



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM
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SURINAME
COUNTRY REPORT
THIRD ROUND

I. Introduction

1. This report has the objective of evaluating the progress of Suriname in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention in the 2014-2016 period, obstacles identified, present observations and recommendations. This report has been elaborated taking into account the responses given by Suriname to the indicator system of MESECVI, in the framework of the third round of multilateral evaluation, in 2016. The second round report and its recommendations, as well as legislation and official government information, were also consulted.
2. Suriname responded to a set of indicators provided by the CEVI, providing a wide and relevant amount of information, even when there was a large amount of indicators left with no response. The CEVI appreciates the availability of the government of Suriname in complying with its commitments to the Belém do Pará Convention and its follow-up mechanism.
3. This report is divided in the following sections: Legislation, National Plans, Access to Justice, Information and Statistics and Diversity. In each section, the reception of the right, financial context and budgetary commitments and state capacities will be analyzed in order to follow-up on the rights contained in the Belém do Pará Convention.

II. Overview

4. Based on the recommendations of the Follow-Up Report¹ and the Evaluation Report², both within the Second Round, since 2012 the country has not yet made any progress in implementing some necessary recommendations for improving the fight against gender violence and the protection of women. However, it is important to emphasize that the country has considerable legislation on this matter, but they are in need of systematic implementations. The country mentioned in its response to the indicators the participation of several NGOs, but none of them sent Shadow Report as a form of contraposition of government information.
5. The Convention of Belém do Pará was internalized in 2003. Since 2006 the country has edited the Law on Combating Domestic Violence (2009), revised the Penal Code (2009), adopted Law on Stalking (2012) and criminalized trafficking in persons (2006). Although there are still some important additions and revisions to legislation, especially in the following areas: (i) definition of gender-based violence and protection to women against violence not only domestically and privately but also in all public spheres; ii) criminalization of femicide; iii) specific legislation about rape, sexual abuse, sexual violence within the nuclear family or extended; iv)

¹ MESECVI, 2014, op. cit.

² MESECVI, 2012, op. cit.

criminalization of sexual harassment that takes place at the workplace; v) specific legislation about alimony rights for indigenous, rural children in case parents fail to comply with their obligations; vi) to legislate on the protection and prevention of trafficking in persons, not only in the criminal field; vii) specify in legislation the protection of women and girls in crimes that affect them in a special way, for example, domestic violence and trafficking in persons; viii) ban the use of conciliation, mediation, probation, suspended sentences, application of the opportunity, commutation of punishment and others intended to solve cases of violence extra-judicially.

6. Regarding the National Plans, several plans have been identified since 2012. In addition, the country has a Bureau Gender Affairs within its governmental structure and rely on the help and participation of several NGOs in the fight against gender violence. Despite the importance of this collaboration of civil society, it is necessary the state engagement in a more active way in national plans, whether in the social area or in the educational area, addressing the issue in a public and committed way.
7. Regarding the budget, it was noted that there is a lack of transparency in the dissemination of results and information by the Government. There is no easy access to information on government websites. In addition, the justifications that dealt with the public budget disclosure were answered with the absence of coercive legal provisions that require such actions. Therefore, if there is no obligation, there would be no national plan to do so.
8. Anyway, in the information provided, it was noted that the budget, since 2014, has been progressively regressed. According to the information provided, programs preventing violence against women are included in the budget of the Bureau Gender Affairs. In 2013 the budget was 1,169,000 SRD, in 2014 it was 995,000 SRD and in 2015 and 2016 was 500,000 SRD. Therefore, in three years there was a 50% decrease in the budget for information programs and prevention of violence against women. It is important to emphasize that this decrease affects directly the protection of women and girls' rights and, in the long term, can be decisive for the increase of violence. Therefore, it is understood that there is an urgent need for budget reallocation and prioritization of these investments as a way of tackling gender violence.

III. Analysis of progress in the realization of the right of women to live a life free of violence

LEGISLATION - Articles 1, 2, 3 and 7, subsections c), e) and g) of the Convention of Belém do Pará

a) Formal component

9. Suriname ratified the Convention of Belém do Pará in 2002. The Convention was published in January 2004 in Suriname's Treaty Paper (2003 No. 1), pursuant to Articles 105 and 106 of Suriname's Constitution³. Even so, it is not possible to verify the legal status of the Convention of Belém do Pará in Suriname's legal system of.

