network of Journalists with a Gender Vision to create a space for interaction between journalists and the State, in addition to training activities such as the course on Introduction to the Gender Perspective in Audiovisual Media.<sup>25</sup>

254. The National Institute for Women of Panama implemented activities to raise awareness about inclusive language and gender equality in the media and taught the Journalism, Social Responsibility, and Gender Diploma Program in Panama City and the country's interior, including rural areas.

255. In Ecuador, the Council for the Regulation and Development of Information and Communication has pledged to prevent gender-based violence by creating spaces for reflection on the role the media plays in the reproduction and perpetuation of violence at university students in different provinces nationwide. The Council also trains media workers on gender-related topics, emphasizing the State's responsibility in the face of gender-based violence, how the media handles the issue, and the promotion of inclusive and participatory communication.

256. In Mexico, the Ministry of the Interior, the National Chamber of the Radio and Television Industry, and the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence Against Women provide advice to professionals affiliated with the Chamber to raise awareness and provide education,

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<sup>25</sup> The course is available at <http://defensadelpublico.gob.ar/curso-perspectiva-de-genero-en-los-medios-audiovisuales/>.

training, and permanent updates on gender equality issues, and the prevention and eradication of violence against women and girls.

257. On the other hand, the CEVI also noted interesting partnerships with international organizations, providing a unity framework to create spaces for dialogue between private media outlets and State authorities. For example, in Chile, in 2017, the “Media Compact for Equality Between Women and Men” was signed under the auspices of UN Women, through which media representatives pledged to respect gender equality in the contents and how they handle cases of female victims of consummated and frustrated femicide, avoiding their re-victimization or the relativization of their testimonies.

258. In addition, the booklet “Recommendations for the Media Treatment of Girls and Women who are Victims of Violence” prepared by the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity, the National Television Council, and the Undersecretariat for the Prevention of Crime. The issues addressed, in addition to promoting gender equality and deconstruction of gender-based stereotypes, also addressed aspects such as equal coverage of male and female candidates in the media during electoral processes, the care and treatment of information related to victims of violence and femicide, and the responsibility and role the media plays in reducing violence and discrimination against women.

259. For its part, the National University of Costa Rica maintains a permanent chair from the Women’s Institute called Communication and Language with a Gender Perspective. In Honduras, the School of Social Communication of the National University teaches courses and seminars on equality aimed at the entire student community.

260. The Committee values the various actions carried out by the States. However, it observes that they are still shown as sporadic and specific activities. Hence, the CEVI emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the principles and values of equality between men and women and non-violence and discrimination against women and girls become an aspect of a transversal and permanent order involving all levels of communication and respect for everyone express themselves through said media.

**5.3 Number of journalists, communication professionals, and media representatives who have participated in educational initiatives on women’s and girls’ rights to be free from all forms of discrimination and stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on the concepts of inferiority and subordination.**

261. In accordance with the wide range of training processes created for journalists as described in the previous indicator, the CEVI observed a positive trend with a response level of 58.82%, in relation to the scope of activities and number of participants.

262. With respect to the responses provided by the States, Argentina reported that the National Institute for Women trained 460 people in the City of Buenos Aires, 40 people working for the Minuto1, Diario Registrado, and Ámbito Financiero media outlets in the City of Mendoza; 100 people in a double day of training on communication with a gender perspective for journalists,

publicists, and communicators in the City of Rosario; 50 people in the City of San Luis, plus 150 journalists and people working for media outlets. In like manner, the Federal Public Media System has carried out Work Days on the Journalistic Treatment of Childhood, Adolescence and Gender Issues, and a communication and gender lecture to 50 workers at the Telam News Agency.

263. In Bolivia, the Government Information Management Unit taught the Weaving Communications Networks to Fight Violence Workshop in the city of Potosí, which was attended by 40 journalists and social communicators linked to media outlets in the capital and Potosina provinces.

264. The Communications Office of the National University of Costa Rica trained 36 people on the subject matter. It worked with the *UNA Mirada* (One Look) and *UNA Voz* (One Voice) programs on mass dissemination through the University's television and radio media outlets.

265. For its part, El Salvador reported the training of 100 social communicators on the human rights of women, girls, boys, and adolescents.

266. In 2017, the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women of Mexico taught the Communication and Gender workshop prepared specifically for media outlets to 20 production and information team members, including newscasters working at The National Hour radio program broadcast nationwide, to raise awareness about violence in media and the prevention of violence against women by the media. For its part, the Ministry of the Interior, through the Undersecretariat for Media Regulations, taught the media awareness workshop to staff members working in the production and content development departments at TV Azteca and Televisa, which was attended by 25 people.

267. In Panama, within the framework of activities aimed at national and regional media, the National Institute for Women, working together with the Ministry of the Interior and the Gender and Justice Foundation, carried out training activities on the subject matter, with 75% of participants ages 24-42.

268. In Paraguay, 60 people attended the International Seminar on Journalism and Violence Against Women.

269. Peru provided a detailed description of the activities carried out by the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations to strengthen journalists' capacities on women's rights and the prevention of violence and information in the years 2016-2019. A total of 672 national journalists and 36 local journalists were trained in 2018. In 2019, the number of journalists trained at the national level rose to 3,721. For its part, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, through the Radio and Television Advisory Council, has a permanent line of work with communication professionals at the national level, where it teaches workshops on gender, violence, and gender stereotypes every year. A total of 970 people were trained between 2016 and 2018.

270. In the Dominican Republic, 30 people working in public communications have been trained on these matters.

271. In Uruguay, the National Institute for Women, in its role as chair of the National Gender Council and the National Consultative Council for a Life Free from Gender-Based Violence, has trained a total of 138 participants distributed in nine departments across the nation, including 68 journalists working for different radio, TV, newspaper, and digital media outlets.

272. The CEVI appreciates the State Parties trend to continue generating synergies with the media; however, it believes that they should keep two fundamental aspects in mind: the effective capacity of the State and the responsibility of the media to eliminate from audiovisual, radio, or electronic media, any discriminatory expression against women, as well as the adoption of codes and reference frameworks for the exercise of communication free from violence against women. The Committee of Experts also believes that the States must expand the coverage provided by these actions since they are usually very specific and reach a limited number of journalists and communicators.

- CONCLUSIONS

273. The CEVI recognizes the significant progress made in the Region in relation to the development of a wide range of national plans, strategies, and actions to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women. The States presented many of these plans. Most incorporate participation by other sectors, especially those involved in the prevention of violence against women, such as education and health. However, the CEVI notes that it received less information than on other occasions regarding the incorporation of a gender perspective and the eradication of violence against women in a transversal manner in other Intersectoral National Plans and Actions for development, human rights, and inclusion, among others.

274. On the other hand, the CEVI is concerned about the fact that, despite the positive progress made, some States continue to provide a limited or unstructured design of public policy aimed at responding to violence, and the programs specifically created to address the rights of women and girls to be valued and educated free from stereotyped patterns of behavior and social practices based on the concepts of inferiority or subordination.

275. The Committee received practically no information on work done in sectors including families, territorial, government, or religious spaces. These sectors represent vital spaces to eradicate stereotyped gender patterns that deepen violence and discrimination against women and girls. In this regard, the CEVI urges the States to deepen their efforts to broaden the framework of action and coverage of these sectors in the work of promotion, dissemination, and training of women's rights.

276. On the other hand, the CEVI recognizes the major efforts made by some States aimed at the implementation of training plans and education on the human rights of women, forms of violence and state and regional means for its eradication, in different sectors of government, and is pleased to see the sustained trend to expand the bodies participating in these processes.

277. However, the CEVI notes that the information obtained in this phase does not reveal training processes that address a diversity perspective. The Committee of Experts reiterates that terms

established by Article 9 of the Belém do Pará Convention, that States must take special account of the vulnerability women are subject to because of their race or ethnicity, migrant, with disability, refugee, or displaced condition.

278. On the other hand, the CEVI also recognizes the information that some of the States have collected on the effective incorporation of civil society organizations that defend human rights for women, since they are considered a fundamental engine to drive the effective exercise of women's rights, based on the importance of the work they carry out, and the dialogue that serves to ensure the adequate implementation and monitoring of the policies established to prevent, address, investigate, punish, and repair violence against women and girls.

279. In this sense, the CEVI highlights the importance of the work they do and the mechanisms created by the States to integrate their voices in each of the phases of design, execution, and measurement of the impact of national plans, strategies, and actions related to the promotion and protection of women's rights. The Committee, however, encourages the States to develop better participation mechanisms in terms of the evaluation and monitoring of policies and the design of the budgets necessary to execute the policies created to promote, defend, punish, and repair women's human rights.

280. Lastly, the Committee of Experts expresses its special thanks for the progress made by some of the States that came forward in this period to report on actions aimed at incorporating work with the media and advertising agencies on the dissemination of women's rights. The CEVI, since the Pachuca Declaration, has been insisting both on the importance of the role played by the media in reproducing messages that deepen violence and on the importance of reversing this trend and using the media's informative capacity, social media networks, and advertising agencies to raise awareness not only about women's rights but also about the mechanisms required to eliminate gender-related stereotypes.

281. The existence of a greater number of training processes aimed at media outlets, journalists, and communication professionals, as well as this sector's incorporation into the daily work done by national women's mechanisms and other agencies that protect human rights for women, is not only fundamental but also one of the cornerstones of the process to transform the culture of unequal power relations that cause discrimination and violence against women and girls. In this sense, the CEVI welcomes these initiatives and encourages States that have not yet done so to incorporate these processes into their national plans to combat violence.

### III. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

282. During the Third Evaluation Round, the CEVI focused on States' efforts on the prevention of violence. In this context, the CEVI drew special attention to the high-levels of impunity that continue to represent a major challenge in the Region. This inefficiency or indifference in the action of

justice<sup>26</sup> is reflected in the low judicialization of cases and the low quality of many of the decisions that permit impunity for crimes committed against women and girls based on their gender.

283. This diagnosis has been reiterated in the three evaluation rounds carried out by the mechanism. At the same time, it continues to be part of the outstanding debt to women in the Region. Accordingly, during the Monitoring Phase, the CEVI monitored those indicators that had a lower level of response in the field of justice, as they account for the review processes of access to justice policies implemented not only by the Judiciary but also by the different agencies involved in guaranteeing access to justice for women.

284. The use of gender stereotypes in the investigation of the laws and crimes that protect women continues to be one of the main factors of impunity. Therefore, the indicator related to the impact produced by gender stereotypes on research and sentences was one of those selected for this follow-up phase. The indicators related to the application of justice protocols and the number of cases decided are added to this first analysis.

285. Studies are also done on the indicators related to the number of civil society organizations involved in the judicial defense of women's rights and the publication of judgments and judicial decisions on the subject matter. Lastly, the indicator relative to the number of female professionals in the justice administration system is analyzed, while the very small number of women dedicated to dealing with cases of victims of gender-based violence was clearly evident in the last evaluation phase.

#### **1. Existence of research on the impact of gender stereotypes in judicial investigation and judgment.**

286. The CEVI did not obtain any significant differences in the indicator between the evaluation and follow-up phases.

287. The countries that answered this indicator were Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama. They referred to the research done by universities or civil society organizations, often sponsored by the Judiciary, to determine the impact of gender stereotypes in the administration of justice.

288. The CEVI also observed efforts made to adopt protocols for an administration of justice free from gender stereotypes; however, there were no additional details provided. Neither, efforts were implemented to establish the extent to which gender stereotypes and discrimination against women represent limitations for access to justice for victims of violence and the eradication of impunity in cases of violence against women.

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<sup>26</sup> See OAS. CIM/MESECVI. *Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention*, para. 468, p. 155. Available at <https://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/docs/TercerInformeHemisferico-EN.pdf>.

289. Nicaragua provided information on a study carried out by the Judicial Branch titled *Study of Sentences Handed Down in the Family and Labor Courts of First Instance in Nicaragua in 2015*. This study was carried out within the framework of the Project titled Support for Improvement of Judicial Efficiency with a Special Emphasis on the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence by the Supreme Court of Justice<sup>27</sup>. The observations on this work indicate that one of the main recommendations involves “strengthening the training strategy on raising awareness and the practical application of the gender perspective, including a method that deepens the methodological steps of how the gender perspective is practically included in judgments, regardless of the subject matter, [while] strengthening knowledge for the application of the different international conventions and treaties signed by Nicaragua in future judgments.” The CEVI welcomes this initiative and hopes that other States will move forward with similar proposals.

290. Paraguay also presented an analysis of the legal framework to describe the barriers and possible gaps that the administration of justice or female victims face when seeking protection or punishment for acts of violence.

291. The CEVI concludes that this limited response shows that the Region does not obtain reliable measurements on the impact of the application of laws to eliminate violence and discrimination against women within the framework of the Belém do Pará Convention, and is not developing the generation of knowledge about the work carried out by Justice Operators on the subject matter. Therefore, the CEVI insists on the need to strengthen the Region’s commitment to reinforce this type of studies to obtain actual baselines to determine the state of the administration of justice in cases of crimes committed against women and the influence of gender stereotypes in the investigation, prosecution, and determination of reparations for the victims and their families.

## **2. Existence of criminal investigation protocols on crimes of violence against women, femicides, and violent deaths of women, with a gender perspective.**

292. The CEVI also analyzed the States’ capacities to develop instruments that provide tools to Justice Operators and personnel in charge of implementing laws enacted to protect women, guarantee adequate attention to cases, and prevent re-victimization of women and girls.

293. In this case, the CEVI welcomes the substantial improvement observed with respect to the States’ capacities for response in this phase. Five countries that did not provide information in the evaluation phase, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, stated that they had criminal investigation protocols on crimes of violence against women, femicides, and violent deaths of women, with a gender perspective, among other types of instruments.

294. Protocols were also observed in various areas centered on caring for women victims of violence. For example, Bolivia presented the Inter-Institutional Route for Attention to Victims of Violence; Colombia presented the Protocol for Assessing the Risk of Mortal Violence; Costa Rica

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<sup>27</sup> Available at

[https://www.poderjudicial.gob.ni/genero/pdf/observatorio\\_estudios/2017\\_Informe\\_final\\_estudio\\_de\\_sen\\_tencia\\_enfoque\\_genero.pdf](https://www.poderjudicial.gob.ni/genero/pdf/observatorio_estudios/2017_Informe_final_estudio_de_sen_tencia_enfoque_genero.pdf)

presented the Seven Action Protocols for Justice Operators<sup>28</sup>; Ecuador presented the Expert Opinion and Forensic Interview with Translators and Interpreters Working in Cases of Gender-Based Violence, and the Protocol to Address Political Violence against the Women of Mexico.

295. A lengthy number of protocols was also evidenced within the police, and criminal and judicial spheres with respect to the investigation and criminal prosecution of those responsible for acts of violence or discrimination against women, constituting the guidelines for actions and manuals created for Justice Operators in the Region. For example, the CEVI found related contributions made by Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru.

296. Each of these countries has guidelines for the criminal investigation of cases of femicide, thus constituting a common pattern in the Region to handle this type of case. Therefore, the CEVI recognizes the positive impact produced by the Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of Gender-Related Killings of Women (femicide/feminicide)<sup>29</sup> in the Region. The CEVI recognizes that this increase in protocols has also expanded its scope, including other types of violence against women and phases for each process considered in the criminal investigation and prosecution of cases.

297. This type of instrument offers a priceless example of the progress made and the results obtained from the entry into force and the Regionalization of the obligations emanating from the Belém do Pará Convention. The adequate and efficient handling of cases of violence will mark the extent of the reduction of the levels of impunity and the beginning of the real transformation of the procedural patterns of care for women victims of violence, thus closing the gender power inequality gap.

