Sexual violence and child pregnancy in Latin America and the Caribbean: A regional overview

March 23rd 2017
9:30am – 1:00pm

Hall of the Americas, OAS Headquarters, 17th Street & Constitution Ave., NW
Agenda

9:30  Registration

10:00  Opening remarks
  • Carmen Moreno, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women, OAS
  • Michel Pinard, Ambassador, Permanent Observer of France to the OAS

10:30  Round table on sexual violence and child pregnancy in the States Parties of the Belem do Para Convention
  • Diana González-Perrett, President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI
  • Margaret May Macaulay, Commissioner and Rapporteur on the Rights of Women, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OAS
  • Rosa María Ortiz, ex Commissioner and Rapporteur on the Rights of Children, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OAS
  • Leonel Briozzo, Advisor to the Secretary General, OAS
  • Óscar Cabrera, O’Neill Institute, Georgetown University Law School
  • Latanya Mapp Frett, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood Global

  Moderator: Luz Patricia Mejía Guerrero, Technical Secretary of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), OAS

  Q&A Session

12:45  Closing remarks
  • Jennifer Loten, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Organization of American States
Carmen Moreno Toscano
Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women (OAS)

Carmen Moreno, an internationalist and diplomat, began her work on women’s rights and gender equality as a member of the Mexican Delegation to the first UN Conference on Women (1975). She has since served as the Mexican Ambassador to Costa Rica and Guatemala, as well as the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Organization of American States (OAS).

In 2003, Carmen Moreno was appointed by the Secretary-General of the UN as Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW). In July 2009, she was appointed as Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS), and continues to serve in that position.

Michel Pinard
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of France to the OAS

Michel Pinard is the Ambassador, Permanent Observer of France to the OAS since October 2015. He was born in Marseille in the South of France and studied a bachelor and a master in philosophy and in Sciences Politiques in Paris.

He started his diplomatic career in 1984 as a press attaché in Ecuador. He became the 1st Secretary in Algeria in 1985. He has been working between Paris, Venezuela, Atlanta, Colombia, Tunisia and Bolivia. He has received many decorations, like for example Chevalier of the legion of Honor, Chevalier of the National Order of Merit or Gran Cruz del Condor de los Andes; the last one from Bolivia was only given to two French personalities, the President Jacques Chirac and the Ambassador of France in Bolivia at that time, Mr Pinard.

Passionate of arts, he has recently lent two pieces of art from his personal collection to an exhibition at the OAS and his poems are published by a French editor.
Diana González Perret
President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI

Diana González Perret is the President of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), representing Uruguay. Since 1986, she works on the promotion and defense of women’s human rights; children without family care, victims of sexual violence, abuse, harassment or exploitation: people discriminated for their sexual identity (trans persons) and other forms of gender based violence.

Among her main publications, the following stand out:
- “Gender, age and sceneries of sexual violence” (Él género, la edad y los escenarios de la violencia sexual), co-authored, 2009
- Mercosur guide to provide attention for women victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation (Guía Mercosur para la atención de mulheres en situación de trata con fines de explotación sexual RMAAM/MERCOSUR, 2012).

She is a member of the NGO Citizenships Network (Ciudadanías en Red) and the Lawyers Cooperative (Cooperativa de Abogadas) and Childhood and Adolescence Citizenship (Infancia Adolescencia Ciudadana). She has a doctorate in Law and Social Sciences, graduate from the University of the Republic in 1989.

Margaret May Macaulay
Commissioner and Rapporteur on the Rights of Women, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OAS

Commissioner Margarette May Macaulay is an Attorney-at-Law and former Judge at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the only Jamaican and Caribbean woman to be elected to the Court. Mrs. Macaulay was elected as a Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and is now its First Vice President. While a Judge of the Court she worked on several emblematic cases involving
indigenous land rights, massacres, sexual violations of women and children, death penalty and many other issues.

In the Commission, she is the Thematic Rapporteur for Women’s Rights; the Rights of Afro-Descendants, Racism, Racial Discrimination and all forms of Discrimination and Migrants Rights and the Country Rapporteur for 7 States, including the United States and El Salvador. In Jamaica, she is also a Notary Public and a Board member of the Association, as well as a Supreme Court Mediator and an Associate Arbitrator. In her practice of law she deals with Constitutional and Fundamental Human Rights Law, Property and Conveyancing Law, Contract Law, Estates Law and Family Law and some corporate matters. Mrs. Macaulay was the chairperson of the Family Law Committee of the Jamaican Bar Association for almost 20 years and a member of the Law Reform, the Publications and the Human Rights and Constitutional Committees. She is a serving member of the Disciplinary Committee of the General Legal Council of Jamaica.

She was also a volunteer member of several human rights organizations both nationally, regionally (She was President of the Jamaican national women’s association and the Chairperson of the Caribbean women’s association) and internationally including the Coalition for an International Criminal Court and the Women’s Gender Initiative, both now in the Hague.

Mrs. Macaulay has presented papers in international, regional, and national conferences, seminars and workshops and has facilitated in many training sessions. She has also taught courses on women’s human rights at the American University, Washington D.C., and at UPEACE University, Costa Rica and the College of Law, London, England. Mrs. Macaulay earned her LL.B Honours degree from the University of London, Holborn College and is a member of Gray’s Inn.