³ Art. 103. Agreements with other powers and with organizations based on international law shall be concluded

10. According to the Second Round Suriname's Follow Up Report⁴, several legislations were changed due to this internationalization. They mention: i) Law on Tackling Domestic Violence⁵ (adopted in June 2009); (ii) Criminal Code (revised in 2009); iii) Law on Stalking⁶ (approved in April 2012).
11. In the context of the Third Round Evaluation, the country reported in its responses to the CEVI indicators that with the 2009 Criminal Code revision rape within marriage and rape of men, child pornography, and child prostitution among other things have been penalized. Rape and sexual abuse within marriage is punishable under article 295. The requirement of "out of marriage" has been removed resulting that rape within marriage and in de-facto unions is punishable. In addition, this provision has been made gender neutral resulting that rape of males are also punishable. The penalties have also been extended. There was a revision of the Criminal Code, namely the First, Second and Third Book, by National Parliament in March 2015. It is important to mention that the sentences in cases of assault and grievous bodily harm may be increased by one third for the perpetrator who commits the crime against his or her mother, or father, spouse or partner, or child (article 364.1 of the Criminal Code).
12. In addition, The Law on Stalking (approved in April 2012) guaranteed measures to protect a possible victim. A new provision of stalking has been added in the Criminal Code (article 345b) which punishes the stalker with a maximum of 4 years of prison and the maximum of SRD 50,000 maximum.
13. The Criminal Code regarding Trafficking in Persons has been revised in 2006 and further in 2015. According to the country, the revision has taken place in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the two protocols: 1. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in persons especially women and children and 2. The Protocol against smuggling of migrants by land, sea, and air. Through the amendment, both sexes are protected against trafficking and the penalties have been extended especially when under aged victims are involved. Except for the sexual exploitation, other purposes of trafficking are included such as labor or services, slavery, or practices like slavery and removal of organs.

by, or by authority of, the President and shall be, as far as the agreements require, ratified by the President. These agreements shall be communicated to the National Assembly as soon as possible; they shall not be ratified and they shall not enter into force until they have received the approval of the National Assembly. Art. 105. The provisions of the agreements mentioned in Article 103 which may be directly binding on anyone, shall become effective upon promulgation. Art. 106. Legal regulations in force in the Republic of Suriname shall not apply, if this application should be incompatible with provisions that are directly applicable to anyone, to agreements entered into either before or after the enactment of the regulations. Available at: <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Suriname/english.html>

⁴ MESECVI, 2014, op. cit., p. 3

⁵ Available at: <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/vaw/full%20text/americas/law%20on%20domestic%20violence%202009/suriname%20law%20on%20domestic%20violence%202009%20dutch.pdf>

⁶ MESECVI, 2014, op. cit. p. 3 The code allows for preventive measures to be taken by the public prosecutor to protect a possible victim and stalking is also punishable by law.

14. Also, forced prostitution has been punished in the revision of the Criminal Code regarding Trafficking in Persons in 2006. Youth (from the age of sixteen but under the age of 18) prostitution has also been punishable in the revision of the Criminal Code of sexual crimes in July 2009.
15. The CEVI welcomes and recognizes the country's efforts in recent legislative implementations, especially since 2009, and urges that it continues to tackle gender-based violence and protect the rights of women. Therefore, it points out that there are still unfulfilled steps that deserve special attention in the coming years.
16. Since the Second Round Suriname's Follow Up Report, there is a recommendation for incorporating the concept of gender violence, which has not yet been fully incorporated into the country's legislation. The prediction is only for the private sphere through Law on Tackling Domestic Violence in which domestic violence is defined as "any form of physical, sexual or psychological violence that is committed by a person against a partner, child, elder, member of the family or needy regardless of where the violence takes place. " It is important to note that, according to CEDAW Recommendation 35⁷ of July 2017, this is a general obligation on States Parties to adopt in their legislation prohibitions on all forms of gender violence against women and children, harmonizing domestic laws with the UN Convention (on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁸), recommending the duty to ensure that all forms of gender-based violence in all spheres are equivalent to psychological, physical, sexual or psychological integrity violations are criminalized⁹.
17. There is also no special law that regulates sexual harassment that takes place at the workplace. The country informed that a draft has initially been formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs and has its financial support currently being reformulated by the Foundation Ilse Henar – Hewit Legal Assistance for Women¹⁰.
18. There is no specific legislation on femicide. However, the country informs that the article 364.1 of the Criminal Code as revised in 2015 states that the prison sentences in cases of assault and grievous bodily harm may be increased by one third for the perpetrator who commits the crime against his or her mother or father, spouse, wife, or partner or child.
19. Also, there is no specific legislation about rape, sexual abuse, sexual violence within the nuclear family or extended. However, the country informs that article 295 of the Criminal Code as revised in 2009 which makes rape committed by anyone punishable. Further article 304 of the Criminal Code which was revised in 2009, punishes those who commits sexual acts / abuse with his / her under age child, stepchild, foster child, pupil, etc.

