**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION INVITES TO CONSULTATION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN THE AMERICAS**

The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression invites States, civil society, and other non-state actors to provide information for the questionnaire on access to information, violence against women, and the administration of justice in the Americas.

Answers to this questionnaire must be submitted no later than June 15, 2018 to [cidhexpresion@oas.org](mailto:cidhexpresion@oas.org)

Please reference "Questionnaire Access to Information and Women in the Americas" in the email subject line.

If you don’t have access to the internet, you can send your answers by mail to: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, 1889 F Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20006. The submission must be addressed to the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR.

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE CONSULTATION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN THE AMERICAS**

1. **PRESENTATION**

**The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression launches a public consultation to receive information on compliance with recommendations made in the thematic report "Access to Information, Violence against Women, and the Administration of Justice in the Americas" of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)**

*In 2015, the IACHR issued the report* [*Access to information, violence against women and the administration of justice in the Americas*](http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Access-information.pdf)*. In this report, the IACHR recognized the fundamental role of access to public information in the prevention of discrimination and violence against women, as well as on access to justice for victims.*

*The report examines the challenges women face in order to have adequate and effective access to State-controlled information on the prevention and protection of violence and discrimination, as well as on access to justice for victims, and systematizes the international standards that the Inter-American System has developed in this regard. Likewise, the report presents to States several recommendations in order to comply with their obligations on this important matter.*

*The present questionnaire seeks to collect information on compliance with the recommendations issued in said report.*

1. **INSTRUCTIONS**

**The Office of the Special Rapporteur invites States, civil society, and other non-State actors to provide information for this questionnaire.**

1. The questionnaire can be **answered partially or entirely**, according to the available information;
2. Research, reports, and other documents **already prepared and/or published** that are relevant to the subject may be submitted;
3. Answers to the questionnaire may be **submitted until June 15, 2018.**
4. Answers to the questionnaire can be sent **electronically or by mail**.
   * Electronically, to:  [cidhexpresion@oas.org](mailto:cidhexpresion@oas.org)
   * Bymail, to the address:

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Organization of American States,

1889 F Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20006

*Addressed to the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR*.

1. It is recommended, whenever possible, to send the answers to the questionnaire electronically, referencing "Questionnaire Access to Information and Women in the Americas" in the email subject line.
2. Please do not send duplicates.
3. **QUESTIONNAIRE**
4. Please provide information on whether the **domestic legal system** is consistent with inter-American and international standards on the right of access to information regarding violence and discrimination against women, girls, and adolescents.
5. Please provide information on whether any initiatives have been implemented to **remove the legal or administrative obstacles that hinder access to this information, which may facilitate the exercise of women's fundamental rights**.
6. Please provide information on whether unified and comprehensive (qualitative and quantitative) **information collection systems** have been designed and implemented, as well as systems to produce statistics on violence and discrimination against women, girls, and adolescents. Indicate whether there is collaboration with civil society and university observatories in the collection of information.
7. In particular, please provide information on whether the State - specifically, the security organs and judicial bodies - **collects information and produces statistics** on the following forms of violence against women, girls, and adolescents:
   1. Murders of women, girls, and adolescents on the basis of their gender (femicides/feminicides) and attempted murders of women, girls, and adolescents on the basis of their gender (femicides/feminicides);
   2. Physical violence;
   3. Sexual violence (rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, etc.) and attempted sexual violence;
   4. Economic violence;
   5. Psychological violence (threats, emotional abuse, etc.);
   6. Other forms of violence that occur within the family context, education, the health sector, the work environment, and in detention centers, among other contexts.

Please provide information on the indicators/methodology used and the frequency with which the information is collected and the statistics on the subject are updated. Please indicate if the information is disaggregated by sex, age, race, and/or ethnicity, among other factors.

1. Regarding the forms of violence mentioned in the previous question, please provide **information on whether the judicial bodies collect information and produce statistics related to**:
   1. The number of complaints filed;
   2. The rates of dismissal and withdrawal of complaints;
   3. The number and type of protection orders and/or precautionary measures adopted (e.g. removal from the home, restraining order, electronic wristband, and others), the compliance with or non-compliance with these protection orders, and the sanctions imposed;
   4. The number of criminal investigations initiated and the type of crime imputed;
   5. The number and type of judgments handed down (conviction, acquittal, dismissal, discontinuance, etc.), and the rates of prosecution and conviction of those responsible;
   6. The minimum, maximum, and average duration of investigations;
   7. The type of reparations granted to victims and survivors.

