



## **Committee of Experts expresses its concern over the case of Lucía Pérez in Argentina**

The [Committee of Experts](#) of the Follow-up Mechanism to the [Belém do Pará Convention \(MESECVI\)](#) expresses its concern over the case of Lucía Pérez, a 16-year-old girl who was drugged, raped and murdered in Argentina in October 2016. As a result of this serious situation, the Oral Criminal Court 1 of Mar del Plata decided to acquit the three accused, sentencing two of them to eight years in prison for possession and commercialization of narcotics and another for aggravated cover-up.

In this regard, the Committee sent a letter addressed to the high authorities of the Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina stating that cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights have ratified that the use of gender stereotypes in the actions of justice administration officials represent a clear violation of women's human rights, including the right to live free of violence and the right to justice and judicial remedies. In addition, the Committee expressed that the criteria that have been used in this ruling build a message of tolerance towards violence against women in society and clearly reflect the use of gender stereotypes to decide the case.

Article 7 of the Belém do Pará Convention states that States Party must act with due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women and take all appropriate measures, including legislative ones, to modify or abolish laws and current regulations, or to modify legal or customary practices that support the persistence or tolerance of violence against women. In addition, Article 8 establishes that States must promote the education and training of personnel in the administration of justice, police and other officials responsible for the application of the law.

The Committee reiterates the call to the Argentine authorities to rectify this decision and to take all the necessary measures to provide an effective access to justice for Lucia's family and for all women victims and survivors of violence. They must apply international human rights law on women's rights, especially that emanating from the Belém do Pará Convention, the recommendations of Committee of Experts and other international legislation on the human rights of women and girls.

*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 among its nationals, who exercise their functions in a personal capacity*