**3. Number and percentage of cases heard by jurisdictional bodies of the judicial branch for different crimes involving violence against women and attempted femicide/femicide, in relation to the number and percentage of rulings (convictions or acquittals) handed down by ordinary and specialized courts.**

298. In general terms, the judicial systems quantify the crimes of femicide, domestic, physical, sexual, and psychological violence with the national mechanisms created for the advancement of women and the National Statistics Institutes. Thus, these indicators were observed in a transversal manner in almost all the responses provided by the States. Countries such as Argentina, El Salvador,

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<sup>28</sup> The seven protocols are as follows: i) Protocol for Handling Sexual Offense and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Crimes Committed by Adults against Elderly and Underage Victims; ii) Protocol for Handling Intrafamily Violence Crimes Committed by Adults against Adult and Underage Victims; iii) Protocol for Providing Legal Services to Victims of Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence Committed by Minors; iv) Protocols for Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence by the Department of Forensic Sciences of the Judicial Branch; v) Protocol to Assist Victims in Domestic Violence Courts; vi) Protocol for Assisting Victims of Sexual or Domestic Violence in the Department of Social Work at the Criminal Headquarters; and vii) Protocol for Assisting Victims of Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence by the Legal Medicine Department.

<sup>29</sup> Available at

<https://www.ohchr.org/documents/issues/women/wrgs/protocololatinoamericanodeinvestigacion.pdf>.



and Guatemala presented specific bulletins published with statistics on gender-based violence and how the Judiciary handles these cases, providing a detailed account of the phenomenon of violence in those countries. Other countries such as Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay base their answers on the official figures obtained from the criminal justice system's organs such as the Office of the Attorney General or the Judicial Branch.

299. Given this favorable situation of providing and generating information that offers a more reliable description of the phenomenon of gender-based violence, and given the progress made with respect to the generation of statistics on violence against women, the CEVI notes that it finds that the States still have a hard time providing definitive figures regarding the number of events and cases prosecuted in certain periods under the methodology applied for the systematization of information and the registration of cases, how national laws classify crimes and its discrepancies with international human rights instruments and, specifically, the Belém do Pará Convention, among others.

300. The following table lists the data provided by some of the States regarding the number of cases reported by the judicial bodies on crimes committed against women:

Country	Type of Violence	Cases Admitted (women victims of violence)	Number of Judgments/Cases Resolved
<b>Bolivia</b>	Domestic violence	130	-
<b>Brazil</b>	Domestic violence	908.560	540.156
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Violation of the law on the criminalization of violence against women	18.707	1.017
<b>El Salvador</b>	Sexual violence (2014-June 2018)	24.820	3.605
<b>Guatemala</b>	Femicides and other forms of violence (2017)	49.469	4.872
<b>Honduras</b>	Domestic violence	5.047	-
<b>Mexico</b>	Spouse or partner violence throughout the relationship. Married and living together > 15 years (2016)	11.095.479	-
	Spouse or partner violence in the last 12 months. Married and living together > 15 years (2016)	8.116.105	-
<b>Nicaragua</b>	Violence against women (2015-Q1 2019)	76.291	58.205
<b>Paraguay</b>	Violence against women	34.568	-
<b>Peru</b>	Sexual violence (convictions in 2017)	-	3.028



<b>Uruguay</b>	Domestic violence (2017)	-	92
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Source: Own calculations. Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. Monitor Phase Third Round of the MESECVI

301. The table provides an example of the different manner in which the States present the figures. Although they usually complement the information presented, the CEVI observed the need to standardize how the data is presented while also ensuring updates, to the extent possible, to establish the status and real conditions of access to justice for women victims of violence.

302. The CEVI also observes the aggregation of different periods of time on certain cases, with wide gaps between the beginning of the investigation or prosecution and the sentencing of other cases. These figures also show the high-levels of impunity present in the Region.

303. This same pattern was observed upon obtaining the Regional sample of the number of cases of femicide and the respective sentences, observing, in most cases, a very wide gap between these two moments. The following table includes a sample of these gaps found in 2018:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Cases of Femicide</b>	<b>Sentences</b>	<b>Percentage of Justiciability</b>
Argentina	278	7	2,52%
Bolivia	130	9	6,92%
Chile	181	89	49,17%
Colombia	286	153	53,50%
Costa Rica (2017)	26	4	15,38%
Ecuador	56	15	26,79%
El Salvador (2014-June 2018)	507	144	28,40%
Guatemala	217	107	49,31%

Source: Own calculations. Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. Monitor Phase Third Round of the MESECVI

304. The table clearly illustrates considerable variabilities in the percentage values of convictions in the number of femicide cases. In this sense, the CEVI calls for continuous monitoring with a view to determining the effectiveness of justice in the different cases of violence against women to eradicate all expressions of domination and discrimination against women.

#### 4. Publicity and access to information on the judgments and opinions issued.



305. The CEVI has observed a deep desire in the Region to publicize the judgments and resolutions handed down by the judicial bodies on the official websites of their Judicial Branches, free of charge. In this regard, most countries reported that, in addition to the official websites that publish the judgments and rulings handed down by the Judiciary, they have other dissemination mechanisms, such as the judgments and rulings published by the national press, the development of computer tools for the interpretation of sign language, and the libraries of the Judicial Branches, among other media.

306. The Committee of Experts considers that, although the internet has become a wide-ranging medium, access to it for certain population groups is limited, so other means should be guaranteed to make the information available, as well as public access to the judicial branches where all users that require this type of information can obtain it.

## **5. Number of civil servants who work in positions engaged in direct interactions with women affected by violence against women in its different forms.**

307. Information requested with respect to this indicator included the number of female law enforcement officers, psychologists, social workers, and other female officials responsible for caring for women and girls who are victims of violence. However, the information received by CEVI has not been sufficient to contextualize the availability of female personnel to carry out the type of work performed by these staff members, the instruments they have available to provide the care, the articulation of this service along the inter-institutional route followed by the victims, and the registration and monitoring of each case.

308. In this sense, the Committee of Experts highlights the importance of having female professionals from various branches serving women victims of violence. There is also a need to determine the institutional capacity to care for victims and whether this capacity is directly related to the number of persons treated. Therefore, the relationship between professionals and users of the services must become a permanent measurement tool used to determine the State's real capacity to provide justice and serve, comfort, empower, and dignify the victims.

### **5.1 The existence of national toll-free helplines for women victims of violence**

309. The States that reported the availability of exclusive helplines to deal with cases of violence against women were Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay. Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and El Salvador reported the availability of the 911 Emergency Number system to report all manner of complaints, including those related to violence against women. Honduras only reported on the existence of this line.

310. The CEVI also found that some States included information on helplines for complaints on issues such as human trafficking (Argentina and Peru), sexual and reproductive health, sexual abuse, and institutional violence (Argentina), harassment in subway stations (Chile), adolescent mothers (Costa Rica), and childhood and adolescent issues (El Salvador), to mention a few examples.

311. The institutions serving these helplines work with various sources, initially including the governing bodies responsible for matters related to women's rights, followed by the Ministries of Homeland Security, the police, health care entities, and children's, human rights, and agencies working for the Office of the Public Defender.

312. The Committee of Experts took a positive note of the fact that the States have this type of service used as a fundamental means to serve and advise women victims of violence.

- **CLASSIFICATION OF FEMICIDE AS A CRIME DIFFERENTIATED FROM HOMICIDE. MECHANISMS TO PREVENT, PROSECUTE, AND REDUCE THIS CRIME.**

313. Femicide constitutes an alarming reality in the Region because, despite the efforts made to prevent and eradicate it, the statistics indicate that practically on all States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention, this crime occurs with a sustained upward trend, despite being the most extreme form of violence against women and girls. In this regard, the CEVI has recognized that 18 countries in the Region have criminalized or aggravated women's homicides for reasons of gender; however, the classification has not had a real impact on reducing violent deaths of women in the Region.

314. Defining femicide as a crime is extremely relevant for various reasons, ranging from the visibility of the violence that women suffer because of the simple fact of just *being women/female*, the potential for real access to justice and investigations based on a gender perspective, to the importance of sending a message of zero-tolerance punishment of this behavior. However, in order for the criminal type to meet its objectives, it must be easily verified. Gender patterns or stereotypes must not be used for revictimization purposes limiting access to justice both in the investigation and judicial adjudication of this crime.

315. Furthermore, violence against women, in general, and femicide, in particular, must be confronted through comprehensive actions that address the root cause of the problem, through effective prevention, care, investigation, punishment, and reparation policies on the understanding that gender-based killings of women are preventable, since they are not disjointed expressions, in most cases, but are derived from a continuum of violence against women for gender-based reasons.

316. In response to this need to generate comprehensive actions and avoid impunity, which continues to be the rule in cases of femicides, the Committee of Experts, through the presentation of the Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (femicide/feminicide)<sup>30</sup>, has proposed a more comprehensive approach to this problem based on the description of the minimum standards that must be incorporated into the law and practice to eradicate femicide. Indeed, the focus of the law is public action in its modalities of prevention, adjudication of criminal behavior, investigations, prosecution, punishment, and reparation, and underscores the importance of having the authorities involved in

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<sup>30</sup> OAS. CIM/MESECVI. *Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (femicide/feminicide)*. Available at <http://www.oas.org/es/mese cvi/docs/LeyModeloFemicidio-EN.pdf>.

these processes to center their efforts on the needs of the victims and their families in a manner such that there is true access to justice and that the process should be a repairing and dignifying procedure in and of itself.

317. In this chapter, the CEVI wishes to note some of the results generated after analyzing the responses received from the States on the indicators of structure, processes, and results related to femicide, not only in relation to the progress the States have made in regard to the legislative scope but also the result reported on the efforts made to apply the existing laws related to the violent gender-related killing of women (femicide/feminicide).

318. It should be noted that during this monitoring phase, in October 2017, Uruguay modified Law Number 19.538 with the introduction of paragraphs 7 and 8 in Article 312 of the Criminal Code to incorporate femicide as a special aggravating circumstance of homicide.

319. For its part, Argentina created the Commission for the Reform of the Criminal Code of the Nation in April 2017, when it reformed Article 80 to incorporate femicide as an aggravating circumstance of homicide and describe the circumstances generating this aggravating circumstance.

320. Chile reported that it was working on a bill to amend the classification of femicide to include any aggressor as the perpetrator of feminicide, differentiate intimate femicide from other types of feminicide, and issue stiffer penalties. As of the date of publication of this Report, Chile has approved Law No. 21.212, which modifies the Criminal Code regarding the classification of femicide and other crimes against women, in the preparation of which clear references to the Model Law were included, therefore this Committee congratulates Chile's initiative and invites the other countries of the Region to follow this precedent.

321. Despite the progress made, other states in the Region need to recognize the crime of femicide in their legislation, such as the Dominican Republic, which stated that it still does not recognize this figure as a crime and that its Criminal Code is currently under review to incorporate the figure of intimate femicide. In the same sense, the English-speaking Caribbean States penalize domestic violence, but from a perspective of neutrality of the norm, without distinguishing femicidal violence as a specific criminal offense.

### **1. Femicide/Feminicide Rate in 2018**

322. During this period, the CEVI observed a positive increase in the States' answers to the MESECVI's requirement to provide data on the femicide rate recorded in 2018. In this follow-up phase, the participating States presented information with a clearer view of this phenomenon. These measurements are directly related to the total population of women in each country and were put together with the information provided by each State. The Committee wishes to emphasize that, although this information is not entirely reliable, given the significant underreporting and the disparity of the existing mechanisms to collect the data, it does provide a regional view of the phenomenon and a baseline to analyze this phenomenon:



## Latin America. Femicide/feminicide Rate in 2018 by Country Per 100,000 Women.

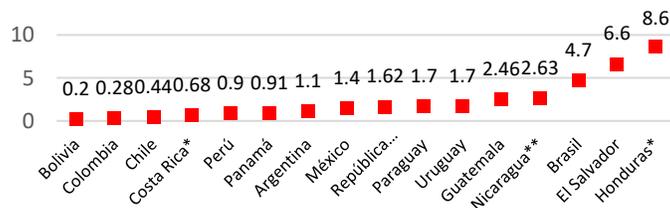
Source: Own calculations. Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. MESECVI Third Round Follow-up Phase.

Country	Rate x per 100,000 Women
Argentina	1,10
Bolivia	0,20
Brazil	4,70
Chile	0,44
Colombia	0,28
Costa Rica	0,68
Ecuador	-
El Salvador	6,60
Guatemala	2,46
Honduras*	8,60
Mexico	1,40
Nicaragua**	2,63
Panama	0,91
Paraguay	1,70
Peru	0,90
Dominican Republic	1,62
Uruguay	1,70

\*2017

\*\*2015-Q1 2019

Femicide/feminicide rate per 100,000 women by country.



Source: Own calculations. Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. MESECVI Third Round Follow-up Phase.

323. For its part, the CEVI contrasts these figures with the conviction rate of these cases, reflecting a general tendency to keep records and statistics related to the crime of femicide through the judicial bodies or the Office of the Prosecutor. Such is the case of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru, which presented specific figures or percentages of femicides prosecuted with their final judgments.

324. The table below provides the information reported by the State, according to the year and the procedural status of the causes of femicide or violent gender-related killing of women. This information can be used to generate a series of reflections on the judicial handling of femicide cases,



such as the time between the event’s occurrence and the processing and sentencing of each case, the procedural lag, and the rate of conviction of femicide for each year. However, it is essential to have access to improved displays of information on justice for femicide cases to analyze the levels of effectiveness existing in this type of case, and the real capacity States have to provide justice aimed at proposing effective solutions.

**Table 7. MESECVI Third Round Follow-up Phase. Number of judicialized cases of femicide by year and procedural status of the cases.**

Country	Year	Cases based on the Procedural Status of the Causes	Total Femicides
Argentina <sup>31</sup> (Procedural situation of the active subjects)	2018	Fragment of the general report: With a final sentence and deprivation of liberty: 3 cases Active subject deprived of liberty in a prison unit: 154 cases	278
Bolivia <sup>32</sup>	2016 2017 2018	Mexico Judgment issued in relation to the number of femicides. 2016 11,9% 2017 16,5% 2018 4,2%	-
Chile <sup>33</sup>	2018	1. Definitive dismissal because aggressor committed suicide: 17 cases 2. In the current investigation process: 15 cases 3. Awaiting oral trial: 4 cases 4. Definitive dismissal due to the offender’s lack of capacity to be charged: 1 case 5. Definitive dismissal due to illness or accident after the fact: 1 case 6. Convictions: 4 cases	42

<sup>31</sup> Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina. Women's Office. *National Registry of Femicides of Argentinean Justice*. 2018. Available at <https://www.csjn.gov.ar/omrecopilacion/docs/informefemicidios2018.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> *Official Report of Bolivia*. Source: Council of the Judgeship. Third Round Follow-up Phase. MESECVI. 2019.

<sup>33</sup> *Official Report of Chile*. Source: National Service for Women and Gender Equity. Third Round Follow-up Phase. MESECVI. 2019.



