



## **Committee of Experts condemns the attack on three women in the march for abortion rights in Chile**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the [Belém do Pará Convention \(MESECVI\)](#) categorically rejects the attacks against three women who were stabbed by hooded persons, in the context of the protest for the right to free and legal abortion, on July 25<sup>th</sup> in Santiago, Chile. Fortunately, according to various media, the human rights defenders are not at deadly risk.

These facts prove the risks, violence and vulnerability of human rights that women in the country must face. Given this situation, the Committee recalls that, as established in article 7 of the Belém do Pará Convention, the Chilean State has the obligation to act with due diligence to investigate and punish all types of violence against women, as well as to ensure the reparation of the victims.

Likewise, the Committee expresses its concern over the presence of extremist anti-rights groups that seek to obstruct the right of all women to demonstrate and participate in political and social spaces, a fundamental characteristic of any democratic society. For this reason, through the [Declaration on Gender and Women's Empowerment as a Benefit to Humanity](#), the Committee is emphatic in pointing out that discrimination and violence against women constitute human rights violations, which is why justifications based on religious or cultural beliefs or values are not acceptable.

For all the above, the State is encouraged to emphatically reject and investigate the aforementioned facts, as well as to punish all the people who are responsible. In addition, the State is called upon to fulfill its duty to prevent violence against women and guarantee their right to demonstrate and participate in all social, personal and political spaces.

*The [Committee of Experts](#) is the technical body of the MESECVI responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Belém do Pará Convention. It is composed of independent experts, appointed by each of the States Party from among its nationals, who exercise their functions in a personal capacity.*