⁷ CEDAW, 2017, op. cit., p. 8.

⁸ Available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>

⁹ CEDAW, 2017, op. cit., p. 10.

¹⁰ Available at: <http://www.ilsehenar-vrouwenrechten.sr/website>

20. Moreover, there is no specific legislation on alimony rights for indigenous, rural, children in case parents fail to comply with their obligations. The country informs that alimony is regulated in articles 314a, 314b, and 314c of the Criminal Code (as revised in 2015). These articles are intended to guarantee the fulfillment of alimony obligations in favor of minors. Alimony rights are also regulated in the Civil Code (article 283b and 283c). In case parents fail to comply with the alimony obligations, the cantonal judge may order that the alimony is paid to the Bureau Family Law Affairs. In case such cantonal judge order is lacking the Bureau Family Law Affairs may enforce the alimony for the children in a court law¹¹.

21. Despite the fact that there is no legislation or regulations imposing sanctions for public officials and educators in cases of sexual violence against indigenous, rural, female students, the country said that there are other provisions applicable in this case on the article 304.2 of the Criminal Code: i) the civil servant who commits illicit sexual acts / abuse with a person who is subjected to his / her authority or entrusted / recommended to his / her vigilance; ii) everyone who is working in or for the benefit of any establishment such as a prison, children's home, orphanage, hospital, asylum, or institution of charity in which the culprit is not admitted, commits sexual acts / abuse with a person who is admitted there; iii) everyone who, working in the health care or social care, commits illicit sexual acts / abuse with patients or clients who are entrusted to his / her help or care.

b) Basic financial context and budgetary commitments

22. There are no specific laws on violence that include budget allocations.

c) State capabilities

23. There is no information on this topic.

NATIONAL PLANS - Articles 1, 2, 7 and 8, subsections c) and d) of the Convention of Belém do Pará

a) Formal component

24. The Bureau Gender Affairs (previously referred to as the National Bureau for Gender Policy) of the Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for among other things the monitoring of Belem do Para Convention implementation. This bureau was established in 1997 in Paramaribo. A branch office is established in 2006 in Nickerie district. Currently the staff of the head office is composed of 7 persons including the administrative staff and the branch office has two officials. The bureau involves civil society in the development and implementation of plans. As reported in the National Report of the Second Round Evaluation, the Bureau Gender Affairs has formulated the Gender Work Plan 2013. The country informed that the implementation of this plan was evaluated in the period October 2015 - March 2016 by a consultant under authority of the Bureau Gender Affairs / Ministry of Home Affairs. It was an external assessment. The main points were: i) that the plan was not methodically designed

¹¹ Available at: <http://www.nationallibrary.sr/website/participant.asp?menuid=97&page=2&id=17>

which made difficult the monitoring and evaluation; ii) some working structures were in place or were weak which had consequences for implementation of the actions.