Colombia	2018	<p>Procedural actions Cases Rate</p> <p>Charges 348 63,74%</p> <p>Convictions 150 43,10%</p> <p>Acquittals 3 0,86%</p> <p>“The rate was calculated from the actions produced within the same period; that is, the cases filed with the Office of the Prosecutor in 2018 with charges pressed or sentence issued that same year.”</p>	-
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Ecuador <sup>34</sup>	2014-2019	<p><u>Cases Resolved</u></p> <p>Guilty verdict: 141</p> <p>Extinction of the action: 14</p> <p>Casefile created during the preliminary investigation by the prosecutor: 10</p> <p>Ratification of the sentence of innocence: 7</p> <p><u>Dismissal: 7</u></p> <p>Total: 179</p>	-
El Salvador <sup>35</sup>	2014-2018	<p>Convictions 519</p> <p>Acquittals 228</p>	747 femicides with sentences
Guatemala <sup>36</sup>	2016 2018	<p>Years Convictions Complaints</p> <p>2016 69 205</p> <p>2017 72 214</p> <p>2018 74 217</p>	-
Mexico	2017	<p>Number of persons prosecuted and charged for the crime of femicide: 620</p> <p>Appealable judgment for the crime of femicide: 119</p>	766
Nicaragua <sup>37</sup>	2015-2019	<p>Judicialized femicides: 64 cases</p> <p>Sentenced: 31 cases</p>	-

<sup>34</sup> *Official Report of Ecuador*. Source: Fiscalía.gov.ecu. Third Round Follow-up Phase. MESECVI. 2019.

<sup>35</sup> *Official Report of El Salvador*. Source: Report on the Status and Situation of Violence against Women, 2018, pp. 77 and 78. Available at <https://www.transparencia.gob.sv/instituciones/instituto-salvadorenopara-el-desarrollo-de-la-mujer/documents/271226/download>. Third Round Follow-up Phase. MESECVI. 2019.

<sup>36</sup> *Official Report of Guatemala*. Exhibit 2 Source: Judicial Organism 2019. Third Round Follow-up Phase. MESECVI. 2019.

<sup>37</sup> *Official Report of Nicaragua*.



		No criminal action because the aggressor died, while others are under investigation. 19 cases									
Panama <sup>38</sup>	2018	Proceedings initiated because of the crime of femicide. Total: 94	-								
Peru <sup>39</sup>	2015-2017	Judicialized cases of femicide tried by the Judicial Branch. National. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>171</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>316</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Total	2015	137	2016	171	2017	316	-
Year	Total										
2015	137										
2016	171										
2017	316										

Source: Own calculations. Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. Follow-up Phase Third Round of the MESECVI.

325. The Committee notes, with concern, the decrease presented by Bolivia in the percentage of sentences for femicides between 2017 and 2018, which fell from 16,5% to 4,2%, without the State providing further information on the subject matter. In Guatemala, the percentage of convictions ranges between 33% and 35% of cases between 2016 and 2018. According to the Judicial Branch report, in El Salvador, convictions have been handed down on 69,48% of the 747 cases tried. In Panama, convictions for the crime of femicide are 0,4% of all rulings handed down by the Judicial Branch.

326. The figure trends indicate that the total number of cases of femicide and cases of attempted femicide far exceed the cases prosecuted, considering that the procedural status of the cases prosecuted was not reported. It is also important to obtain the figures for the number of convictions or acquittals in order to determine the levels of conviction for this crime.

327. In Chile, four of the 42 cases of femicide prosecuted received convictions. The rest of the cases are divided into final dismissals because the aggressor committed suicide or could not be prosecuted, and 19 are in the investigation or trial process.

328. The Committee highlights the importance of determining if whether in cases of dismissal across the Region, at due to the death of the aggressor, the decision of the judicial body regarding the reparations corresponding to the survivors and determination of the responsibilities, since said crime must be condemned in any circumstance after the fact, as that expression reinforces the commitment of the State and society to reduce or eradicate the crime.

329. Lastly, the CEVI inquired about the number and percentage of proceedings related to reparation for collateral victims of femicide, based on the type of relationship with the victim. This

<sup>38</sup> *Official Report of Panama*, Statistical Center of the Judicial Branch. Third Round Follow-up Phase. MESECVI. 2019.

<sup>39</sup> *Official Report of Peru*. Judicial Branch website, available at [https://www.pj.gob.pe/wps/wcm/connect/genero/s\\_cgen/as\\_estadistica](https://www.pj.gob.pe/wps/wcm/connect/genero/s_cgen/as_estadistica). Third Round Follow-up Phase. MESECVI. 2019.

indicator seeks to investigate the progress in reparations to the daughters and sons of women victims of violent gender-based killings. Only six countries provided any type of information in this regard, and they did so by directing attention to care and assistance programs for collateral victims, without referring to the figures linked to existing judicial processes. Lastly, the CEVI did not receive relevant information regarding reparation processes for women victims of violence, representing a total lack of information about them.

- **Conclusions**

330. The Committee of Experts once again notes the lack of comprehensive information on the status of the prosecution and administration of justice in cases of gender-based violence against women. It would be very valuable to have access to the information required on the subject matter, ensure the adoption of crime prevention measures, and create strategies that allow more efficient access to justice and grant the justice required for each specific case.

331. In the same vein, the CEVI wishes to highlight the lack of information regarding the measurement of the impact of gender stereotypes and discrimination against women in access to justice, even though this has been a recurring theme in the determination of the international obligations of States in both the inter-American and universal human rights systems since these elements constitute a structural barrier to obtaining justice and ensuring that the processes are dignifying and reparative for the direct and indirect victims of crimes committed for gender-based reasons.

332. One of the most valuable advances obtained in this phase, as observed by the CEVI, is creating protocols and other instruments to investigate gender-based crimes committed against women. This is a great first step to ensure access to research with a gender perspective. However, the CEVI notes that there is not enough information on its application, its areas for improvement in practice, its real impact on the investigation of cases, or other aspects relevant to measuring and improving its effectiveness. This pending task is highly relevant to creating procedures to address, investigate, and punish cases, according to the justice needs of the victims and society in general, and to break with institutional inertia that weakens the investigation of the causes.

333. As mentioned above, the CEVI is very concerned about the wide gaps between the initiation of the cases and sentencing of the same, which continues to perpetuate the extremely high rate of impunity that characterizes crimes committed against women in the Region. In this sense, the CEVI needs this information to complete an in-depth analysis to clearly identify the bottlenecks limiting investigations to break that gap and the synergies that eliminate the possibility of efficient and effective access to justice. This goes hand in hand with the need mentioned above to identify the existent difference between the number of known cases and the number of specialists needed to resolve the cases, as well as the female specialists participating in them.

334. Finally, the CEVI reiterates the importance of having more and better information regarding access to justice in cases of femicide, to understand the capacities the States actually have to respond to this crime, that inflicts serious damage on the dignity of our societies. It would be important to know, for example, the reasons for the dismissal of the cases, the reasons why some

of the investigations remain in impunity, the underlying stereotypes behind the investigations and the punishment of these cases, the integral reparation granted to the surviving and direct victims, the gap between how the crime is classified and the possibility of verifying it in specific cases, among other facts.

#### IV. INFORMATION AND STATISTICAL INDICATORS

335. Article 8 of the Belém do Pará Convention refers to the obligation of the States Party to the Convention to conduct research and produce information and statistics:

The States Party agree to adopt progressively specific measures, including programs:

[...]ensure research and the gathering of statistics and other relevant information relating to the causes, consequences, and frequency of violence against women, in order to assess the effectiveness of measures to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women and to formulate and implement the necessary changes.

336. The analysis of public policy, the implementation of existing laws, and the international commitments acquired through the Convention include the capacity of the States to produce information and statistics that account for the existing violence against women and girls in all its diversity and the progress of the measures taken to prevent and eradicate these crimes.

337. In this regard, the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI made the following recommendations in the Third Hemispheric Report regarding the generation of information and statistics by the States Party:

1. Provide more information on the data collection and processing systems, if they exist, and, if not, develop regulations that specifically bind the State to produce statistics and information disaggregated by sex and that takes into account the diversity of the women, periodically, and permits monitoring the actions that the States themselves deploy regarding violence against women;
2. Institutionalize systems for the collection and production of sufficient and quality statistical information on violence against women, to be able to make comparisons over time and characterize the evolution of violence, and ensure its periodicity and access to the public in general;
3. Collect data on complaints and sentences of femicide in the States Party and complete studies to analyze the state response to guarantee effective access to justice for victims and their families in these cases;
4. Improve the information systems in the field of justice on how cases of violence against women are handled, as well as the quality and effectiveness of the procedures, including



actions for protection, investigation, punishment, and comprehensive reparation of the damage; and

5. Conduct studies on the effects of actions, programs, and policies to prevent gender-based violence against women; identify the lessons learned and good practices; understand the prevalence, incidence, and perception of violence against women, as well as the obstacles to face and stop violence, to access justice and support services, and relevant issues according to the different local and national contexts.

338. In order to follow up on these recommendations, the CEVI requested information on the following indicators: periodic publication of the statistics prepared and the studies completed, the number of surveys on violence against women, and the publication of studies and reports based on the administrative data generated by different State agencies, such as judicial sources, the police, health agencies, and administrative care agencies.

339. However, the information collected by the States was scarce. Therefore, given the importance of this section, the CEVI analyzed the information available through electronic media described below. This is how we collected information on new surveys, studies, or reports carried out after completing the Third Hemispheric Report, which included studies published between 2017 and 2019, even if the fieldwork was carried out earlier, such as in 2016, although published at a later date.

340. The purpose of this indicator is to understand the spaces, publications, sites, or any other means used to periodically publish surveys, records, and studies regarding phenomena of violence against women.

341. We used the Third Hemispheric Report as a baseline for analysis in light of the principle of progressivity and non-regressivity. Thus, in general, it can be said that the Region has made progress on producing information, applying surveys, and preparing reports based on administrative data.

342. In fact, 14 countries conducted new surveys or published data obtained through earlier surveys conducted between 2016 and 2019:

**Table 1. Countries conducted new surveys or published data obtained through earlier surveys conducted between 2016 and 2019.**

Country	Survey	Year
<b>Argentina</b>	Second National Survey on Violence against Women	2018
<b>Bolivia</b>	Survey on the Prevalence and Characteristics of Violence Against Women	2016
<b>Chile</b>	Third National Survey of Victimization Caused by Intrafamily Violence and Sexual Crimes	2017



<b>Grenada</b>	Women’s Health and Life Experiences Survey	2018
<b>Ecuador</b>	National Survey on Family Relations and Violence against Women	2019
<b>El Salvador</b>	National Survey on Violence Against Women	2017
<b>Jamaica</b>	Women’s Health and Life Experiences Survey	2016
<b>Mexico</b>	National Survey on the Dynamics of Household Relationships	2016
<b>Panama*</b>	National Survey on Sexual and Reproductive Health	2014-2015
<b>Peru</b>	Demographic and Family Health Survey	2018
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Experimental Survey on the Circumstances of Women	2018
<b>Suriname</b>	Women’s Health and Life Experiences Survey	2018
<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	Women’s Health and Life Experiences Survey	2017
<b>Uruguay*</b>	II National Survey of Prevalence on Gender-based Violence against Women, with a focus on generations	2019
Total countries: 14		

\*The Panama survey was conducted before the period of analysis of this report and corresponded to the period analyzed in the Third Hemispheric Report. Uruguay has learned of the II National Survey, and its National Institute of Statistics (INE) reported that data is under analysis.

**Source: Own calculations. Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. Follow-up Phase Third Round of the MESECVI.**

343. During the Third Evaluation Round, several States reported that they would conduct surveys on violence against women for the first time, and have actually conducted these surveys and published the results, as in the case in El Salvador. This is valuable progress ensuring compliance with the CEVI recommendations.

344. These are added to the significant progress generated by four Anglo-Saxon Caribbean countries that conducted the Women’s Health and Life Experience Survey for the very first time: Grenada (2018), Jamaica (2016), Suriname (2018), and Trinidad and Tobago (2017). The Committee notes this effort and recommends that the studies be carried out periodically to analyze and measure the problem over time.

345. The cases of countries with new unified registry systems are noteworthy. Although they were not created in recent years, they have been strengthened and improved or published updates on centralized data. This is the case in five countries: Argentina (Unified Registry of Cases of Violence Against Women, RUCVM), Colombia (Integrated Information System on Gender-Based Violence, SIVIGE), Costa Rica (Unified System of Statistical Measurement of Gender-Based Violence),

Dominican Republic (National Information System on Gender-based Violence, SINAVIG), and Guatemala (National Information System on Violence Against Women, SNIVCM).

346. On the other hand, the CEVI has been found that numerous countries have developed surveys following methodologies developed by international frameworks. The following four frameworks have been identified in this case: 1) International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS); 2) Demographic and Health Surveys (EDSA); 3) Survey of Violence against Girls, Boys, and Adolescents (EVCNNA) and 4) Women’s Health and Life Experience Survey.

**Table 2. Countries that have created surveys following an international framework methodology by type.**

International Framework	Country	Total Number of Countries
<b>International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS)</b>	Argentina (2018)	One
<b>The Demographic and Health Surveys</b>	Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Peru	Four
<b>Survey on Violence against Girls, Boys, and Adolescents</b>	Colombia (2018), Honduras (2017)	Two
<b>Women’s Health and Life Experience Survey</b>	Grenada (2018), Jamaica (2016), Suriname (2018), Trinidad and Tobago (2017)	Four
Total Number of Countries	Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago	<b>Ten</b>

**Source: Own calculations. Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. Follow-up Phase Third Round of the MESECVI.**

347. With respect to the age of women, throughout the search and analysis of the various surveys conducted in the Region, the CEVI has learned that many of them take women of childbearing age within their age range, considering, in all cases, that the starting point is 15 years of age, ending at 45 or between 60 and 65 years, depending on the country.

348. In many cases, violence against girls and adolescents is part of specialized surveys. However, the exclusion of older women from many surveys that seek to measure the prevalence of violence against women is striking and a matter of concern. The invisibility that the governing bodies of statistics make of this important population sector, which tends to experience specific violence due to the high vulnerability to which it is exposed, is clear and worrisome. This is the reason why the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons was promulgated within the framework of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights.

349. In fact, there is a process of aging worldwide and, as such, its feminization, since women have a longer life expectancy and several years of survival compared to men. In this sense, it is of utmost importance to include older women in surveys conducted on violence against women and develop specific instruments to complete an in-depth analysis of the problems they face.

350. On the other hand, the CEVI notes that two surveys carried out by civil society organizations have been included in the data collection process. The first survey was developed by the *Ni Una Menos (Not One Female Less)* Movement in 2016 and applied in Argentina. The second one was developed by the *Humanas (Humans)* Corporation and applied in Chile.

### 1. Information related to the production of statistics, reports, and surveys individualized by country

351. This section provides individual analyses of different countries of the region. In each case, an attempt was made to make a comparative analysis regarding the information that each State had submitted or that which the CEVI had collected in its own investigations.

352. In the cases of the countries that did develop specific surveys to measure the prevalence of violence against women, we included relevant data in relation to certain methodological questions found in the surveys, as well as their main findings and data.

### 2. ARGENTINA

353. With respect to the application of surveys, the Second National Survey on Violence against Women is considered notable. It was developed by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of the Nation, through its National Directorate of Criminal Policy on Justice and Criminal Legislation. Data obtained through the National Study on Violence against Women was published in 2019 with information from the survey conducted in 2018<sup>40</sup>.

354. The purpose of this survey has been to conduct a survey that addresses the different forms of victimization experienced by women, measuring their prevalence and main characteristics in Argentina. This initiative was promoted by the United Nations, based on the International Violence Against Women Survey<sup>41</sup>.

