



Communique Committee of Experts

Committee of Experts urges Venezuela to fully respect the human rights of women in accordance with its obligations as a State Party to the Belém do Pará Convention.

Washington, DC, January 31, 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" \(MESECVI\)](#) expresses its deep concern regarding the information reported and disseminated by international organizations and Venezuelan civil society organizations that report allegations of violations of women's human rights in the post-electoral context, allegedly perpetrated by State agents.

These reports mention acts of violence such as arbitrary detentions, deprivation of liberty, threats and psychological, physical and sexual violence, among others, particularly against women politicians, leaders, activists and human rights defenders.

As part of its mandate to monitor compliance with the Convention, the Committee of Experts (CEVI) is attentive to the situation of violence against women in the States Parties to the treaty, including Venezuela. In this context, the CEVI expresses its alarm over reports of acts of gender-based violence attributed to state security forces, particularly sexual, physical and psychological violence against women and girls detained in citizen demonstrations since July 2024.

In light of the gravity and persistence of these allegations, the Experts of this Committee recall the obligation acquired by Venezuela, as a State Party to the Belém do Pará Convention, to respect, protect and guarantee the exercise of all the rights and fundamental freedoms of women recognized in the treaty, as well as by other regional and international human rights instruments. This obligation engages the responsibility of the State and its authorities.

The Belém do Pará Convention, in its Article 2, paragraph (c), establishes that: "Violence against women shall be understood to include physical, sexual and psychological violence that is perpetrated or condoned by the state or its agents regardless of where it occurs."

Furthermore, through Article 7 of this treaty, States Parties "condemn all forms of violence against women and agree to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies to prevent, punish and eradicate such violence and undertake to: a. refrain from engaging in any act or practice of violence against women and to ensure that their authorities, officials, personnel, agents, and institutions act in conformity with this obligation."

Similarly, this Committee expresses its concern over the allegations made by Venezuelan women and political leaders, as well as by civil society organizations, of threats, intimidation, harassment and other acts of violence against these women, which would seek to hinder their participation in political activities. According to the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women in Political Life: "Violence against women in political life shall be understood as any action, conduct or omission, carried out directly or through third parties that, based on gender, causes harm or suffering to a woman or to various women, which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women of their political rights."

For all the above reasons, the Committee of Experts requests the authorities of the State of Venezuela to guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms of women under State custody, detained for their alleged participation in the post-electoral events, and of women in general, respecting their legitimate right to participate in public and political life free from violence. Furthermore, the CEVI emphatically calls to the authorities and state agents to refrain from all forms of institutional violence, to respect and protect due process, and to guarantee transparent legal procedures in accordance with the principles of international human rights law.

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

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