25. In addition, the Ministry of Home Affairs launched on the 24th of November 2015, an awareness campaign in the framework of HeForShe, Orange Day and Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence. The purpose of the campaign was: (i) to act against gender inequality; ii) to strengthen the position of women and girls; iii) to eliminate violence against women; and iv) to make the whole community understand the importance of gender equality for the overall progress of Suriname. Several activities had been carried out: (i) statements and slogans on gender equality and violence against women in Dutch and Sranan Tongo languages were included in the invoices of utility companies and pay slips of government officials during the year 2015/2016; ii) a four day intervention training against domestic violence for communication officials of the government, media workers and artists in December 2015 (more information see above); iii) training in gender and gender related violence for around 400 officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs during January - June 2016 (more information see above); iv) a 5 km march "Say No To Violence" in May 2016 in Nickerie District. In the supporting program, members of Parliament and other prominent men (in total 11 males) of this district committed themselves as HeforShe agents. In advance of the march folders in Dutch were disseminated in schools. The folders contained information about gender, gender equality, violence against women / domestic violence, Orange Day and HeForShe. A similar march but with a greater organizational was held in November 2016 in Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname.
26. Another Ministry of Suriname holding responsibilities in the fight against gender-based violence and promotion of women's rights, is the Ministry of Justice and Police / Bureau Women and Child Policy. The country reports that several awareness programs on domestic violence (theatrical performance) and violence against children (in Moengo, Marowijne district) are implemented through the radio and at schools (primary and secondary schools) through drawing competitions. Information posters are designed from the best drawings of the competitions which will be used in future awareness programs. Information folders about the law on domestic violence were developed and distributed to several stakeholders / students. The following languages were used in the above-mentioned programs: Dutch, Sranang Tongo and Aucaans.
27. The country also informed that the Ministry of Justice and Police is currently drafting a policy plan in which domestic violence is included.
28. As a non-governmental part, there are some non-governmental institutions that also act on the matter and assist the Government in the fight against gender violence. The country mentions the following: i) Foundation Sari; ii) Foundation Moederhar; iii) The Foundation Stop Violence against Women.
29. The foundation Sari has not developed a campaign about different forms of violence, but it has implemented such campaigns in cooperation with other national and international actors. With support of the American Embassy in Suriname within the framework of the International Women's Day 2014 a movie about violence against women was broadcasted and a training regarding gender equality was organized for head of departments of various ministries, companies, and NGOs. In 2013 a training on

gender equality was organized with support from the Ministry of Home Affairs for men and women of various ministries, companies, and organizations.

30. The Foundation Moederhart, during 2012 - 2016, has provided information about domestic violence and the Law on Domestic Violence to the local community (in Nickerie district). Through visits to families in unfavorable areas the information was provided in Dutch, Sarnami and Sranan Tongo. In February 2014 a workshop for women "women stand up" has been held by the foundation in cooperation with the Women's Rights Center. In November 2015, two panel discussions "violence against women and girls" have been held for respectively women and youngsters at senior secondary level.
31. The Foundation Stop Violence against Women is a non-profit NGO. Since 1992 the foundation contributes actively to the prevention and elimination of (domestic) violence against women and promotes gender equality. Together with the government and other institutions the foundation has a prominent role in the development and influence of national policy. A (relatively small) team of experts works with a system oriented approach on counseling and guiding of victims and perpetrators. Based on the knowledge and experience acquired from the counseling and guidance are developed awareness and training programs on domestic violence. The foundation promotes the right to life without violence if in cooperation with government institutions and other NGOs or not.
32. The country reported that in the past 5 years the Foundation has established Domestic Violence Networks because of various training programs on domestic violence. These networks consist of teachers, police officers, health workers, social workers, civil servants, and others. The networks are present in the following districts: Wanica, Saramacca, Commewijne, and Nickerie and they operate as emergency care. Beside these networks, there is an assistance network in Paramaribo (capital of Suriname) which is composed of social workers of the government and coordinated by the Foundation Stop Violence against Women. To guarantee the continuation of the networks, empowering meetings are held on monthly / quarterly basis. Under guidance of a psychosocial worker / trainer of the foundation among other things of domestic violence that are taken place in the districts, are addressed. To increase solidarity among the members of the networks and to be informed about the nature of domestic violence in the districts, half-yearly/ early meetings are held preferably outside Paramaribo. The Foundation Stop Violence against Women organized trainings during February 2014 - January 2015 for the networks with the financial support of the Ministry of Home Affairs / Bureau Gender Affairs. These networks have been trained in the application of methods and techniques of assistance in practice and how to educate neighborhood and other organizations.
33. Also, the Foundation Stop Violence against Women has carried out prevention and awareness campaigns in Dutch (orally and in writing) and in Sranan Tongo (orally). Information folders are also developed in English.
34. In addition to that, the Institute of Women, Gender, and Development Studies of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname has organized in the framework of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence in 2014 and 2015 trainings on domestic violence for

students of the university. These training projects resulted in the designation of 33 domestic violence ambassadors for awareness building.