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<sup>40</sup> *National Study on Violence against Women*. 2019. Available at [https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/estudio\\_nacional\\_sobre\\_violencia\\_contra\\_las\\_mujeres\\_2018.pdf](https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/estudio_nacional_sobre_violencia_contra_las_mujeres_2018.pdf).

<sup>41</sup>The sample of this survey included 1,238 cases and its objectives, in addition to providing statistical information, including learning the modalities that male physical, sexual, and psychological violence adopts against women; identifying the victimization of street and cyber sexual harassment, as well as the comparison with the information obtained in the first survey.

355. It is important to note some of the data obtained from the Second National Survey on Violence against Women in Argentina as follows:

- 49,3% of the women surveyed reported some level of physical and/or sexual violence in the course of their lives;
- 19,8% of the women interviewed indicated that they were victims of some form of physical and/or sexual violence during the last five years; and
- 12,7% of the women interviewed were victims of physical and sexual violence starting at age 16. A total of 1.9% of the women interviewed were victims of physical and sexual violence during the last five years, and 0.2% were victims of physical and sexual violence during the last year.

356. In 2016, the *Ni Una Menos* movement promoted the application of the survey on gender-based violence, titled Argentina Counts Sexist Violence. The survey was conducted through an online questionnaire, including close to 200 questions answered by more than 59.000 women in all socioeconomic levels, living in more than 1.800 towns and cities nationwide. The primary data were condensed in the First National Index of Sexist Violence<sup>42</sup>.

357. Thus, the Committee of Experts notes that in the case of Argentina, all sources of statistics and official information reviewed by the State within the framework of the Third Evaluation Round of the MESECVI have continued to publish reports.

358. It is also important to note the application of the Second National Survey on Violence against Women since its periodic application permits an analysis that includes the temporal variable, which is essential in terms of public policies.

### 3. BOLIVIA

359. In May 2017, the National Institute of Statistics of Bolivia published the first Survey of Prevalence and Characteristics of Violence against Women conducted in 2016<sup>43</sup>, aimed at generating statistical information on the magnitude of the different types of gender-based violence (physical, psychological, sexual, and patrimonial) that women suffer or have suffered, both in the public sphere (educational, labor, and social) and in the private sphere (home, family, couple relationship), in the pursuit of knowledge or the services and instances of justice available to face

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<sup>42</sup>The executive summary of the report is available at <sup>42</sup><http://contalaviolenciamachista.com/Informe-ejecutivo-final.pdf>. Information on the initiative can be found at <http://contalaviolenciamachista.com/resumen/>.

<sup>43</sup> Available at <https://www.ine.gob.bo/index.php/prensa/publicaciones/411-publicaciones/todas-las-publicaciones/2017/326-encuesta-de-prevalencia-violencia-contra-la-mujer>.

violence, as well as women's perceptions of the institutional response. This survey will be updated every five years<sup>44</sup>.

360. The Committee highlights some of the data obtained from the Survey of Prevalence and Characteristics of Violence against Women in 2016<sup>45</sup>:

- In the private sphere, 393.370 women experienced an episode of violence by their lover, boyfriend, or former partner, representing 51,9% of a total of 757.408 single women 15 and older nationwide;
- The most common type of violence is psychological, where the aggressor controls his partner in how she dresses, and her friendships and schedules, among other aspects. This covers 46,5% of all single women. It is followed by 21,2% of women who suffered sexual violence, 16,8% who experienced physical violence, and 12,2% who experienced financial violence. Her boyfriend or former boyfriend committed all these aggressions;
- Violence in the workplace is practiced primarily by the boss or employer with 44,9%, followed by co-workers and customers, with 39,6% in both cases;
- The departments of La Paz and Potosí register the highest percentage of women victims of violence; and
- Violence rates against women in rural areas are higher than in urban areas.

361. On the other hand, Bolivia has also conducted six Demographic and Health Surveys, the last of which was conducted in 2016 and published in 2017. This survey includes violence against women as a variable; however, the report published in 2016 did not present specific data regarding violence against women<sup>46</sup>.

#### 4. CHILE

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<sup>44</sup>With respect to methodological aspects, women ages 15 and older were interviewed and the size of the sample was 7,241 private homes dwellings with occupants present, 5,049 of which correspond to the urban area and 2,192 to the rural area.

<sup>45</sup>The INE has published different data on the EPCVcM in press releases. They are available at <https://www.ine.gob.bo/index.php/prensa/notas-de-prensa/itemlist/tag/Violencia>.

<sup>46</sup>For example, page 162 of the published report includes the questionnaires and Section XI regarding "Violence against Women"<sup>46</sup><sup>46</sup> that includes almost 50 questions and filters (with a substantial number of additional questions), plus the interviewer's section for observations. However, the processing of this section and the information regarding violence against women was not included in the narrative report of the last publication of the 2016 EDSA. The complete publication is available at <https://www.ine.gob.bo/index.php/prensa/publicaciones/411-publicaciones/todas-las-publicaciones/2017/328-encuesta-de-demografia-y-salud-2016>.



362. In 2017, Chile conducted the Third National Survey of Victimization by Intrafamily Violence and Sexual Crimes,<sup>47</sup> aimed at obtaining relevant information on the levels of victimization by intrafamily violence and sexual crimes that affect women and boys and girls in the country's urban areas.

363. The survey was conducted with women ages 15 to 65, living in urban areas of the country's 15 regions, with a sample size of 6.824 cases. It should be noted that several indicators permit a comparison with previous surveys, with data obtained between 2012 and 2017.

364. The Committee of Experts wishes to note some of the data obtained from the third National Survey of Victimization by Intrafamily Violence and Sexual Crimes in Chile:<sup>48</sup>

- 38% of women in the country (ages 15 through 65) report having suffered some type of violence at some point in their lifetime;
- 36% suffered psychological violence at some point in their lives, 16% suffered physical violence, and 7% suffered sexual violence;
- Compared to the previous survey, the CEVI observed an increase in the prevalence of psychological violence, growing from 16,8% to 20,2%, as the factor driving the increase in the general prevalence of violence measured in the last year and the women's lifetime. This increase is due primarily to mild psychological violence, which, measured in the last year, grew from 16,8% to 19,7%;
- The intra-family space continues to concentrate 38% of the violence that women have experienced at some point in their lives;
- 37% of the women reported physical violence, 23% the last episode of sexual violence, and another 23% reported psychological violence;
- The main reason why women do not report episodes of violence is because they do not consider it serious or necessary (44%), because things got better (32%), or because they were afraid (14%); and

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<sup>47</sup>The results of the third survey are presented in a report published by the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security. The survey data are available at <http://www.seguridadpublica.gov.cl/media/2018/01/Resultados-Encuesta-VIF.pdf>.

Press release issued by the Ministry of the Interior in which the Minister for Women and Gender Equity, and the Undersecretary for the Prevention of Crime, released the results of the *Third National Survey of Intrafamily Violence against Women and Sexual Crimes*. Available at <http://www.seguridadpublica.gov.cl/noticias/2018/01/08/disminuye-la-violencia-fisica-y-aumenta-la-violencia-sicologica-segun-la-tercera-encuesta-nacional-sobre-violencia-intrafamiliar/>.



- 46,8% of the women who experienced physical violence, 41,8% of those who experienced sexual violence, and 48,9% of those who experienced psychological violence do not believe that it is useful to report or reported it in the past and “nothing happened.”

## 5. COLOMBIA

365. In 2018, the “Situation Chamber for Women Victims of Gender-Based Violence” was published by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection<sup>49</sup> to complete an analysis of violence against women in Colombia. The chamber compiles data from five sources of official information, including 1) The National Public Health Surveillance System operated by the National Institute of Health (2017); 2) The Individual Registry for the Provision of Health Services of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (2017); 3) The Violence Observatory of the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences (2017); 4) The Ministry of the Interior’s Trafficking in Persons Database (2016 and 2017) and 5) The results of the Demographic and Health Survey on Gender-Based Violence (2015).

366. The data collected during the survey included the number of cases, percentage of types of total violence, sex of the victim, age groups, relationship with the perpetrator, and the country’s geographic department. Moreover, health records include the number of women treated in the health system for external causes associated with gender-based violence, identifying age groups and departments.

367. Some of the relevant data from the Demographic and Health Survey on Gender-Based Violence 2015<sup>50</sup> are as follows:

- 31,9% have been victims of physical violence by their current or former partner or spouse (32,7% in urban areas and 29,2% in rural areas);
- 31,1% have suffered financial or patrimonial violence committed by their current or former partner or spouse;
- 7,6% have suffered sexual violence from their current or former partner or spouse; and
- 64% have suffered psychological violence by their current or former partner or spouse.

## 6. ECUADOR

368. In 2011 and 2019, Ecuador conducted the First and Second National Surveys of Family Relations and Gender-Based Violence against Women, respectively. The target population was women ages 15 and older, with a sample of 20.848 households. The Committee of Experts positively highlights

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<sup>49</sup> Available at <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/DE/PS/sala-situacion-violencia-genero.pdf>.

<sup>50</sup> Available at <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/DE/ENDS-libro-resumen-ejecutivo-2016.pdf>.

the fact that the survey conducted in 2019, unlike the one conducted out in 2011, included obstetrical and gynecological violence, with a first approach to cyber and political violence. The survey also included questions to obtain information about acts of violence throughout the women's lifetimes and those experienced in the last 12 months.

369. The main results of the survey are as follows:

- 65% of women have experienced at least one act of violence in their lifetime, and 32% have experienced it in the last 12 months.
- The violence most experienced by women throughout their lifetime is psychological (56,9%), followed by physical (35,4%), sexual (32,7%), and patrimonial (16,4%). With respect to the violence experienced in the last 12 months, the type with the highest prevalence rate is psychological (25,2%), followed by sexual (12%), physical (9,2%), and patrimonial (6,1%);
- 77% of women who are separated have experienced at least one act of violence in their lifetimes; and
- The contexts in which women have experienced violence throughout their lifetime start with spouse or partner violence in the first place (42,8%), followed by social violence (32,6%), family violence (20,3%), violence in the workplace (20,1%), and school-related violence (19,2%). Women who have experienced violence in the last 12 months reported spouse or partner violence in the first place (18%), followed by social violence (16,6%), school-related violence (12,2%), violence in the workplace (7,8%) , and family violence (3,6%).

370. On the other hand, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses published the 2018 Gender Atlas that includes a section on gender-based violence with data disaggregated by region of women victims of violence and the type of violence. There is also a section on femicides by year and province with data obtained between 2014 and 2017<sup>51</sup>.

## 7. EL SALVADOR

371. El Salvador conducted the National Survey of Violence Against Women in 2017 and published the results in May 2018<sup>52</sup>. This first survey was conducted by the Directorate General of Statistics and Censuses of the Ministry of the Economy, and the results reflect how women ages 15 and older perceive and experience violence against women every day.

372. Some of the specific objectives of the survey are as follows: 1) obtain official figures that measure femicide and the different forms of physical, psychological, sexual, financial, and

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<sup>51</sup> *Gender Atlas 2018*. Available at [https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Bibliotecas/Libros/Atlas\\_de\\_Genero\\_Final.pdf](https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Bibliotecas/Libros/Atlas_de_Genero_Final.pdf).

<sup>52</sup> Available at <http://aplicaciones.digestyc.gob.sv/observatorio.genero/docs/ENVCM%2017.pdf>.



patrimonial violence against women ages 15 and older; 2) generate statistical information on women's knowledge about and their search for help and justice institutions to face the violence, and 3) obtain statistical figures on women's perceptions of violence and the institutional responses provided.

373. The measurement includes the context of the violence (public: work, school-related, or community; or private), the type of violence (psychological, physical, sexual), and their relationship with the aggressors.<sup>53</sup>

374. The primary data obtained from the National Survey of Violence Against Women in 2017 are as follows:<sup>54</sup>

- 67,4% of women have experienced some type of violence throughout their lifetime;
- 34 out of 100 women have reported some type of aggression in the last 12 months;
- In urban areas, the prevalence of violence throughout their lifetime and in the last 12 months exceeds the prevalence of national violence at 69,1% and 35,3%, respectively, which is opposite to the behavior reported in rural areas where the prevalence of violence is slightly lower than the prevalence of national violence, at 64,4% and 31,2%, respectively;
- Five out of ten women have suffered psychological violence throughout their lifetime, with two out of ten women reporting this type of violence within the last 12 months of 2017;
- 25,5% of all women have suffered physical violence throughout their lifetime, with 5,7% within the last 12 months of 2017;
- Four out of ten women have suffered sexual violence throughout their lifetime, with one out of ten reporting this type of violence within the last 12 months of 2017;
- The data indicates, both for events that occurred throughout their lifetime and for those that occurred within the last 12 months of the reference year of the survey, that the context with the highest prevalence of violence against women is not private (home), but rather public, particularly in the community, followed by school-related violence and violence in the workplace;
- Six out of 100 women attacked filed a complaint or asked for help; and

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<sup>53</sup>Surveys were conducted among the target population of women ages 15 and older, regular residents in the 14 departments and geographic areas of El Salvador. The sample included 4,104 homes to represent a population of 2.6 million women above 15 years of age.

<sup>54</sup> *Executive Report on the Results of the National Survey on Violence against Women*, El Salvador, 2017. Available at [http://aplicaciones.digestyc.gob.sv/observatorio.genero/docs/Violencia\\_contra\\_la\\_mujer.pdf](http://aplicaciones.digestyc.gob.sv/observatorio.genero/docs/Violencia_contra_la_mujer.pdf).



- The reasons stated for not reporting the violence are as follows: 47,8% said that they did not have a way to get to the institution because it is far away and she does not have a means of transportation; 15,3% thought that they would not be believed; 14,3% did not report the violence because they were ashamed; 11,5% were threatened; 8,7% did not know which institution to turn to, and 2,3% said they feared reprisals or consequences.

## 8. GRENADA

375. Grenada has data on victims of domestic violence registered by the Royal Grenada Police Force. The most recent data found corresponds to the results of the 2012-2017 survey published by the nation's Drug Control Secretariat and the Ministry of Education.<sup>55</sup>

376. In addition, in 2018, the country conducted its first Women's Health and Life Experience Survey. The Central Statistics Office conducted the survey with help from the Caribbean Development Bank and UN Women. This survey will provide prevalence data and qualitative analysis of violence against women using the World Health Organization model.<sup>56</sup>

## 9. JAMAICA

377. In 2016, Jamaica conducted its first Women's Health and Life Experiences Survey and published the results in 2018. The survey was conducted by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and co-financed by the Inter-American Development Bank and UN Women.<sup>57</sup>

378. This is the first time that the country has applied an exhaustive examination of the nature and prevalence of violence against girls and women, and studied both life experience and the most recent events of violence and abuse by a spouse, partner, and others.

379. The survey targeted women ages 15 to 64, two-thirds of which were 25 to 54 years old. The objectives of the study include obtaining reliable information on the prevalence of violence against women; determining the relationship between violence and health issues; identifying factors that can protect or put women at risk; and documenting how women deal with domestic violence, including services they use and strategies they develop, among other aspects.

380. Some of the relevant data obtained from the Women's Health and Life Experiences applied in Jamaica are as follows:

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Available at <https://www.gov.gd/egov/pdf/ncodc/docs/stats-analysis-domestic-violence-2012-2017.pdf>.

<sup>56</sup> Available at

[https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/grenada\\_comprehensive\\_national\\_review\\_to\\_beijing\\_25\\_may\\_2019.pdf](https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/grenada_comprehensive_national_review_to_beijing_25_may_2019.pdf).

