

MESECVI publishes IV Hemispheric Report: Structural Challenges and Institutional Progress in Access to Justice, Truth and Reparation for Women in Latin America

Washington, DC, March 31, 2025. In recent years, Latin America has made significant progress in adopting laws and regulations to protect the rights of women and girls, demonstrating efforts by States to strengthen their response to gender-based violence. Despite this, the region continues to face concerning figures in terms of gender-based violence against women, as well as, persistent obstacles in access to justice, truth and reparation, which contributes to perpetuating impunity in these cases.

These are the key findings of the "[*IV Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention – Latin America Chapter. Access to Justice, Truth, and Reparation: Structural Challenges and Institutional Progress*](#)," prepared by the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) based on the information reported by States in the region during the most recent Multilateral Evaluation Round of the Mechanism. The report is published in the framework of Women's Month.

The data reported by 16 Latin American countries¹ show progress, such as the adoption of more than 200 laws and regulations that criminalize violence against women. However, the figures in this regard reflect a worrisome picture. The region registered over 488,000 cases of sexual violence against girls and adolescents, more than 800,000 cases of sexual violence against women, nearly 2 million cases of violence against women with disabilities, and over 1 million pregnancies in girls. These figures, corresponding to the period 2018 to 2022, highlight the persistent structural challenges to eradicating violence against women in the region.

The report focuses on women's access to justice, truth, and reparation as a cornerstone in efforts to eradicate violence, the central theme of the evaluation round in which States Parties responded to 137 progress indicators to assess their actions in addressing violence against women and girls.

The Committee of Experts (CEVI) analyzes progress, barriers, and challenges and examines key aspects such as women's participation in judicial and administrative proceedings, their

¹ The countries that participated in the first phase of the IV Round of Evaluation are: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay.

right to free legal counsel, and the implementation of specialized services, protection measures, and actions in the civil, administrative, and other areas to guarantee equal access to justice.

Additionally, the report addresses other issues of special concern, such as violence against women with disabilities, sexual violence against girls and adolescents, child pregnancies, and forced marriages of girls.

In light of this situation, the CEVI recognizes the efforts made by States in adopting laws and policies but emphasizes the need to ensure their effective implementation. To achieve this, it stresses the importance of strengthening institutions, eliminating barriers to justice, and guaranteeing comprehensive care for women victims of violence.

The publication of the IV Hemispheric Report – Latin America Chapter takes place within the framework of the 30th anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention and the 20th anniversary of MESECVI. The second phase of the round is currently underway, focusing on the countries of Caribbean States Parties, and the process of compiling and analyzing the information is expected to be completed this year.

For the first time, the Mechanism complements this report [with interactive visualizations](#) on its website, developed with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These tools allow users to explore the evolution and regional panorama on key issues such as legislation, judicial sentences, data on violence against women and girls, and the situation of the most vulnerable groups.

Read the full report [here](#)