

# Political harassment and violence against women in the framework of the Belém Do Para Convention

During a meeting in the city of Lima in October 2015, the Sixth Conference of States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention adopted the Declaration on Political Harassment and Violence against Women. This is the first regional agreement explicitly devoted to the issue.

## ¿Why is this Declaration important?

It represents the existing consensus among the States Party to the Convention on the assessment and definition of the problem, as well as the actions needed to prevent, punish and eradicate political violence against women. Through their adoption of the Declaration, States agreed to:

- Promote the adoption of regulations, programs and measures in all branches of government from a transformative approach;
- Generate research and evidence on the scope and magnitude of political violence;
- Promote that political parties and media take action to address the problem;
- Recognize that political violence against women is based on gender
- Take into account the pioneering Bolivian “Law No. 243 against political harassment and violence towards women,” as well as the progress of countries of the region;
- Affirm that political harassment and/or violence against women have become more visible due to the increased political participation of women;
- Recognize that political harassment and/or violence against women highlights that achieving gender parity in a democracy requires a comprehensive approach that ensures equal access of women and men to all government institutions and political organizations, and also ensures that the conditions for exercising political rights are free from discrimination and violence.



## To promote legislation, a priority in Latin America

In 2012, Bolivia enacted the Law against Political Violence and Harassment towards Women. In other countries of the region such as Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico and Peru, bills have been introduced for consideration by their Parliaments. Latin America is prioritizing legislation to address the problem of political violence against women.

### Why?

- The Belém do Pará Convention establishes the States' obligation to harmonize national legislation in order to guarantee the rights enshrined in the Convention, and to eliminate norms, customs and practices that reinforce violence and discrimination against women;
- States Party have an obligation to develop and effectively implement public policies to promote the realization of women's human rights and to eliminate impunity;
- States Party have the obligation to adapt public institutions in order to guarantee women's rights as established in the Convention;
- The Follow up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) has recommended that States Party advance promoting legislation on violence against women in the public sphere, including political life.

## CIM and MESECVI's work on political violence against women

- **Inter-American Model Law** for the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Political Violence against Women
- **Model Protocol for Political Parties** on political violence against women
- **Guide for Electoral Institutions:** strategies to address political violence against women
- **Hemispheric Report** on political violence against women: generating evidence