<sup>57</sup> Available at <https://www2.unwomen.org/->

[/media/field%20office%20caribbean/attachments/publications/2018/af%2020180618%20jamaica%20health%20report%20for%20web.pdf?la=en&vs=5614](https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20caribbean/attachments/publications/2018/af%2020180618%20jamaica%20health%20report%20for%20web.pdf?la=en&vs=5614).

- 27,8% of women in Jamaica have suffered some type of violence in their lifetimes;
- 25,2% of women have experienced physical spouse or partner violence;
- 7,7% of women have suffered sexual abuse by a spouse or partner;
- 28,8% of women have suffered emotional violence and 8.5% have suffered financial violence; and
- With respect to the strategies developed by the women: 63% did not seek help, and, of those who did seek assistance, 32% went to the police, 11,8% to the health system, and 5,3% to the justice system. Very few women looked for help from social services.

## 10. MEXICO

381. Mexico has a robust statistical system that produces abundant data on gender-based violence. One of the most important tools in terms of information is the National Survey on the Dynamics of Household Relationships, conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), that provides an overview of the violence faced by women in Mexico. The last survey was conducted in 2016.<sup>58</sup>

382. The survey measures prevalence, type of violence, the state in which it occurs, the emotional consequences, and the physical damages. It also adds variables that are rarely addressed by surveys conducted in other countries, such as the losses women face, society, the status of the damages caused, and the consequences produced by the violence, through an estimate of the cost of violence in terms of lost days of work by the women.<sup>59</sup>

383. The National Institute of Statistics and Geography has also conducted the National Survey of Victimization and Perception of Public Security 2018, to generate information at the national level, by state, and metropolitan areas of interest, on the phenomenon of criminal victimization during 2017, as well as the social perception regarding public security and performance by the authorities in the March-April 2018 period. Although this survey does not focus on issues of violence against women, it does have relevant data, such as the increase from 2013 to 2018 in women's feelings of insecurity, which grew from 74,7% to 82,1%.<sup>60</sup>

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Available at <https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/endireh/2016/>.

<sup>59</sup> Available at [https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/aproposito/2018/violencia2018\\_Nal.pdf](https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/aproposito/2018/violencia2018_Nal.pdf).

<sup>60</sup> Available at [https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/boletines/2018/EstSegPub/envipe2018\\_09.pdf](https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/boletines/2018/EstSegPub/envipe2018_09.pdf).

384. For its part, the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System, the body that lays the foundations for coordination and distribution of competences in matters related to of public security nationwide, publishes a variety of statistical data related to violence against women. Until the publication date of this Report, the latest report available on its website is dated October 2019, and corresponds to information on violence against women related to the incidence of crime and 911 calls.<sup>61</sup>

385. At the local level, there is a survey published in 2018 by UN Women and the Institute of Women of Mexico City, titled "Survey on Sexual Violence in Transport and other Public Spaces in Mexico City"<sup>62</sup> of the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Program.

## 11. PERU

386. The National Institute of Statistics and Computing periodically publishes statistics and studies on violence against women. The Committee of Experts highlights the 2018 edition of the Demographic and Family Health Survey.<sup>63</sup> Chapter 12 lists data on family violence with information about the characteristics of this problem against women of childbearing age (ages 15 to 49) and national data on the prevalence of violence in Peru. The same module included questions related to violence against girls and boys ages 1-5.

387. Some of the most notable data obtained from the survey is as follows:<sup>64</sup>

- In 2018, at the national level, 63,2% of women who have ever lived with a spouse or partner suffered some type of violence committed by their spouse or partner. This violence dropped 13,7 percentage points compared to 2009 (76,9%) and 2,2 percentage points compared to the previous year (2017);
- 58,9% of women were victims of psychological and/or verbal violence by their husbands. Some type of control situation (54,6%) is predominant in this type of violence. The most frequent types of violence were the manifestation of jealousy (41,0%) and the insistence on knowing where she was going (37,1%), followed by not allowing her to visit or be visited by her friends (15.6%), accusations of being unfaithful ( 14,2%), and lack of trust about money (10,3%);

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<sup>61</sup> Available at <https://www.gob.mx/sesnsp/articulos/informacion-sobre-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-incidencia-delictiva-y-llamadas-de-emergencia-9-1-1-febrero-2019?idiom=es>.

<sup>62</sup> Available at <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20mexico/documentos/publicaciones/2018/safe%20cities/ analisisresultad osencuesta%20cdmx%20f.pdf?la=es&vs=2419>.

<sup>63</sup> Available at [https://www.inei.gob.pe/media/MenuRecursivo/publicaciones\\_digiales/Est/Lib1656/index1.html](https://www.inei.gob.pe/media/MenuRecursivo/publicaciones_digiales/Est/Lib1656/index1.html).

<sup>64</sup> See Chapter 12 Violence Against Women, Girls and Boys of the ENDES 2018.



- In terms of psychological violence, 18,4% of the women who have ever lived with a spouse or partner, said they had experienced humiliating situations. On the other hand, 16,1% faced threats from their intimate partners saying that they planned to leave or take the children or withdraw financial aid, and 8,9% said that their spouse or partner threatened to harm them;
- 30,7% of the women who have ever lived with an intimate partner said that they suffered physical violence that consisted of being pushed or shaken or having their spouse or partner throw something at them (27.1%), others were slapped and had their arms twisted (18,2%); some were beaten with the fist or something that could harm them (15,3%), while others were kicked or dragged (9,8%);
- 6,8% of the women who have lived with a spouse or partner were sexually abused by being forced by their spouse or partner to have sex (6,3%) or to perform sexual acts that she did not approve of (3,4%);
- Women who experienced physical violence and asked for help from people close to them, most frequently turned to their mother (37,4%), friend or neighbor (18,8%), another relative (15,8%), sister (15,4%), and father (15,3%), among others;
- Of the women who went to some kind of institution, 74,1% went to the police station, 10,4% went to the municipal Office of the Public Defender; 8,9% went to the Office of the Prosecutor, and 8% went to court.
- Some of the most frequent reasons women who are victims of physical violence said they did not ask for help was that they did not think it was necessary (47,8%), they felt ashamed (14,7%), and they did not know where to go or were not familiar with the services provided (12,0%).

## 12. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

388. The last country report published by the Dominican Republic, included information about the different official organizations that produce information with sources related to administrative records, on the one hand, and sources related to surveys, on the other.

389. On the other hand, the National Statistics Office, in its role as the institution responsible for producing official statistics, conducted the Experimental Survey on the Situation of Women in 2018<sup>65</sup> to offer information on the living conditions of women victims of violence, to be able to identify the problems, events, or situations of violence they have experienced. This initiative is part of an exercise aimed at satisfying the demands for statistical information, both at the national and

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<sup>65</sup>The survey was conducted with the technical and financial support of the Inter-American Development Bank within the framework of the Regional Initiative for Information on Violence Against Women Project, as well as the Ministry of Women of the Dominican Republic.

international levels, that permit the effective management of policies and programs aimed at eradicating violence against women.

390. This survey is focused on violence against women, aimed at understanding the conditions of violence experienced by women in the Dominican Republic, in its different types and forms, as well as some situations that characterize their lives. Information on the prevalence of violence against women was obtained by measuring certain variables related to women's acts of violence throughout their lifetime and within the 12 months before the survey. A total of 4,083 women ages 15 and older were interviewed across the nation, of which 83,1% reside in urban areas and 16,8% in rural areas.

391. The Committee of Experts wishes to highlight some of the relevant data obtained from the survey:<sup>66</sup>

- This survey considered the prevalence of violence against women to include the existence of at least one act of some type of psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or patrimonial violence;
- The prevalence of women who have experienced some type of violence is higher in rural areas (71,9%) than in urban areas (69,1%);
- Violence in the field of education is perpetrated by fellow students (75,8%), while violence in the workplace is perpetrated by managers, employers, or bosses (62,4%);
- 23,6% of women ages 15 and older have experienced some type of psychological violence in their lifetimes in the public context, with 44,9% in the private context; and
- 44 out of every 100 women have been victims of some type of sexual assault in the public context, and 20% in the private context.

### 13. SURINAME

392. As mentioned earlier, Suriname joins the group of countries that have made great progress in conducting surveys and producing information on violence against women, after conducting its first Suriname Women's Health Survey in 2018.

393. This is a national, quantitative, and cross-sectional survey designed to diagnose violence against women and girls, with a specific focus on violence by a partner or spouse, and sexual violence by persons other than a partner or spouse. The survey measured the national prevalence of both, determined the risk and protective factors associated with spouse or partner violence, and

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<sup>66</sup> Gazette published by the National Office of Statistics (ONE). Available at <https://www.one.gob.do/noticias/2019/10/08/5413/la-one,-el-bid-y-el-mmujer-presentan-primera-encuesta-estandarizada-sobre-violencia-contra-la-mujer>.

documented the health consequences and strategies developed by female survivors of gender-based violence.

394. This survey is part of a regional initiative of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), the Inter-American Development Bank and UN Women, that created a collective model for national surveys on the prevalence of gender-based violence in CARICOM Member States.

395. The survey was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank and prepared by the Government of Suriname, represented by the Ministry of Justice and Police and the National Committee on Domestic Violence including governing and civil society representatives.

396. The national sample included 2.094 households and the participation of 1.627 women ages 15-64. The prevalence of violence was measured throughout the respondents' lifetime and within the last 12 months.

397. Some relevant results of the survey are as follows:<sup>67</sup>

- Of the women who have ever been in a relationship, 32% experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, and 6% experienced it at some point within the 12 months before the data was collected;
- Emotional violence was the most frequent (25% throughout their lifetime, and 9,2% in the last 12 months);
- Almost one in three women suffered physical violence during her lifetime from her current or former spouse or partner, the majority (61%) of which suffered a serious event at least once;
- 6% of the women suffered physical violence during pregnancy, of which 36% suffered more violence during pregnancy than at other times;
- More than one in three women suffered emotional violence during her lifetime (35%) compared to 9% in the last 12 months;
- 13% were victims of sexual violence by their spouse or partners throughout their lifetime; and
- Approximately 16% suffered financial violence committed by a current or former spouse or partner;

#### **14. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

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<sup>67</sup> Own translation of the final report.

398. In 2017, Trinidad and Tobago conducted its first Women's Health Survey, and published the report in 2018.<sup>68</sup> The final report presents the first national estimates of the prevalence of violence against women by a spouse or partner and also by persons other than a current or former spouse or partner. The survey was conducted nationwide, with the participation of 1.079 women ages 15-64.

399. Some of the most relevant data from the survey are as follows:<sup>69</sup>

- 30% of women in a relationship have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime (6% experienced it within the 12 months before the survey);
- 21% have experienced sexual violence;
- 35% of women have experienced emotional violence;
- 7% of women who have ever been pregnant have suffered physical violence during pregnancy;
- In terms of physical effects, abused women were more likely to report problems related to poor health, in general (40% compared to 28% for women who did not experience violence); difficulties in performing usual activities (13% compared to 7% for women who did not experience violence); and pain (24% compared to 11% for women who did not experience violence);
- Women who have experienced physical or sexual partner violence reported suicidal thoughts or attempts (27%), alcohol use (11%), and recreational drug use (6%), at a higher rate than women who have not experienced physical or sexual violence;
- There is a higher prevalence of physical violence by a spouse or partner that occurs throughout their lifetime, associated with a lower educational level (elementary school or less, 34%; higher than middle or secondary school, 23%); and
- 61% of the women did not receive any type of help. Of the women who did receive some type of help, it came from their parents (13%), the police (12%), or friend networks (11%).

400. With respect to the collection of data and statistics, the CEVI also recognizes the progress made in terms of data quality and the increase of centralized data collection mechanisms in the Region.

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<sup>68</sup> The Executive Summary is available at <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20caribbean/attachments/publications/2018/20190208%20tt%20summaryf%205%20single%20pages.pdf?la=en&vs=4003>. The full report in the English language is available at <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/National-Women-Health-Survey-for-Trinidad-and-Tobago-Final-Report.pdf>.

<sup>69</sup> Own translation of the final report.

401. As mentioned earlier, the CEVI notes that although the States did not report this information, much of it is found on the official websites of the institutions that collect information and statistics in the States, such as National Statistics Institutes, the Office of the Prosecutor, and Ministries of Health, while several States also reported information gathered by the Office of the Public Defender and civil society organizations.

402. The Committee specifically notes the efforts made by Argentina and Costa Rica in maintaining and updating unified records that provide, together with the surveys, an overview on violence, by incorporating data compiled by various public agencies. In the case of Argentina, the unified registry includes national, provincial, and municipal data related to the different sectors (health, work, security, justice, and women, among others), in charge of advising, assisting, informing, and accompanying women victims of violence. Costa Rica, on the other hand, has a System for the Unified Statistical Measurement of Gender-Based Violence. The latest available data covering the years 2012-2016 was published in a report issued in 2017.<sup>70</sup> This compendium contains information related to domestic and partner violence, sexual violence, access to justice, and femicides. With respect to the 2012-2016 indicators, they include data provided by administrative and judicial records, the health system, the National Institute for Women, and the Office of the Public Defender, among other government agencies.

403. The CEVI also notes the efforts made by Colombia with the publication in 2016 of the normative, conceptual and operational framework of the Integrated Information System on Gender-Based Violence.<sup>71</sup> Five public agencies participated in the construction of the document, the Ministry of Justice and Law, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the National Administrative Department of Statistics, the Presidential Council for Equality of Women and the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Science. The Integrated Information System will be part of the National Observatory of Violence as a knowledge management tool based on the Comprehensive Social Protection Information System. This observatory is an intersectoral space provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in order to promote the generation, compilation, analysis and dissemination of information on gender-based violence and its comprehensive approach nationwide. Indicators for the years 2015-2018 on sexual and physical violence due to gender are found on its website.<sup>72</sup> With respect to gender-based violence indicators, the CEVI notes that the information can be filtered by departments, municipalities and by years, taking some of the sources mentioned earlier, into account.<sup>73</sup> There is also an Observatory of Gender-Based Violence against

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<sup>70</sup> System for the Unified Statistical Measurement of Gender-Based Violence, *2012-2016 Indicators*. Available at <https://www.inamu.go.cr/documents/10179/11343/Indicadores+2012-2016+SUMEVIG.pdf/f61117f1-fa7a-4f6e-b93c-d9946554ac79>.

<sup>71</sup> Available at <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/sivige-documento.pdf>.

<sup>72</sup> Available at <http://onviolenciasgenero.minsalud.gov.co/Paginas/home.aspx>.

<sup>73</sup> Available at <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoieMzgyNWYyNTItZjQwNi00M2Y5LWFiYTktMWY1YzFhN2Y1OTE5IiwidCI6ImJmYjdlMTNhLTdmYjctNDAxNi04MzBjLWQzNzE2ZThkZDhiOCJ9>.

Women and Access to Justice<sup>74</sup> that publishes complete and updated statistics on domestic violence through 2018.

404. For its part, Ecuador also has a collegial structure in place for the collection of statistical information led by the State Attorney General's Office, together with 35 other institutions that are part of the Special Commission for Statistics on Security, Justice, Crime, and Transparency. This body, through the Group for the Statistical Strengthening of Security and Justice Indicators, is in charge of processing information on the crime of femicide on a national scale and reports the number of victims of femicide, with the number of cases of femicide according to the pretrial and procedural phase of the process, and number of cases of femicide according to the resolution of termination of the case. The data available have been updated through October 2019.<sup>75</sup>

405. Guatemala also has a National Information System on Violence Against Women coordinated by the National Institute of Statistics and supported by the Presidential Secretariat for Women. The latest available data was published in 2018 and corresponds to the 2017 report. The country keeps a registry on femicides and violence against women classified by type of violence, geographic department by type of incident, rate by age group, percentage of women violated by marital status, number of judicial sentences handed down, and the victim's relationship with the aggressor, among other indicators.<sup>76</sup> During 2018, this National Information System on Violence Against Women generated two specific products: the publication of indicators of violence against women in 2017, and a computer platform for the collection, storage, and query of records on the information generated by the 13 institutions comprising the system and define the periodicity of the information registered in the system.

