



Committee of Experts laments that the Senate rejected the bill to decriminalize abortion in Argentina

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) laments that the Argentine Senate rejected the bill that sought to decriminalize the termination of pregnancy at dawn on August 9th, 2018. The approval of this law would have constituted a significant step in the consolidation of women's rights in accordance with the spirit of the Belém do Pará Convention, since it not only sought to guarantee their sexual and reproductive rights, but also to protect women's lives, their physical and psychological integrity, and their fundamental freedoms.

The initiative approved by the Chamber of Deputies on June 14th, 2018 and recently rejected by the Senate allowed decriminalizing the interruption of pregnancy until 14 weeks of gestation. After this period, the procedure would be granted if the pregnancy was the result of a rape, if the woman's health was at risk or if the inviability of the fetus outside the womb was diagnosed. In short, the project was in accordance with national standards and the international *corpus juris* for the protection of the rights of women and girls, since Argentine women were recognized as subject to international and national law.

Bearing in mind that the initiative will have to wait at least a year to be debated again in both Houses, this Committee of Experts encourages the Argentine authorities to intensify efforts to protect and guarantee the right to life, health and physical and psychological integrity of women in the country. The Committee trusts that the debate will be reestablished within the aforementioned deadlines and that as long as legislative progress is made, no woman dies due to unsafe or clandestine abortions.

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.