



## **Committee of Experts expressed concern about the sexual and reproductive rights of women in the Dominican Republic**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the [Convention of Belém do Pará \(MESECVI\)](#), expressed its concern about the possible approval of the new Criminal Code that would maintain the criminalization of abortion in the Dominican Republic in all its modalities.

In a letter sent to high authorities of the executive and legislative branches\*, the Committee expressed its concern that this would imply a setback in the State's international obligations in relation to guaranteeing the full enjoyment of the rights to life, health and physical and mental integrity of all women, as well as guaranteeing their sexual and reproductive rights.

In the letter, the Committee noted that the "[Declaration on Violence against Women, Girls and Adolescents and their Sexual and Reproductive Rights](#)" recommends that States Party establish laws and public policies that allow the interruption of pregnancy in at least three cases: i) when the life or health of the woman is in danger, ii) when the fetus is not viable to survive, and iii) in cases of sexual violence, incest and forced insemination. In addition, the Committee insisted that the absolute criminalization of abortion not only constitutes a violation of women's right to decide, but also violates their right to health, autonomy, privacy and security, among others.

The Committee urged the State to condemn all forms of violence against women by all appropriate means and without delay of any kind and to continue strengthening policies aimed at preventing, punishing and eradicating such violence, as established in Article 7 of the [Convention of Belém do Pará](#). Finally, the appeal to uphold the commitments emanating from this Convention, an international instrument subscribed and ratified by the Dominican Republic, was reiterated.

\*The letter was sent to [Janet Camilo Hernández](#), Minister of Women; [Reinaldo Pared Pérez](#), President of the Senate; [Rubén Darío Maldonado Díaz](#), President of the Chamber of Deputies; and [Henry Merán](#), President of the Permanent Commission of Justice of the Chamber of Deputies (hyperlinks available in Spanish).

*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.*