406. Lastly, the CEVI highlights the existence in Paraguay of the Women's Observatory for Monitoring Violence against Women.<sup>77</sup> Its objectives include monitoring, analyzing, and investigating violence against women; generating data by region on acts of violence; creating mechanisms for public access to information on data reported to the unified and standardized Violence Against Women Registry System by the responsible institutions, and maintain a daily record of cases of violence reported at the national level, among other functions. The National Institute for Women, under the Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay, has a Gender Information System with indicators on gender-based violence.<sup>78</sup> It also published an analytical document in 2017. The data used for this analysis come from the First National Survey on Gender-

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<sup>74</sup> Available at <https://observatoriodegenero.poder-judicial.go.cr>.

<sup>75</sup> The information is available at <https://www.fiscalia.gob.ec/conformacion-del-subcomite-tecnico-de-validacion-de-femicidios/>.

<sup>76</sup> Available at <https://www.ine.gob.gt/sistema/uploads/2018/11/30/2018113081722emO14nj4jr5XWfNPgRNeFnEgRttdjJf.pdf>.

<sup>77</sup> Available at <http://observatorio.mujer.gov.py>.

<sup>78</sup> Available at [http://sigenero.mides.gub.uy/Nuevo\\_Test/portalObservaGenero/institucional.php](http://sigenero.mides.gub.uy/Nuevo_Test/portalObservaGenero/institucional.php).

Based Violence and Generations conducted by the National Institute of Statistics in 2013.<sup>79</sup> The Social Mides Observatory also reports the different indicators obtained from administrative records and statistical surveys.<sup>80</sup>

407. In addition to the surveys, the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru published the report titled “Peru: Indicators on Family and Sexual Violence, 2012-2019,” which it prepared with information provided by the Demographic and Family Health Surveys, and administrative records generated by the institutions. This publication contains data on family violence committed some point in time or within the last 12 months, by type of violence and perpetrator, with information on the request for help, report of the abuse; data provided by the National Police of Peru on complaints about family and sexual violence; and the persons affected and attended by the National Program against Family and Sexual Violence. In terms of access to justice, it has data related to judicial records on people with convictions and the inmate population in prison because of family and sexual violence and records of sponsorship provided by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights for women victims of violence.<sup>81</sup>

408. The Dominican Republic also has a National Information System on Gender-based Violence<sup>82</sup> that provides information on the different measures, categories, forms, and responses to violence against women. This platform offers indicators related to the following measures: *Characteristics of the violent events*: contains prevalence indicators on physical, sexual, and psychological violence with their respective breakdowns, and indicators of the victims and their aggressors; *Femicides*: contains prevalence indicators on femicides, characteristics of the acts of femicides, profile of the victims and the perpetrators; and *Response to violence*: contains indicators on the Dominican society’s response to violence, with an emphasis on state actions and initiatives.

409. The Dominican Republic has also developed a grouping of administrative sources, with an emphasis on those of judicial and police origin, plus different public agencies including the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the National Police, the National District Office of the Prosecutor, the District Attorney’s Office of the Province of Santo Domingo, the Judiciary, the Ministry of Women, and the Citizen Security Observatories. The country has also compiled the information obtained from the surveys developed by the National Office of Statistics related to the measurement of violence against women. A fundamental source of this information is constituted by the three Demographic and Health Surveys that were conducted periodically every five years

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<sup>79</sup> The results of the survey are published in this report:

<http://dspace.mides.gub.uy:8080/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/981/ENCUESTA%20NACIONAL%20DE%20VIOLENCIA%20BASADA%20EN%20GENERO%20Y%20GENERACIONES.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>.

<sup>80</sup> Available at [http://observatoriosocial.mides.gub.uy/Nuevo\\_Test/portalMidesV3/indicadores.php](http://observatoriosocial.mides.gub.uy/Nuevo_Test/portalMidesV3/indicadores.php).

<sup>81</sup> Available at

[https://www.inei.gob.pe/media/MenuRecursivo/publicaciones\\_digitales/Est/Lib1686/libro.pdf](https://www.inei.gob.pe/media/MenuRecursivo/publicaciones_digitales/Est/Lib1686/libro.pdf).

<sup>82</sup> Available at <https://sinavig.one.gob.do/>.

(2002, 2007, and 2013), as well as the annual National Multiple Purpose Household Surveys.<sup>83</sup> However, according to the information published in an official document of the National Office of Statistics, the Dominican Republic will no longer conduct the annual Demographic and Health Surveys.

410. The Committee of Experts expresses its concern in this regard, as this survey provides very valuable information and includes indicators on violence against women that are not measured in any other survey and that are very relevant to the creation of public policy.<sup>84</sup> In this sense, the CEVI recommends that the Experimental Survey on the Situation of Women be used as a baseline for a survey conducted on a periodic basis in the country in order to have access to continuous and reliable data, which is fundamental for the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of public policies based on evidence.

411. We also note other initiatives implemented by the Judicial Branch and statistics provided by law enforcement departments, such as the Office of the Woman of Argentina that publishes the National Registry of Femicides of Argentinean Justice<sup>85</sup> that contains statistical data on the judicial causes of gender-related killings of women. Some of the variables recorded include sociodemographic records of complaints filed on acts of violence provided for in the law, specifying as a minimum the age, marital status, profession or occupation of the woman suffering the violence, as well as the aggressor; the relation between the victim and the aggressor, the nature of the facts, the measures adopted and their results, and the punishment imposed on the aggressor. A relevant fact is that the figures of transvesticides and transfemicides were included as of 2016, thus providing visibility to these forms of violence.<sup>86</sup>

412. For its part, Barbados has information produced by the Royal Barbados Police Force, with reports indicating an increase in cases of domestic violence.<sup>87</sup>

413. With respect to data on criminal matters,<sup>88</sup> there are statistics available published by both the Office of the Prosecutor and the Criminal Defense Department of Chile. The latest report available

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<sup>83</sup> Both the ENDESA and ENHOGAR surveys are published on the official ONE website. Available at <https://www.one.gob.do/publicaciones#>.

<sup>84</sup> ONE, ENESIM 2018, p. 20. Available at <https://www.one.gob.do/publicaciones#>.

<sup>85</sup> Annual reports for the years 2014 to 2018 can be found on the institutional website. Available at <https://www.csjn.gov.ar/omrecopilacion/omfemicidio/homefemicidio.html>.

<sup>86</sup> Available at <https://www.csjn.gov.ar/omrecopilacion/docs/informefemicidios2018.pdf>, p. 7.

<sup>87</sup> *Barbados Beijing +25 Report: Progress made on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform For Action 2014-2019*. Abril 2019, p. 7. Available at [https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/barbados\\_beijing\\_plus\\_25\\_report\\_2014-2019.pdf](https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/barbados_beijing_plus_25_report_2014-2019.pdf).

<sup>88</sup> The CEVI notes the compilation featured in the *Thematic Report 2017*, published by the School of Law of the University of Chile. *Violence Against Women and Human Rights in Chile*. This report was a fundamental



from the Office of the Prosecutor corresponds to the semi-annual Bulletin published from January through June 2019, which dedicates a chapter to information related to Law 20.066 on Intrafamily Violence. The information collected is presented there, including variables on the geographic region where the crime occurred, the category of the crime (sexual crimes, femicides, and threats, among others), and the different relative procedural phases (final conviction, acquittal, and reparatory agreements, among other categories).<sup>89</sup> For its part, the Criminal Defense Department publishes annual reports with statistics on data related to cases linked to acts of domestic violence, compiled by gender.<sup>90</sup> The National Institute of Statistics of Chile also has a section on Gender Statistics that publishes a set of prioritized gender indicators produced by the different ministries. Several available publications include data, databases, and reports linked to violence against women, femicides, health, and other relevant data.<sup>91</sup> With respect to femicides, the National Service for Women and Gender Equality keeps an updated registry of actual and attempted femicides.<sup>92</sup>

414. The CEVI notes the information produced by civil society organizations, especially as related to the statistics compiled by the Chilean Network Against Violence Towards Women<sup>93</sup> that compares data on femicides registered by the National Service for Women and Gender Equity (SERNAM, acronym in Spanish), and the Network's own estimates of higher numbers. In fact, the Network reports 560 femicides, and dozens of cases with lack of clear follow up on the cause of death, while the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity reports 401 femicides in the last bulletin available, which was published in September 2019.<sup>94</sup>

415. Also, at the civil society level, the Humanas Corporation of Chile periodically conducts a national survey titled "Perceptions of Women on their situation and living conditions in Chile." The 12<sup>th</sup> National Survey was published in 2017, and contains a specific section on violence against women.<sup>95</sup>

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input for the information reviewed in this section. It is available at

<https://www.uchile.cl/publicaciones/141701/informe-tematico-violencia-contra-la-mujer-en-chile-y-ddhh>.

<sup>89</sup> The statistical bulletins published by the Office of the Prosecutor of Chile are available at <http://www.fiscaliadechile.cl/Fiscalia/estadisticas/index.do>.

<sup>90</sup> The statistics published by the Criminal Defense Department of Chile are available <http://www.dpp.cl/repositorio/177/486>.

<sup>91</sup> Available at <https://www.ine.cl/estadisticas/sociales/genero/indicadores-subcomision-de-estadisticas-de-genero>.

<sup>92</sup> See the official SERNAM website at [https://www.sernam.gob.cl/?page\\_id=27084](https://www.sernam.gob.cl/?page_id=27084).

<sup>93</sup> Available at <http://www.nomasviolenciacontramujeres.cl>.

<sup>94</sup> Available at <http://www.nomasviolenciacontramujeres.cl/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/DOSSIER-2019-1.pdf>.

<sup>95</sup> It includes questions like, Do you believe that the State takes the necessary measures to prevent female gender-based killings? What is the most important measure the State should take to prevent violence against women? What type of response have the following institutions offered with respect to violence

416. Lastly, we have the “Defense Report: Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination”<sup>96</sup> published by the Criminal Defense Department of Colombia, which contains information on violence against women between 2014 and 2018 and presents information provided by the Office of the Public Defender, civil society organizations, and government agencies.

417. For their part, the Guatemalan Women’s Group and the Network Against Violence Towards Women indicated that there is no disaggregated and specific information on violence against women, although Guatemalan law establishes the obligation to create the National Information System on Violence Against Women. They also state that there are serious delays in the production, processing, and publication of information by each institution, which implies that the information has not been updated.<sup>97</sup>

418. With respect to the information gathered by civil society organizations, the information provided by the Center for Women’s Rights and the Observatory of Human Rights of Women of Honduras is also notable, as it includes a set of statistical data on violence against women with the information provided by judicial sources regarding Supreme Court decisions, the number of complaints filed and resolutions, among other data. The website posts bulletins and various publications on the subject matter with updates through the middle of 2019.<sup>98</sup> Also, in Honduras, the Gender Unit of the Violence Observatory of the University Institute for Democracy, Peace, and Security, features bulletins on the violent gender-related killing of women and femicides. These bulletins offer reliable and systematized information on violence against women based on data collected from media monitoring of the Violence Observatory, validated with the information provided by the Office of the Directorate General of National Police Statistics and the Directorate General of Forensic Medicine. The information posted on the website is updated through December 2017.<sup>99</sup>

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against women? This last question includes law enforcement, health services, women's centers, the SERNAM, family courts, prosecutors, and criminal court assessments of women's organizations. The latest survey is available at <http://www.humanas.cl/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ENCUESTA-HUMANAS-2017-VERSIÓN-FINALNOV.pdf>.

<sup>96</sup> The executive summary of the report is available at <http://www.defensoria.gov.co/public/pdf/Informe%20Defensorial-Violencias-Basadas-Genero-Discriminacion.pdf>.

<sup>97</sup> Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/SR/Celebrating25Years/GrupoGuatemaltecodeMujeres.pdf>.

<sup>98</sup> Available at <https://derechosdelamujer.org/documentos/violencia-domestica-contras-las-mujeres-2017-2018/>.

<sup>99</sup> Available at <https://iudpas.unah.edu.hn/observatorio-de-la-violencia/boletines-del-observatorio-2/unidad-de-genero/>.

419. Lastly, the CEVI notes the existence of the Women’s Observatory for Follow-up on Violence against Women in Paraguay,<sup>100</sup> whose objectives include monitoring, analyzing, and researching matters related to violence against women; generating data by region on acts of violence; creating mechanisms for public access to information on data reported to the Unified and Standardized System’s Violence Against Women Registry; and keeping daily records of cases of violence at the national level, among other functions.

420. The Observatory publishes data on victims of femicide in Paraguay, as well as Paraguayan women abroad, and victims of attempted femicides. It also keeps a registry of the total number of children left orphans by the victims of femicides. The bulletin on femicides features data by date of occurrence, department, aggression mechanism, day and place of occurrence, relationship with the aggressor, after-the-fact information (detained, fugitive, “self-eliminated”), the victim’s age, the age of the aggressor, and information on the social impact of femicides.<sup>101</sup> With respect to access to justice, it features reports on convictions and sentences issued by year, based on the facts and under the categories femicide and attempted femicide.<sup>102</sup>

421. The last country report published by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also reported a significant deficit in terms of the production of information related to violence against women. The SVG National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence 2015-2018 addresses the challenges the Government Statistics Department faces in overcoming this problem in statistical and methodological terms. These include developing a data protection protocol to be used by all Service Agencies, workshops on use of the protocol, and the biannual generation of information about gender-based violence.

422. Venezuela and Saint Kitts and Nevis find it hard to obtain official statistical data on violence against women. In the case of Venezuela, the Office of the Attorney General used to provide periodic reports on femicides and the percentage of crimes related to violence against women in its annual report. Statistics related to the killing of women by a current or former spouse or partner are available at *CEPALSTAT*.<sup>103</sup>

423. In Saint Kitts and Nevis, the SVG National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence 2015-2018 recognized the challenges the Department of Government Statistics faced in overcoming this problem in statistical and methodological terms. These include developing a data protection

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<sup>100</sup> Available at <http://observatorio.mujer.gov.py>.

<sup>101</sup> The latest publication available is the *Bulletin on Femicides. First Semester of 2009*. Available at [http://observatorio.mujer.gov.py/application/files/1815/6518/4241/INFORME\\_SEMESTRAL\\_FEMINICIDIO.pdf](http://observatorio.mujer.gov.py/application/files/1815/6518/4241/INFORME_SEMESTRAL_FEMINICIDIO.pdf).

<sup>102</sup> Available at <http://168.90.176.72/index.php/noticias/condenas-causas-y-sentencias-ingresadas-segun-su-hecho-punible>.

<sup>103</sup> Available at <http://oig.cepal.org/es/indicadores/muerte-mujeres-ocasionada-su-pareja-o-ex-pareja-intima>.

protocol to be used by all Service Agencies, workshops on the use of the protocol, and the biannual generation of information about gender-based violence.