She is passionate about her interest and positions on human rights issues and is committed to work avidly in it up to her death.
Rosa María Ortiz
Ex Commissioner and Rapporteur on the Rights of Children, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OAS

Rosa María Ortiz is a citizen of Paraguay. She was elected at the 41st OAS General Assembly in June 2011 for the standard four-year term, which began on January 1, 2012. She graduated in social communications media and is an expert in children’s human rights. She has been Vice-President of the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child and adviser on human rights and cultural diversity for the Paraguayan Presidency’s National Secretariat of Culture.

She is founder and member of several human rights organizations, including Decidamos, Global, Tekoha, Callescuela and Workshop on Communication and Popular Education. In 2003 she was recognized with the award Paraguayan Women of the Paraguayan Presidency’s Women’s Secretariat, and in 2010 she received the award Peter Benenson for the Defense of Human Rights from the Paraguay Section of Amnesty International.

During Alfredo Stroessner’s dictatorship, she worked through ecumenical organizations in favor of the political prisoners of her country. Commissioner Ortiz has offered numerous conferences, workshops and has written articles on the rights of children.

Leonel Briozzo
Advisor to the Secretary General, OAS

Leonel Briozzo is Professor and Director of the Department of Gynecology “A” - School of Medicine, University of the Republic, Member of the FIGO Committee for the Ethical Aspects of Human Reproduction and Women’s Health.

He is Coordinator of the Organization of American States’ (OAS) Initiative “More life and more health for women
and children” and the Representative of the OAS at the Regional Technical Group for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality (UNFPA-PAHO/WHO.

Mr. Briozzo is the National Advisor for the Uruguayan Medical Collage (Colegio Medico del Uruguay) and President of the Uruguayan Society of Sexual and Reproductive Health International Strategic Advisor for “IniciativasSanitarias” - IPPF-RHO

Óscar Cabrera
O’Neill Institute, Georgetown University Law School

Oscar A. Cabrera, Abogado (JD equivalent), LL.M., is the Executive Director of the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law and a Visiting Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center. Previously at the O'Neill Institute, Oscar has served as the Deputy Director, Senior Fellow, and a Law Fellow.

He is a foreign-trained attorney who earned his law degree in his home country of Venezuela, and his Master of Laws (LL.M.), with concentration in Health Law and Policy, at the University of Toronto. Before starting his Master’s Degree program, Oscar worked as an Associate at a Venezuelan law firm (d’Empaire Reyna Bermúdez). Oscar was awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Health Law and Policy Fellowship for his Master’s program. After earning his LL.M., he worked as a Research Associate with Professor Colleen Flood, at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law and the Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (CIHR-IHSPR). In this capacity, he was involved in several health law related projects.

Oscar has worked on projects with the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, among other organizations. He has studied and is interested in various health law related fields, such as public health law, sexual and reproductive rights, health and human rights, global tobacco litigation and health systems law and policy.
Latanya Mapp Frett is the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Global, the international arm of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, with regional and country offices in Africa and Latin America. She has quadrupled the size of the program in four years to become one of the most innovative and sustainable global health organizations in the field. Ms. Frett previously worked for 8 years as a human rights officer for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and for 10 years with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Ms. Frett served as a delegate to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and continues to fight for the human rights of women.

An attorney by training, she began her career at the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund in Washington, DC. She has received many honors and awards, including two Esteemed Meritorious Honor Awards from the U.S. government and the highest honor in civil service, the Superior Honor Award, from the U.S. State Department. Ms. Frett was one of 30 Foreign Service Officers honored with the Colin Powell Fellowship by then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. She currently serves as Board of Director at Oxfam America and CHANGE, and is an Adjunct Professor of Population and Family Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Ms. Frett is a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and author of four U.N. human rights reports and manuals. She is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and Alum of ICAP. She holds a bachelor of arts in government and politics, a master's in public policy, and a JD from the University of Maryland.
Luz Patricia Mejía
Technical Secretary of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belem do Pará Convention (MESECVI/OAS)

Luz Patricia Mejía is the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI. Previously, she has served Rapporteur for Women’s Rights, Commissioner and President of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR).

A graduate of the Faculty of Juridical and Political Sciences of the Central University of Venezuela, she previously worked as Director of the Legal Office of the Public Ministry, and with the Office of the Ombudsperson in Venezuela.

Jennifer Loten
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Organization of American States

In August of 2015, Jennifer Loten was appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. In 1997, she joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. She has served as consul for Canada in Anchorage, Alaska, as Canada’s interim representative to the Organization of American States in Washington and as second secretary at the Embassy of Canada to Brazil.

Before joining the federal government, Loten worked in the program office for Speaking Out On Violence Against Women at MATCH International in Ottawa. She also served as a gender and development research officer at the International Development Research Centre and on Canada’s 1990 Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies. Loten holds a bachelor’s degree from Trent University and a master’s degree from the University of Cambridge.
The Organization of American States (OAS) brings together the nations of the Western hemisphere to promote democracy, strengthen human rights, foster peace, security and cooperation and advance common interests. The origins of the Organization date back to 1890 when nations of the region formed the Pan American Union to forge closer hemispheric relations. This union later evolved into the OAS and in 1948, 21 nations signed its governing charter. Since then, the OAS has expanded to include the nations of the English-speaking Caribbean and Canada, and today all of the independent nations of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean make up its 35 member states.

The Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) is an independent, consensus-based peer evaluation system that looks at the progress made by States Party to the Convention in fulfilling its objectives. MESECVI is financed by voluntary contributions from the States Party to the Convention and other donors, and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the OAS acts as its Secretariat.

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