35. According to the information provided by Suriname, Projekta is another NGO that works in this field. Established in 1993, Projekta promotes good governance, participation and gender equality through programs, projects, and activities from a rights approach of development. The strategies are awareness, training, coaching, lobbying, advocacy, and dialogue. Projekta is a more issue-based than a representative (group-based) organization. Projekta does not work with a specific target Group. Together with other organizations of the Citizen's Initiative for Participation and Good Governance, Projekta is involved with the promotion and protection of the right to life without violence. One of the policy priorities included in the document "For our Future" is to tackle gender related violence. The Citizen's Initiative for Participation and Good Governance consists of 18 organizations and 7 individuals of which Projekta is the "Puller"¹².

b) Basic financial context and budgetary commitments

36. The Ministries' budget is published annually in the Legal Bulletin of the Republic of Suriname - Staatsblad van de Republiek Suriname. In addition, every year each Ministry sends its annual budget to the National Parliament to approve.
37. According to information provided by the Government of Suriname, funds for programs tackling violence against women are included in the budget of the Bureau Gender Affairs. In 2013 the budget was 1,169,000 SRD, in 2014 it was 995,000 SRD and in 2015 and 2016 was 500,000 SRD. Therefore, there is a progressive decrease in the budget allocated to the government body that is qualified to tackle gender violence.
38. In addition, according to the information provided by Suriname, there is no specific budget designed to guarantee a life without violence in the budget of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing. Nor is there a specific budget for Suriname's Public Ministry to deal with violence against women.

c) State capabilities

39. According to information provided by the country, there is a state shelter for women victims of domestic violence and their children up to 12 years old.
40. There is also a Suriname Government telephone line called Child Youth 123. This line provides guidance through conversations or indicates other instances to seek guidance.
41. About psychological counseling, within the Ministry of Social Affairs there are 4 departments:
- Department of Care for children and adolescents¹³.

¹² Available at: <https://projekta-suriname.blogspot.com.br/2015/05/burgerinitiatief-wij-zijn-burgers-van.html>

¹³ Available at: <http://www.gov.sr/ministerie-van-sociale-zaken-en-volkshuisvesting/over-sozavo/departementen/directoraat-sociale-zaken/od-kmw/dienst-jeugd zorg.aspx>

- Department of Care for people with disabilities.
 - Department of Care for the Elderly¹⁴.
 - Department of Social Work, for families.
42. Between 2003 and 2004, training was carried out for the Public Prosecutor's Office of Suriname in which gender stereotypes were addressed. However, the number of trained staff is not available.
43. In March 2015 Projekta has published a series of 4 blog messages on her blog about sexual harassment as part of the project "Maart van de Vrouw" (= March for the woman). Projekta has also contributed to the formulation of a statement for the Commission on the Status of Women in 2015 on behalf of NGOs.
44. Since 2015, the Ministry of Justice and Police is implementing awareness programs on violence and sexual abuse against children in schools and other institutions in Moengo (Marowijne district) and Apoera (Sipaliwini district). The intention is to set up hot lines for violence / sexual abuse in all districts.
45. The foundation Stop Violence Against Women has organized congresses and workshops in Paramaribo, and the districts: Nickerie, Commewijne and Saramacca. The focus was on an integral approach of domestic violence and on the laws, that provide legal protection to victims. Further the foundation has carried out information and training programs in schools (pupils and teachers), vocational training, courses in the health sector etc.
46. The Projekta Civil Organization is not exclusively involved in monitoring and evaluating the fulfillment of commitments on the eradication of violence against women, but it has paid attention to the commitments of CEDAW during the March of Women and other projects.
47. A three-day information session regarding gender, religion, domestic violence, and human rights was held by the Bureau Gender Affairs of the Ministry of Home Affairs for youngsters of religious organizations in November 2014 in the framework of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence, and International Human Rights Day. In this session 48 youngsters (21 males and 27 females) were trained by 10 priests (5 males / 5 females). These priests (persons involved in religious work within religious organizations) were selected from the group of trainees of 2013 (see information that was provided during the 2nd evaluation round) and for this information session guided by professionals for 4 days to provide the information to the youngsters. The aim of this project was to provide information on the above-mentioned topics independently in and outside the religious organization and on the other hand to provide information to the youngsters.
48. In January 2016, the "come back / impetus for evaluation" meeting was held for the trainees of the 2013 Intervention Program on Domestic Violence for priests. The purpose of the meeting was to find out to what extent the knowledge acquired on