- **Conclusions**

424. The CEVI especially welcomes the efforts made by certain States that conducted surveys on the period analyzed. According to the figures provided, there are certain common patterns to be considered for the Region, including:

- Between 50% and 60% of the women in the states mentioned above have been victims of some type of violence throughout their lifetime, while between 30% and 40% of women stated that they had been victims of physical or sexual violence;
- The home continues to be the most unsafe place for women;
- The main perpetrators of violence are men in women and girls' inner circles;
- Violence that occurs in the educational environment is mostly perpetrated by teachers, while violence in the workplace is perpetrated primarily by bosses;
- The types of violence with the highest incidence rates are physical, sexual, and psychological violence;
- Other types of violence such as obstetric, cybernetic, financial, political, or institutional violence are reported less often or have not been added to most surveys;
- Relationships in violence against women and the perpetrator continue to represent a challenge in the Region, as most of the survey results show violence suffered in the private sphere but not in the public sphere, except for El Salvador that reported that most violence against women is committed in the public sphere; and
- Other elements related to geographical areas vary in the Region; for example, while Bolivia reports greater violence in rural areas, El Salvador reports greater violence in urban areas.

425. Although these surveys are not comparable given the different variables used, these common elements account for a map of violence in the region that must be addressed as a priority. The CEVI also wishes to note that, in addition to the information on the number of female victims, the results of these surveys reflect a lack of trust in the prosecution and administration of the justice system to report these cases.

426. The Committee recognizes the efforts made by some of the States to produce information and statistics, as these tools are essential to measuring the situation of women in the States Party. In this sense, the CEVI reminds the States of the need for them to continue to develop them in a manner that permits their comparison between States, while also providing the necessary information for the creation of policies on the prevention, care, investigation, and punishment of gender-based violence against women, accordingly with the international standards in the subject. The CEVI also recognizes that other universal and inter-American agencies, such as UN WOMEN and the Inter-American Development Bank, have used international cooperation methods that have served to make progress on the subject matter.

427. The CEVI has drawn attention to the fact that in order to produce quality and timely records on violence against women, the States must invest in training and raising awareness among the



personnel in charge; promote the use of specialized forms and the establishment of computerized and digitized systems, and make coordinated efforts to register, automate, and publish the data.<sup>104</sup>

428. The purpose of collecting this data is to determine the causes, consequences, and frequency of all forms of violence against women and the effectiveness of the measures implemented to prevent, punish, and eradicate the violence. Hence, the CEVI highlights some of the surveys' results, shedding light on their importance, which contrasts the lack of information regarding the services provided or work with sectors that are essential for the prevention of violence.

429. However, the CEVI recognizes these efforts and hopes that the international mechanisms that are being created to standardize violence records worldwide can result in a better understanding of the phenomenon of violence against women, as well as of the best measures to eradicate it.

430. Lastly, the CEVI hopes that those States that have not yet initiated these processes will be able to take the necessary political, legal, and administrative measures to begin taking these measurements.

## V. BUDGET

### 1. Percentage of the execution of the budget assigned to programs, plans, and institutions related to different forms of violence against women.

431. Again, there were many difficulties involved the collection of the information required to build this indicator. The analysis of the budget information sent by the States in their follow-up reports regarding policies to combat violence against women reveals that only 38% of the signatory countries answered this point in the questionnaire (12 out of 32 countries). However, only three signatory countries (9% of the cases) provided sufficient information to construct this indicator; two countries provided partial information (6%), and seven countries (22%) stated that they did not have the information required.

432. For the CEVI, this shows that, despite the information reflected in the section referring to the existence of budgeting mechanisms with a gender perspective and tools aimed at allocating a budget to the subject matter, the States still do not generate enough information to permit allocating a budget invested in preventing, punishing, and eradicating violence against women.

433. The following table provided details on the information with respect to gender-labeled budgets:

<b>Gender-Based Budgeting</b>
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<sup>104</sup> MESECVI. First Hemispheric Report. Page 42. Available at <https://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/InformeHemisferico2008-SP.pdf>



They have Gender-Based Budgets	Countries	Number of Countries	Percentage
Yes	Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay	5	16%
Yes, but not periodically	Costa Rica, El Salvador	2	6%
Planned but not implemented	Honduras, Trinidad	2	6%
No	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts, Saint Vincent, Suriname, Venezuela	15	47%

**Source: Own calculations. Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. Follow-up Phase Third Round of the MESECVI.**

434. Faced with this situation, the CEVI undertook an extensive search for sources of public information from which it was able to obtain the budget allocated to national mechanisms for women, in some cases. In other cases, it was able to identify the amounts or percentages of the national budget dedicated to services for women victims of violence and of the budget allocated to national plans on violence against women, studies and research on the subject matter, and the dissemination and promotion of the corresponding results and publications.

435. The results of this research served to obtain information from practically all the countries that have sent their follow-up report to the MESECVI (91,7%), except for Suriname, which indicated that the budget structure does not permit the identification/monitoring of the flows of spending allocated to gender equality policies,<sup>105</sup> and Venezuela, where the National Budget Office does not provide information on Budget Acts for fiscal years after 2016.<sup>106</sup>

436. In another two cases, the data obtained is not comparable with the baseline of the Third Hemispheric Report:

- In the case of Bolivia, it was possible to obtain a more detailed level of information with respect to 2016, since the 2018 Budget published the line items allocated to the Plurinational Victim Assistance Service and the Plurinational Comprehensive Prevention System for the Attention, Punishment, and Eradication of Gender-Based Violence. There

<sup>105</sup> Available at <http://www.onapre.gob.ve/index.php/publicaciones/descargas/viewcategory/26-leyes>.

<sup>106</sup> Available at [https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/preliminary\\_report\\_beijing25\\_national\\_review\\_suriname\\_220519.pdf](https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/preliminary_report_beijing25_national_review_suriname_220519.pdf).



was no data on this last case in the previous period. Therefore, the increase in spending that is observed is the result is due, in part, to the additional information obtained in this regard.

- In the case of Costa Rica, between 2014 and 2015, the National Institute for Women prepared an accountability report on the National Plan for Attention and Prevention of Violence against Women, with gender-sensitive information obtained on all areas across the State. However, no further reports on said Plan have been published in subsequent periods. The available budget information is not labeled with a gender perspective. Therefore, the CEVI was only able to obtain information on the budget allocated to the National Institute for Women for 2019. Consequently, the data obtained for both periods are not strictly comparable.

437. With respect to the Third Report, some countries, such as Argentina and Guatemala, began to implement gender-sensitive budgeting. In another two cases related to Honduras and Trinidad and Tobago, the implementation of these budgets is anticipated but has not yet been carried out.

438. In the case of Costa Rica, which we mentioned earlier, and El Salvador, reports were published in the previous period that made it possible to disaggregate the prevention and care policies for women victims of violence. However, this information was not published again in the subsequent period. In any case, it can be said that this is a pending issue for the vast majority of countries in the Region.

439. Aside from the implementation of gender-labeled budgets, the CEVI found 13 cases (41% of the States Party) with freely accessible budget information that includes a sufficient level of itemization that could be used to identify expenses related to programs, plans, and institutions linked to different forms of violence against women. This was impossible in nine other cases (28%); nonetheless, we did obtain valuable information regarding the budget allocated to the Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (MAM). Lastly, we were not able to obtain budget information on Suriname and Venezuela (6%), as mentioned above. With respect to the Third Hemispheric Report, as mentioned earlier, we observed that Bolivia and Grenada now offer disaggregated information.

440. The table below provides information on the status of budget disaggregation in public spending on policies for the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women:

Disaggregated budget information on spending on policies for the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women			
High disaggregation level - MAM and policies against gender-based violence	Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts, and Uruguay	13	41%
Low disaggregation level (MAM only)	Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Vincent, Suriname, Trinidad	9	28%



No information found	Suriname and Venezuela	2	6%
They did not send a report	Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Dominica, Guyana, Haiti, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia	8	25%
<b>Total</b>		32	100%

Source: Own calculations. Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. Follow-up Phase Third Round of the MESECVI.

441. In like manner, the following table provides a summary of the information collected from budgetary sources, with an emphasis on spending for programs and plans to fight gender-based violence and other related institutions. It also compares the most recent expenses (approximately 2018/2019) with those used to prepare the Third Report (2015-2016).

Country		Year	Around 2015-2016	Around 2018-2019
<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>	Gender issues 876,375 EC\$ (3,52% of the Ministry's total expense equal to 24.846.373 EC\$; <b>0,069%</b> of the total expenditure equal to 1.275.063.815 EC\$).	2019	0,0790%	0,0690%
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>Total of 0,0146%</b> of the total elementary expenditures accrued by the National Administration (AN) stood at ARS 2.744.812.895.042,22. pesos  Resulting from The National Institute for Women, Ministry of Social Development 184.449.667 pesos (93,4% execution; 0.0067% of elementary AN spending); National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Racism; and Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, 218.745.596 pesos (84,6% execution, 0,0079% of elementary AN spending).	2018	0,0125%	0,0146%
<b>Barbados</b>	Office of Gender Affairs 989.935\$ (1.32% of the total expenditure of the Ministry of Social Care, Constitutional Empowerment, and Community Development, out of a total of 74.829.593; 0,02186% of the estimated Government. Total expenditure 4.528.042.896\$ for 2018/2019).	2018-2019	0,0200%	0,0219%
<b>Bolivia</b>	<b>Total 0,0044% of total expenses.</b>  Result of the Plurinational Victim Assistance Service, accrued budget 4.557.972 bolivianos (0,0016%); SIPPASE, 4.128.176 (0,0014%); Promotion and	2018	0,0013%	0,0044%



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Country		Year	Around 2015-2016	Around 2018-2019
	development of equal opportunities, 3.847.832 (0,0013%); Total expenses: 284.436.757.128 bolivianos.			
<b>Chile</b>	<p>Ministry of Women and Gender Equity 56.217.831.000\$ (0,1105% of Total Public Expenditure equal to 50.879.683.923.000\$).</p> <p>In particular, this agency includes the National Service for Women and Gender Equity with 26.388.446.000\$ in expenses, the Women and Work program with CLP 8.049.297.000\$, and the Prevention and Attention to Violence against Women program with 15.684.256.000\$.</p> <p>This expense represents 0,0308% of total government expenditure.</p>	2019	0,076% (0,0365% for the Program for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women)	0,1105% (0,0308% for the Program for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women)
<b>Colombia</b>	<p>Total of 0,0019% derived from the strengthening of institutional capacities in mainstreaming the gender approach within entities at the national and territorial levels from the presidential sector (Office of the President of the Nation), 916.462.000\$ (0,0004%).</p> <p>Implementation of the gender approach in the workplace at the national level 750.000.000\$ (0,0003%).</p> <p>The Ministry of Equity for Women has a budget of \$3.260.000.000 (0,0013%).</p>	2019	0,0010%	0,0019%
<b>Costa Rica</b>	To the date of preparation of this report, it was not available an updated version of the PLANОВI	2019	0,61%	0,1814% (National Institute for Women (INAMU))
<b>Ecuador</b>	<p>Within the amounts spent on closing equity gaps, spending in the gender equality category represents 1,84% of the total expenses.</p> <p>Itemization of expenditures for "The promotion and Guarantee of a Life Free</p>	2019	0,0135%	0,0156%



Country		Year	Around 2015-2016	Around 2018-2019
	From Violence” totals 41.314,00\$ (0,0114% of the total) and the promotion, guarantee and development of gender equality institutions and public policy equals 15.120,00 (0,0042% of the total), for a <b>total of 0,0156%</b> .			
<b>El Salvador</b>	<p>Spending for violence against women and gender policy equals 0,3875% of the total spending.</p> <p>This expense can be disaggregated as follows: Office of the President of the Republic, 11.352.275.00; Foreign Affairs, 58.080; Gender Equity and Equality Mainstreaming (National Council of the Judiciary), 72.805; Gender Equality and Life Free from Violence for Women (Judicial Branch), 242.880; Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic, 502.105; Attorney General of the Republic, 1.339.340; Executive Branch 500; Judicial Branch and Public Security, 264,51; Education Branch, 119.310; Health Care Branch, 1.454.135; Labor and Social Security Branch, 185.160; Financial Branch, 411.895; Agriculture and Livestock Branch, 28.765; Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women, 4.130.060; Salvadoran Institute for Municipal Development, 22.920; Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Children and Adolescents, 56.195; Salvadoran Institute of Professional Training, 912.915; and the Salvadoran Institute for Agrarian Transformation, 57.255.</p>	2018	0,1634%	0,3875%
<b>Grenada</b>	<p>Gender and Family Affairs (Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment) 1.215.226. EC\$</p> <p>The following capital expenditures are recorded under this Ministry: Domestic Violence and Gender Equity Program, 100.000 EC\$; Social mobilization to end gender-based violence, 130,000\$.</p> <p>Total expenses: 834.200.000 EC\$.</p>	2019	0,0936%	0,1457%



Country		Year	Around 2015-2016	Around 2018-2019
<b>Guatemala</b>	<p>Total gender budget, 4.868.020.000Q according to the budget's classification from a gender perspective (GPEG), 5,7% of total expenditure.</p> <p>68,4% of this budget is labeled as a policy to eradicate violence against women ( 3.330.180.000Q, 3,9% of total expenditure).</p> <p>However, 92,69% of this expenditure corresponds to the Ministry of the Interior (Security Forces) for activities that do not correspond specifically to women ("pocket" expenses).</p> <p>If you only consider expenses for violence against women directed specifically at women, the budget amounts to 144.100.000Q, which is equal to 0,4072% of the total expenditure.</p> <p>Total expenses: 85.390.700.000Q.</p>		0,0313%	0,4072%
<b>Honduras</b>	<p>0,0524% of the total expenses equal 261.678.529.366L.</p> <p>Inter-institutional Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, 9.185.076L (0,0035% of total expenditure); National Directorate of the Women's City Program, 86.029.085L (0,0328%); National Institute for Women (INAM), 42.346.400L (0,0161%).</p>	2019	0,0202%	0,0524%
<b>Jamaica</b>	<p>Total estimated: 287.780.000 J\$ (0,0372% of the total 773.689.200.000J\$).</p> <p>Office of the Prime Minister, Closing the Gender Gap Subprogram, 1.500.000 J\$.</p> <p>Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sports: Closing the gender gap 0,0J\$; Gender Welfare Subprogram: Office of Women's Affairs 77.235.000J\$; Women's Centers 210.545.000J\$.</p>	2018-2019	0,0297%	0,0372%



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Country		Year	Around 2015-2016	Around 2018-2019
<b>Mexico</b>	<p>Total expenditures for equality between women and men 64.656.150.813 pesos(1,1074% of the total net expenditure of the Mexican Federation for 2019 is \$5.838.059.700.000 pesos).</p> <p>The information provided by the country makes it possible to disaggregate policies for the eradication of violence against women: promote care and prevention of violence against women (04 Secretariat of the Interior) 260.483.143 pesos; promotion of respect for human rights and care for victims of crime (17 Office of the Attorney General of the Republic) 4.107.681 pesos; Attention to Victims (47 Non-Sectorized Entities) 7.772.233 pesos; promotion and observance of the monitoring, follow-up, and evaluation of the impact of the national policy on equality between women and men. (35 National Human Rights Commission) 33.310.120 pesos. Promote the Protection of Human Rights and Prevent Discrimination (04 Secretariat of the Interior) 10.535.233 pesos; Support Program for Women’s Instances in all Mexican States (PAIMEF) 278.535.043 pesos. The National Institute for Women 214.643.657 pesos.</p> <p>Total 809.387.110 pesos, equal to 0,0139%.</p>	2019	0,0117%	0,0139%
<b>Panama</b>	<p>National Institute for Women, 6.267.622 Balboas (0,0269% of the State budget), including gender equity and equality programs (466.022B) and investment for the development of opportunities for women (240.370B)</p> <p>These two programs represent 0,0030% of the total state budget 23.316.200.000B.</p>	2020	0,0049%	0,0030%