Please provide information on the indicators/methodology used and the frequency with which the information is collected and the statistics on the subject are updated. Please highlight measures taken to make this information public and disseminate it to the general population in urban and rural areas. Please specify if the information is produced in different languages.

1. **Please** **provide information on whether the information collected on violence and discrimination against women, girls, and adolescents - in particular, the information mentioned in questions 3 and 4 of this questionnaire - is disaggregated according to:**
2. Year and jurisdiction where the events occur;
3. Sociodemographic factors of the victim or survivor (age, sex/gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, disability, and place of urban or rural residence);
4. Relationship between the victim or survivor and the perpetrator;
5. Sociodemographic factors of the perpetrator (age, sex/gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, and disability);
6. Frequency of the violence;
7. Space in which the violence occurs.
8. Please provide information on whether state agencies - in particular, security agencies, prevention and protection bodies, and the Judiciary - have protocols and/or mechanisms to **ensure that data collection systems use standardized methodologies in order to collect information from various actors** (government bodies with jurisdiction on the topic, justice administration systems, health sector, international and regional organizations, academic sector, and civil society), in a coordinated manner. Please indicate if there are institutionalized training programs on the use of these protocols and accountability mechanisms.
9. Please provide information on the actions taken by the State to **analyze and process the information gathered using a gender and intersectional perspective**, in a systematic and coordinated manner among the different agencies and bodies of the State and with civil society organizations. Please detail actions that have been taken to process the information collected from an ethnic-racial perspective.
10. Please provide information on actions taken to **create open spaces for participation so that non-state actors can influence the collection and production of information on violence and discrimination against women, girls, and adolescents on the basis of their gender**. Indicate initiatives implemented to ensure that these spaces have the participation of civil society organizations that represent women, girls, and adolescents who are part of traditionally marginalized groups, such as women, girls, and adolescents of African descent, and indigenous women, girls, and adolescents.
11. Please provide information on the actions taken by the State agencies (in particular, the agencies that promote the rights of women, girls, and adolescents, the security agencies, and justice administration bodies) **to publish and disseminate, ex-officio, the statistical information produced.**
12. Please provide information on the existence of initiatives to **incorporate the information collected in the design of the new state policies and programs** on violence and discrimination against women, girls, and adolescents on the basis of their gender. Indicate, in addition, if there are periodic processes for evaluating the effectiveness of existing policies and programs and adapting and/or readjusting them as necessary according to the information available.
13. Please provide information on measures adopted to ensure that women, girls, and adolescents who are victims of violence and discrimination based on their gender have **direct access to the judicial records** of their pending cases before the justice administration bodies, during all stages of the process and without restrictions.
14. Please provide information on measures taken to ensure that information on legal proceedings for cases of violence and discrimination on the basis of gender is available in **languages other than the State's official and/or having interpreters** who can effectively deliver judicial information to women, girls, and adolescents belonging to indigenous and tribal communities, ranging from the initial police actions to the final judgment.
15. Describe policies implemented to guarantee the availability of **sufficient human and financial resources** for the gathering, analysis, and dissemination of information on violence and discrimination against women, girls, and adolescents on the basis of their gender.
16. Describe policies implemented to guarantee the **systematic training of state officials, particularly justice operators**, on the inter-American and international standards on access to information and violence and discrimination against women, girls, and adolescents. Indicate actions aimed at training civil society organizations in the use of available mechanisms to request information from the State.
17. Please provide information on actions taken to promote the **mass dissemination of information** on the human rights of women, girls, and adolescents and the mechanisms to make them effective, the protection and prevention mechanisms available to women victims of violence, and ways to access to them, and on the other care mechanisms for women, girls, and adolescents victims of violence and discrimination. Identify actions implemented to disseminate this information in a way that is sensitive to the needs of a diverse audience of different economic and educational levels, and of different cultures and languages.