¹⁴ Available at: <http://www.gov.sr/ministerie-van-sociale-zaken-en-volkshuisvesting/over-sozavo/departementen/directoraat-sociale-zaken/od-kmw/dienst-bejaardenzorg.aspx>

gender, domestic violence, human rights from a religious perspective was applied in practice and to share the field experiences regarding domestic violence with one another. 41 trainees took part in this meeting.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE - Article 7, subsections d) and f) and article 8, subsections c) and d) of the Convention of Belém do Pará

a) Formal component

49. The country informed that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing women victims of violence are referred to the Ministry of Justice and Police while the Department of Youth Care of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing counsel their children.
50. At the Ministry of Justice and Police there are several offices that are involved with violence against women such as: The Bureau Women and Child Policy, the bureaus for victims' care in Paramaribo and Nickerie¹⁵, the police stations, public prosecutor's office¹⁶, and the cantonal courts.
51. Based on article 19.2¹⁷ of the Law on Tackling Domestic Violence, the Ministry of Justice and Police is currently developing a standard form for the registration of domestic violence. The Ministry of Justice and Police has developed a Policy Memorandum and a complaint mechanism to address sexual harassment at the workplace,.
52. The Public Prosecutor's Office has an important role in the fight against gender violence. Since February 2016, a specific mechanism is operational at the Public Prosecutor's Office whereby the complaints are received through the mail box and dealt with. However, according to the Public Prosecutor's Office, there is no research on the impact of gender stereotypes in legal investigations and no investigation and prosecution protocols with a gender perspective.
53. The information on judgments and rulings is not published. Information may be obtained under certain conditions (for e.g. scientific purposes) through access to the publicly pronounced judgments. Requests may be submitted at the Registrar of the Court of Justice. Also, there is no specific body in the Suriname Court that is designed to deal with violence against women.
54. However, there is no specific course about violence against women for judges. Violence against women is addressed within the "criminal law" of the RAIO (this is a course for becoming a judge). During the reporting period no specific training on the topic of violence was provided to the target groups by the Ministry of Justice and

¹⁵ Available at: <http://www.gov.sr/ministerie-van-juspol/actueel/bureau-slachtofferzorg-biedt-hulp-aan-nabestaanden-nibar.aspx>

¹⁶ Available at: <http://www.gov.sr/ministerie-van-juspol/over-justitie-en-politie/departementen/hoofdafdeling-rechtsaangelegenheden/bureau-rechtszorg.aspx>

¹⁷ Article 19.2 of the Law on Tackling Domestic Violence: It is the duty of every law enforcement officer who responds to a notification or reporting of domestic violence to draw up a domestic violence registration form as determined by the Minister of Justice and Police, which form is included in the National Domestic Violence Register, which is established by State Decree and kept by the Corps Police Suriname

Police. This Ministry tries to carry out every year general capacity building / training programs for different target groups.

b) Basic financial context and budgetary commitments

55. No information is available in this respect.

c) State capabilities

56. The Projekta Civil Organization is not exclusively involved in the promotion of the right to a life free from violence, however, it generally strives for gender equality in Suriname.
57. The Foundation for Violence Against Women offers free legal services. The Foundation's activities include protection orders based on the Law on Tackling Domestic Violence in Suriname. In addition, they route customers to private lawyers or to the Department of Legal Assistance of the Ministry of Justice and Police¹⁸.
58. According to the information provided by Suriname, complaints of domestic violence can be received at any police station in the country. However, some police stations have special units of domestic violence.
59. There are social workers in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing, however, numbers and percentages of these are not available.
60. The Suriname Court of Justice consists of 11 judges (3 men and 8 women) and 8 substitute judges (2 men and 6 women). In addition, it should be noted that the President of the Court of Justice is a woman.
61. The Prosecutor's Office of Suriname is composed of 14 women and 4 men (including the Attorney General). The team responsible for the administration of the Public Prosecutor's Office is composed of 3 women and 2 men.
62. The Suriname Police have a strong female leadership, including their superintendent is a woman. The employees participate in several courses on leadership. In addition, a significant number of departments within the police are led by women.
63. The Stop Violence Against Women Foundation trained approximately 100 teachers - from all educational levels - primary education coordinators and some police officers from November 2013 to December 2014 with the financial support of the Ministry of Home Affairs. This training had as purpose to:
- Provide information so that students can recognize the signs of domestic violence and can refer these victims to social welfare organizations.
 - Create a network on the approach of domestic violence in schools.