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Country		Year	Around 2015-2016	Around 2018-2019
<b>Paraguay</b>	<p>The nation's general budget spending allocations for fiscal year 2019 total of 80.071.848.962.361 guaranies.</p> <p>In particular, the Ministry of Women is assigned a total of 25.990.634.470 G (0,0325% of the General Budget of the Nation).</p> <p>It is impossible to disaggregate the budget allocated to programs against gender-based violence.</p>	2019	0,0368%	0,0325%
<b>Peru</b>	<p>Total of 0,1624%.</p> <p>National Program against Family and Sexual Violence (Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations) 163.200.000 (0,1620% of total expenditures); Plan to Support Violence against Women (Ministry of the Interior), 388.188 (0,0004% of total expenditures).</p> <p>Total spending by the National Government: S/100.696.139.481,92.</p>	2018	0,0953%	0,1624%
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	<p>Total 265.427.070 RD\$ (0,0387% of total spending)</p> <p>050 Fund to shelter victims of intrafamily and domestic violence, 2.087.912.</p> <p>7.276 Institutional strengthening for the prevention of violence against women and girls in the Dominican Republic, 3.093,4</p> <p>7.277 The design and implementation of a pilot test of the standardized survey on violence against women, 3.194.770,9.</p> <p>01 Attorney General of the Republic.</p> <p>0004-Comprehensive care for victims of gender-based violence, intrafamily, and sexual crimes 131.015.969,0.</p> <p>0215 Ministry of Women 0001-Prevention and attention to violence against women and intrafamily, 14.281.430,8.</p> <p>15 Promotion of the right to comprehensive health, sexual and</p>	2018	0,0767%	0,0387%



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Country		Year	Around 2015-2016	Around 2018-2019
	<p>reproductive health of women 13.676.052,5; 11 Intersectoral Coordination for monitoring of gender equality policies, 22.785.668,1; 2079 Council of shelters, 78.382.174.</p> <p>Total budget spent: 685.335.562.042,2 RD\$.</p>			
<b>Saint Kitts and Nevis</b>	<p>Total budget for Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services, 34.370.192 (6,63% of total expenditure); Program 09103 - Department of Gender Affairs - Subprogram 00349 - Facilitate Gender Awareness, 507.000 EC\$ (0.0683% of total expenditure).</p> <p>Total recurring expense 591.778.549 EC\$.</p> <p>Total expense 742.007.891 EC\$.</p>	2019	0,0682%	0,0683%
<b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	<p>Gender Development Program, 725,247 EC\$ (0.0729% of total expenditure).</p> <p>Budget of the Ministry of National Mobilization: 27.466.645 EC\$.</p> <p>Total expense: 993.535.499 EC\$.</p>	2018	0,0569%	0,0729%
<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	<p>The gender policy is now in the Office of the Prime Minister, Gender and Childhood Affairs Division 1.206.900\$ (0,0022% of the total estimated expenditure 54.149.378.860\$ for the year 2019).</p>	2019	0,0080%	0,0022%
<b>Uruguay</b>	<p>Total spending on policies against gender-based violence 450.429.366 pesos(0,0849% total spending). Implementation of the Observatory of Gender-Based Violence against Women (Law Number 19580), 14.811; Carrying out an impact evaluation of Technologies for the Verification of Presence and Location of Persons in the event of High Risk of Domestic Violence, 329.883; II National Survey on the Prevalence of Gender-Based Violence against Women 2.000.000; Electronic Monitoring Program for cases of Domestic and</p>	2018	0,0286%	0,0849%



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Country		Year	Around 2015-2016	Around 2018-2019
	<p>Gender-Based Violence (anklets), UYU 66.226.625; Campaign to combat gender-based violence, 49.999; Ministry of Tourism Prevention of Gender-Based Violence 460.493; Temporary Housing Solutions (rental guarantee, subsidy modality) for women in the process of leaving gender-based violence situations 2015-2019 (MVOTMA-MIDES/INMUJERES Agreement) 41.954.875\$; MVOTMA-INMUJERES agreement to lease a halfway house for women who are in the process of leaving situations of gender-based violence with their children, 473.178; Ministry of Development: Activities against gender-based violence, 4.378.679; 32 Gender-Based Violence Services and Care, 18 Territorial Articulation Devices and 12 Male Attention Teams, 167.086.314; care in critical situations, 128.555.928; Uruguay workshops on gender and gender-based violence, 11.538.408; INAU (Institute for Children and Adolescents of Uruguay) Gender mainstreaming through the Strategic Line, Life Free from Violence, 23.051.858; Office of the Prosecutor General of the Nation, activities related to the eradication of gender-based violence, 159.891; Gender Unit and the Montevideo Criminal Office of the Prosecutors of Sexual Crimes, Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence, 4.163.235.</p> <p>Total operating expenses and investments 530.721.530.000 pesos.</p>			
<b>Venezuela</b>	-	-	0,0290%	-

Source: Own calculations. Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. Follow-up Phase Third Round of the MESECVI.

442. Now, the CEVI wishes to clarify that all the sources used to carry out the budget analysis for each country are official sources; that is, the information was extracted from documents produced by the budget offices or directorates. Each budget was analyzed in the local currency of legal use at the time of analysis.



443. Furthermore, the Third Hemispheric Report was used as the baseline to prepare this follow-up report, based on budgetary data for 2015 and 2016, according to each country. For the monitoring report, the information analyzed corresponds to the years 2018 and 2019, varying according to the information available for each country. That is, the analysis in terms of progressivity and non-regressivity is carried out by analyzing information on each country.

444. As an example of the above, in the case of Peru, the Third Hemispheric Report is based on the year 2015, while the follow-up report is based on the year 2018. When considering those two years, we found a significant increase, since it went from representing 0,0953% of the total budget to 0,1624%, for a 70,4% increase. However, an analysis of what happened in the period between these two observation points could not be performed.

445. It could be that the budget grew or was reduced in the intermediate period, between the years used for benchmark purposes. In other words, the information provided for 2018 is considered an advance or a setback with respect to 2015, although there is a possibility that other analyses with more information underscore the fact that the information constitutes an advance or a setback with respect to the previous year (2017) or with respect to another baseline (another benchmark year).

446. In this sense, due to the complexity involved in analyzing the actual variation of the budget in the group of countries under analysis, the CEVI determined to link each expenditure item to total public spending by the central administration of each country, according to the information available. This was done because it is considered that this indicator is more significant when it comes to measuring the priority assigned by each government to the issue, compared to considering the absolute values of spending in real terms, since these numbers would not allow considering the relative weight of expenditure compared to other budget items.

447. In like manner, it is worth mentioning that the CEVI decided to use the accrued budget, to the extent possible, since it represents a measure of the expenditure truly allocated to policies to fighting violence against women. However, given the high variability of sources, this has not been possible in some cases, where we have used the budgeted expenses. These differences are added to those already mentioned between countries with gender-sensitive budgets and countries where this methodology has not yet been implemented.

448. In this sense, the information provided by the countries is not strictly comparable to each other; however, we have attempted, to the extent possible, as mentioned above, to preserve the comparison between each country and its baseline as related to the Third Hemispheric Report.

449. The CEVI has clarified these facts since there is a possibility that the information herein presented could differ from other analyses contained in reports published by other organizations, and the conclusions presented here should be taken with due caution because they could differ from the information obtained from different methodological frameworks.

450. In addition to the information contained in the table above, the Committee of Experts was drawn to certain commitments made by the signatory states of the Belém do Pará Convention. In the case of Argentina, the budgetary information provided for the year 2018 did not permit



disaggregating the actions carried out by the National Institute for Women (INAM): toll-free and confidential Emergency Number 144, (447.716 calls); Integral Protection for Homes; Observatory of Violence against Women; and the integral 24-hour monitoring team. Furthermore, there was no disaggregated information regarding the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism and the actions carried out through the Directorate for the Promotion and Development of Practices against Discrimination, aimed at the defense and promotion of women's rights. However, it should be noted that as of 2019, the country began implementing the Equal Opportunity and Rights Plan aimed at analyzing the feasibility of preparing a budget with a gender perspective and labeling the activities related to this subject in the E-Sidif digital budget management system, among other objectives.<sup>107</sup>

451. In the case of Chile, there was an increase in gender policy budget items; however, this was accompanied by a drop in the budget for the Program for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women. It is also important to clarify that the budget establishes that the government must provide a bi-annual report on the implementation of gender policies to the Special Mixed Budget Committee, to the Special Committee in charge of hearing initiatives and processing bills related to women and gender equality in the Senate and the Women and Gender Equity Committee in the House of Representatives.<sup>108</sup>

452. In the case of Colombia, the 2018-2022 National Development Plan includes a "Pact on Women's Equality," with a multi-year budget equal to \$5.400.000.000.000; however, they do not add to the total amount allocated to the National Development Plan, as these funds are transversal to the rest of the programs. On the other hand, the country created the Gender Equality Agency in January 2019, made up by the Office of the President of the Republic, represented by the High Council for Post-conflict, the Presidential Council for Women's Equity, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the National Planning Department, the Administrative Department of the Public Office, the Territory Renewal Agency, and the Agency for Reincorporation and Standardization. It should also be noted that the 2019 budget included programs related to gender and violence against women with no information found on expenditure, including services to incorporate the gender approach to criminal and prison policy; technical services to mainstream gender and intersectionality approaches; technical services for gender equality; outreach services to apply the gender approach; technical services for the promotion of actions to guarantee women's rights, and

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<sup>107</sup>In a first publication for the year 2019, the labeled expenditure corresponds to 3,7% of the total national government expenditure. However, approximately 96% of this expenditure corresponds to the Universal Assignment, a conditional transfer of income, which is assigned primarily to mothers, or a pension for mothers of seven children, whose objective does not intend to reduce the gender gap and/or fight violence against women but to support the income of households with children and adolescents. Spending with a gender perspective is reduced to 0,1332% when excluding these items. See (<https://www.opc.gob.ar/2019/10/02/ejecucion-de-las-actividades-con-perspectiva-de-genero-al-31-de-agosto-de-2019/>).

<sup>108</sup>See [https://www.camara.cl/trabajamos/comision\\_portada.aspx?prmlD=1921](https://www.camara.cl/trabajamos/comision_portada.aspx?prmlD=1921), and <https://www.senado.cl/appsenado/index.php?mo=comisiones&ac=ficha&id=1126>.

guidance on how to approach cases of violence against women (38.000 people served). Therefore, the information presented may underestimate the total expenditure allocated to these line items.

453. In the case of Guatemala, the Presidential Secretariat for Women produces reports with a budget classification from a gender perspective and information on the budgets allocated to eradicate violence against women. This instrument is used to monitor the National Policy for the Promotion and Integral Development of Women in budgetary matters.

454. In Honduras, Article 9 of the 2019 Budget Act (Decree Number 180 of 2018) establishes that the State will transversally promote the application of the II Plan for Gender Equity and Equality in Honduras 2010-2022 and the 2014-2022 National Plan on Violence against Women through the incorporation of the gender perspective in the design, implementation, and evaluation of public administration policies, plans, and budgets.

455. In the case of Peru, there is a document issued by the Flora Tristán Center for Peruvian Women, titled “Report on the Budget Assigned to the National Plan Against Gender-Based Violence 2016-2021, the 2012-2017 Gender Equality Plan, and the National Plan for Citizen Security 2013-2018,” from which we obtained information updated through 2017 on the items assigned to policies against gender-based violence.<sup>109</sup> However, state institutions have not informed preparing a report with similar content with official information.

456. In the case of the Dominican Republic, the country reports that the gender-sensitive budget policy has not yet been institutionalized at the national level. So far, only the institutions that belong to the “Pilot for gender mainstreaming” are using this modality. These institutions are the Progressing with Solidarity Program of the Office of the Vice President of the Republic, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Finance, the Directorate General of Public Procurement, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, and the National Statistics Office.<sup>110</sup>

457. In the case of Uruguay, some programs are not labeled by gender despite being linked to the fight against gender-based violence, such as the Specialized Units on Domestic Violence of the Ministry of the Interior (52, in December 2016); the Domestic Violence Service Center in the National Police Health Directorate; the implementation of the Domestic Violence Module in the Police Security Management System (to improve the entry and registration of complaints of domestic violence); activities in the Ministry of Education and Culture centers; and activities of the Coordinating Team of Referrals for Gender-Based Violence and Generations of the State Health Services Administration. Neither was possible to obtain information on the expenditures associated with these programs.

## **2. Budget allocated for programs, plans, and institutions related to different forms of violence against women (percentage of total expenditure).**

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<sup>109</sup> Available at [https://www.demus.org.pe/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/INFORME-DE-PRESUPUESTOS\\_Planes-Nacionales\\_2017.pdf](https://www.demus.org.pe/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/INFORME-DE-PRESUPUESTOS_Planes-Nacionales_2017.pdf).

<sup>110</sup> Available at [https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/informe\\_beijing25\\_republica\\_dominicana\\_mayo\\_2019\\_1.pdf](https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/informe_beijing25_republica_dominicana_mayo_2019_1.pdf).

458. With respect to the sources of budget information, in addition to institutions linked to the budget approval cycle (executive branch agencies, legislative branch committees, and others), the MAMs also produce their own budget information in the form of accountability documents and/or institutional reports.

459. This is the case, for example, of the Presidential Secretariat for Women of Guatemala that has produced a Budget Classification from a Gender Perspective since 2017. In some cases, the institutions with jurisdiction over violence against women produce budget information on their actions (such as the Plurinational Victim Assistance Service (SEPDAVI) in Bolivia).

460. In the case of El Salvador, the country's Institute of Statistics (the Directorate of Statistics and Censuses) also includes in the report with statistics on gender-based violence a budgetary analysis section titled "Resources spent on women's care."

461. Other countries have implemented tax transparency portals to provide itemized and disaggregated information on the expenses accrued in each fiscal year, including El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay.

462. Finally, it is important to note that in the case of Venezuela, there are no budget execution reports from the National Budget Office for fiscal years after 2016.

- **Conclusions**

463. As indicated at the beginning of this section, the CEVI has raised its concern about the few resources that the States allocate to prevent violence, given the apparent gravity of the phenomenon in the Region. Accordingly, the Third Hemispheric Report noted that none of the States in the Region allocated more than 1% of their national budgets to eradicate violence against women.<sup>111</sup>

464. As can be seen in the tables above, the situation has not changed substantially. On this basis, the CEVI reiterates to the States Party the importance of providing adequate resources to comprehensively address the prevention, care, investigation, punishment, and reparation of violence against women at all levels.

465. The CEVI specifically recognizes the efforts made by some of the States to do a better job disaggregating the information allocated to different areas to this end. However, it recognizes that there is still a long way to go at the regional level.

466. Lastly, the CEVI urges the States Party to complete a coordinated review of the efforts made to combat violence, as well as the results or the absence of these generated in the Region so that they

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<sup>111</sup> See OAS. CIM/MESECVI. *Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention*. Available at <https://www.oas.org/en/mesecevi/docs/TercerInformeHemisferico-EN.pdf>.



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can plan, budget, and take the necessary measures to guarantee the effectiveness of the plans and measures implemented in compliance with domestic and international regulations.