



Communique Committee of Experts

Committee of Experts of the MESECVI welcomes progress in the protection of women in the new Criminal Code of the Dominican Republic and encourages continued efforts to fully guarantee their rights

Washington, DC, August 28, 2025. The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women "Belém do Pará Convention" (MESECVI) welcomes the advances incorporated into the new Criminal Code of the Dominican Republic regarding the protection of women's rights, particularly the criminalization of femicide, the recognition of diverse forms of gender-based violence, and the strengthening of protective measures and sanctions against extreme violence against women. The Experts recognize the commitment of the State authorities that made these advances possible and encourage continued efforts to fully guarantee women's rights, including their sexual and reproductive rights.

According to the information available to the Committee, as a result of prolonged negotiations, the new Criminal Code introduces provisions that strengthen the protection of women against various forms of violence, including physical, sexual, psychological, and femicidal violence. The text includes the criminalization of femicide in its different forms—simple, aggravated, and related femicide—and also incorporates the crime of incitement to suicide. It further recognizes various manifestations of gender-based violence, both in the public and private spheres, including economic, patrimonial, and verbal violence, as well as intimidation and persecution.

Likewise, it establishes a more robust system of protection orders and, while further progress is still required in addressing sexual violence, the new text strengthens sanctions against sexual assault and violence. These provisions constitute a baseline of protection that contributes to reinforcing the State's response to violence against women. At the same time, they represent a significant step in the consolidation of a normative framework that enables the State to uphold the principle of progressivity of rights and align with international and inter-American standards which seek to guarantee the right of women and girls to live a life free of violence.

The Committee recalls that the criminalization of femicide constitutes a fundamental advance in the penal response to the most extreme form of violence against women. It highlights that this incorporation is framed within international and inter-American standards of protection

and aligns with the [Inter-American Model Law on Femicide/Feminicide](#), developed by this Committee.

Beyond these advances, the Committee remains concerned about the exclusion of the three grounds for the legal interruption of pregnancy and reiterates that the absolute criminalization of abortion violates the rights of women and girls to life, health, and personal integrity, among others. Consequently, it urges the State authorities to adopt the necessary measures to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services, guaranteeing the full exercise of women's fundamental rights.

In this context, the Committee of Experts especially commends the efforts of the Ministry of Women, in its capacity as the National Mechanism for the Advancement of Women, in achieving the aforementioned achievements, and underscores the importance of continuing to strengthen its technical capacities, institutional resources, and political support at the highest level. Its consolidation as a governing body is essential to ensure the effective implementation of public policies and compliance with the Convention of Belém do Pará.

Similarly, the Committee encourages the legislative efforts of the Dominican authorities to advance towards the adoption of the Comprehensive Law on Violence against Women, with the aim of providing the country with a legal framework that comprehensively articulates prevention, care, punishment, and reparation in the face of violence, thereby strengthening the protection of women and girls.

In sum, the Committee recognizes the achievements made and encourages the authorities of the Dominican Republic to continue taking action to fully comply with the international commitments it has undertaken regarding the rights of women and girls, thereby ensuring women's right to live free from gender-based violence. The CEVI reaffirms its willingness to provide technical cooperation and support to national authorities in the implementation of reforms and measures aimed at the comprehensive protection of women's rights, in line with the Convention of Belém do Pará and other international human rights instruments.

The Committee of Experts is the technical body of the MESECVI, responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Convention of Belém do Pará. It is made up of independent Experts, appointed by each of the States Parties from among their nationals, who perform their duties in a personal capacity.