INFORMATION AND STATISTICS - Article 8, subsection h) of the Convention of Belém do Pará

¹⁸ Available at: <http://www.gov.sr/ministerie-van-juspol/over-justitie-en-politie/departementen/hoofdafdeling-rechtsaangelegenheden/bureau-rechtszorg.aspx>

a) Formal component

64. According to information provided by Suriname through data acquired by the Public Prosecutor's Office, 433 cases of violence against women were reported from October 2013 to July 2016. Only 54 of these were tried by the Courts, totaling a percentage of 12.5 % of cases resolved. In addition, from January to December 2015, 7 cases of femicide in the country were reported.
65. Also, according to the country, in the period 2012-2014, around 6500 people made use of the services of the foundation (psycho-social guidance, information and training).
66. About the average time that passes between the first manifestation of violence and the victim's first contact with an agency or establishment that provides attention and services differs from agency:
- According to the Foundation Sari the time differs within one day up to a week.
 - According to the Corps Police Suriname the average can vary between months or years before the victim reports at the police.
 - According to the Foundation Stop Violence against Women the time varies for each woman. Some women that contact the foundation in an early stage (whether or not on advice or pressure of family and friends, while others - various reasons) are waiting longer before they reach the foundation for help.
67. There is no periodic statistical report drawn up by the Public Prosecutor's Office. However, there are periodic and statistical reports of the Suriname Police. Yet, statistics prepared by the Department of Criminal Information of the Suriname Police are not published. These data are based on reports from the various police stations in the country. The country justifies that there are no regulations for the Suriname Police to provide free access to information of a statistical nature in the country.
68. Projekta is a civil organization of Suriname¹⁹. This organization has for years been asking for access to the country's public information, especially about a law on government advertising.

b) Basic financial context and budgetary commitments

69. There is no information available in this regard

c) State capabilities

70. The Department of Criminal Information of the Police of Suriname and the General Office of Statistics²⁰ are the public institutions that have specific units for the generation of statistical information.
71. The Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies at the University of Anton de Kom of Suriname is the institute responsible for providing information and

¹⁹ Available at: <https://projekta-suriname.blogspot.com.br/>

²⁰ Available at: <http://www.statistics-suriname.org/>

guidance to students who have as their thesis the domestic violence or international treaties related to domestic violence. These theses are available at the Anton de Kom University library.

72. Since March 2014, various awareness-raising activities have been carried out in Suriname with the assistance of the United Nations Population Fund and the Pan American Health Organization. These activities consisted of preparation, discussion, and dissemination of information on domestic violence.

IV. Specific Recommendations

73. The CEVI is grateful for the answers provided by Suriname in its report. Additionally, it congratulates the State for the progress made during the period of the Third Follow-up Round.
74. In accordance with the information presented and the recommendations already contained in this report, the CEVI recommends the State to:

Legislation

75. Integrate into legislation the definition of violence against women regardless of intra-family violence.
76. Specify the types of violence that arise from geographical location, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identities, immigrants, refugees, etc.
77. Specify how measures to protect persons who are victims of domestic violence are being used to ensure this protection.
78. Legislate on the creation of a norm that deals with femicide.
79. Legislate on the creation of a norm on sexual harassment in the workplace.
80. Legislate on the creation of a norm that deals with sexual violence occurring in hospitals or in educational institutions existing in the country.
81. Legislate on child alimony for indigenous people or rural children if parents fail to fulfill their obligations.
82. Legislate on the creation of a norm that prevents and eradicates discriminatory conduct or practices based on the subordination or inferiority of women.
83. Legislate on the banishment of extrajudicial means of resolving conflicts - conciliation, mediation, etc. - to resolve cases of domestic violence in Suriname.
84. Legislate on the right of citizens to be educated in an environment free from violence and discrimination.

85. Create a government entity responsible for assessing educational content on gender identity, gender stereotypes, and prevention in school materials.
86. Produce specific educational content to promote gender equality in journalism universities.
87. Create an organization to regulate the sexist content that may be present in the advertisements of the country.
88. Develop emergency treatment for people with HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted infections in Suriname's public health services, as well as protocols to determine the stages of treatment and how to care for its users.
89. Ensure that all women in Suriname are satisfied with the medical care provided in Suriname.
90. Decriminalize the practice of abortion in the country.
91. Develop official government protocols to address the different types of violence against women in Suriname.
92. Legislate on the creation of a norm that sanctions civil servants who are not complying with national regulations, plans, actions, or strategies against gender violence in Suriname.
93. Create a state body responsible for assessing the educational content of Suriname so that society is free of gender stereotypes.
94. Legislate on the creation of a norm that deals with the use of sexual violence as torture, war crime or as a crime against humanity.
95. Legislate on the creation of a standard on obstetric violence in hospitals or other health institutions in Suriname.
96. Facilitate the identity change of victims of violence.

