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La violencia contra las mujeres
frente a las medidas dirigidas a disminuir el contagio del COVID-19

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN VERSUS MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING COVID-19 TRANSMISSION

Washington DC, July 15th, 2020. The Inter-American Commission of Women ([CIM](#)) of the Organization of American States ([OAS](#)) and the Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará ([MESECVI](#)) present the document "**Violence against women versus measures aimed at reducing COVID-19 transmission**". This document is the result of a series of meetings with civil society, Ministers of Women and high authorities on violence against women and MESECVI experts; the analysis of hundreds of complaints that have circulated in the media; and alerts from public and private organizations on the increase of violence against women during the pandemic.

What is the added value of this publication?

1. **It identifies the new patterns of violence that emerge with the measures of confinement and social distancing:** The American region has seen a substantial increase in news of violent deaths of women, calls for help, reports of sexual violence against girls, pregnancies in girls under 14 years of age, limitations to sexual and reproductive health services for women, in the context of an already limited capacity of States to address violence against women in its different manifestations.

2. **Establishes recommendations to prevent and address violence against women and girls:** The document proposes concrete measures that can be implemented immediately on public policies, access to justice, institutional strengthening, and information and statistics, from a perspective of intersectionality. Thus, all decisions must take into account the experiences of girls, older women, women with disabilities, migrants, LGBTI people, Afro-descendants, indigenous and rural women, women deprived of liberty, women living in poverty, among others.

3. **Recognizes the efforts in the region:** Through a mapping of the actions carried out by the Ministers of Women, the National Women's Mechanisms, and other government agencies that, with few resources and many efforts, are redoubling their machinery to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and the other pandemic: violence against women and girls.

What is the purpose of this publication? To strengthen the capacities of States and provide practical and innovative information for designing plans, programs and public policies aimed at combating and preventing violence against women and girls, as well as guaranteeing their effective access to justice.

The CIM has drawn a red line to ensure that no regression is admissible in terms of the rights achieved by women. In a context of health crisis, this document is offered as a practical tool to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women and girls, both in the public and private spheres, in accordance with the principles of the Convention of Belém do Pará, an instrument signed and ratified by 32 of the 34 OAS Member States.

The [CIM/OAS](#) is the region's main political forum for the recognition of women's human rights and gender equality. Since its creation in 1928, the CIM has played a predominant and strategic role in the promotion of women's rights in the hemisphere.