National Plans

97. Tackle and oppose the approving of laws, whether federal, state, or municipal, that prohibit the adoption of education policies on gender and sexual orientation.
98. Develop national plans that consider actions and strategies aimed at preventing, punishing, and eradicating violence against women in the country.
99. Promote the enactment of cooperation agreements with the media and publicity agencies to disseminate the rights of women and the Convention of Belém do Pará.
100. Promote and implement public policies and campaigns to eradicate stereotypes, prejudices, customs, and practices, with a specific designation for the

inclusion of gender equality in the school curriculum at all levels, both public and private, since early childhood education, as well as in programs with a human rights approach. The focus should be on stereotypes of gender roles and promoting values of gender equality and non-discrimination, including non-violent masculinities, as well as ensuring comprehensive, adequate, and scientifically accurate sex education for girls and boys

101. Promote specific research on gender violence and violence against women to develop the study on the rights of women in Suriname.
102. Develop qualification actions on the issue addressed to parliamentarians.
103. Encourage specific audits to monitor programs to ensure a life free of violence for women.
104. Encourage the creation of social programs for women within the Ministry of Social Affairs.
105. Create a state policy aimed at eliminating gender stereotypes of the country's education.
106. Introduce permanent training on the rights of women to a life free from violence at all educational levels and institutional levels, as well as monitoring and evaluation of their effects.
107. Allocate a specific budget for the Suriname Public Ministry to develop awareness programs on violence against women in the country.
108. Incorporate the concept of violence of the Convention of Belém do Pará into the official documents of Suriname.
109. Promote campaigns to raise awareness of gender stereotypes in education and what they produce.
110. Encourage the creation of public or private bodies specializing in aiding women victims of violence.
111. Create another state shelter for women victims of domestic violence and their sons and daughters.
112. Develop specialized training on the Convention of Belém do Pará for members of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Power of Suriname.
113. Promote campaigns to raise awareness of gender stereotypes in education and what they produce.
114. Develop a human rights program that includes the gender debate at all levels of education in Suriname.

115. Provide specific services to provide information, care, and psychological support to women before, during and after the legal process.

Access to Justice

116. Keep up-to-date and encourage the dissemination of data and statistics on violence against women.
117. Promote research related to the impact of gender stereotypes on Suriname's investigations and judicial processes.
118. Create protocols from a gender perspective on investigations and prosecutions within the Public Prosecutor's Office.
119. Provide information about the judgments and decisions that are used in the Convention of Belém do Pará.
120. Encourage public policies for the training of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and other jurists on the issue of violence.
121. Encourage the creation of a specific body to deal with violence against women in the Suriname Court of Justice.
122. Strengthen the number of care and support services for women.
123. Monitor the quality of free legal services.
124. Improve information regarding the effective application of protection measures in the justice system.
125. Provide specific measures to ensure access to justice for rural, indigenous, and black women.
126. Promote the use of the Convention of Belém do Pará in judicial decisions and judgments.
127. Draw up plans for ongoing training for judges, prosecutors, and legislators on violence against women and women's rights under the Convention of Belém do Pará.
128. Ensure free and public access to information obtained by the State on gender-based violence.

Specialized Services

129. Encourage the creation of special units of domestic violence in all police stations in Suriname.
130. Strengthen and ensure adequate geographic distribution of care and shelter services for women in situations of violence.

131. Create a state agency to oversee and monitor domestic violence trials in Suriname.
132. Create institutions that promote the gender debate within the scope of the Judiciary.
133. Promote the generation of gender mechanisms at the municipal level.
134. Predict and strengthen enough and proper mechanisms, instruments and infrastructure to support and care for victims of violence.

Budget

135. Inform the budget for campaigns to promote the right of women to a life free of violence.
136. Know the percentage of public spending allocated to programs that aim to guarantee women's right to a life free from violence and monitor their effective compliance.
137. Develop an investment fund for each stage of the criminal process of violence against women.
138. Conduct research, programs, plans, strategies, and actions to tackle violence against women.

Investigations

139. Strengthen mechanisms for coordination between data acquired from research and statistics and women's mechanisms at the national, state, and municipal levels.
140. It is appropriate to establish a system of statistics covering, among other no less important matters , how many and what kind of protection measures have been granted to women affected by violence in the last year.
141. Strengthen and improve investigations and increase the number of completed investigations into malicious homicides, violence against women and domestic violence, to increase the number of complaints to justice and, consequently, possible convictions.
142. It is appropriate to establish a system of statistics covering, among other no less important matters, how many and what kind of protection measures have been granted to women affected by violence in the last year.