



Webinar

## ¿Dónde están las mujeres? La trata de personas y la Convención de Belém do Pará

#LibresDeViolencia

### **CIM/OAS seeks to incorporate gender approach to address the trafficking of women**

September 15, 2020. On Monday, September 14, the virtual dialogue "**Where are the women? Human trafficking and the Convention of Belém do Pará**", organized by the Inter-American Commission of Women ([CIM/OAS](#)) and the Follow-up Mechanism of Belém do Pará ([MESECVI](#)), together with the [Ministry of Women of Paraguay](#). The objective of this event was to make visible the challenges that still persist in the identification and assistance of trafficked women and girls, while emphasizing the commitments to prevention, care and reparation for victims made by the States, as set forth in the Convention.

The webinar included the participation of Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS; Nilda Romero, Minister of Women of Paraguay; Farah Urrutia, Secretary for Multidimensional Security of the OAS; Karina Núñez Rodríguez, activist and human rights defender, founder of O.TRA.S Uruguay; and was moderated by Luz Patricia Mejía, Technical Secretary of the MESECVI and Senior Specialist of the CIM/OAS.

*"Women and girls are the main victims of trafficking in the world and in our region, a highly feminized human rights violation and a form of gender-based violence; it is not acceptable that in 2020 we still have to face this level of slavery. A real and effective response can only come from collective work, political will and the strength of civil society, as well as a gender and human rights approach in which victims can achieve*

*compensation for their rights," said Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS.*

*On the occasion, Minister Nilda Romero pointed out that "organized crime of human trafficking takes advantage of crisis situations and takes possession of people as products or merchandise. The increase in the forms of violence against women had already taken pandemic scale before COVID-19, so with the emergence of a health emergency like the one we are experiencing we see an increase in violence that mainly affects the lives of women."*

The conversation opened a space to make visible the relationship between human trafficking with the high number of missing women and girls in the region, as well as the persistence of gender stereotypes that affect the investigation processes and impede women's access to justice without discrimination. On this issue, the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI had presented in 2018 [General Recommendation No. 2 on Missing Women and Girls in the Hemisphere](#).

During the event, the observation made by the MESECVI in an Amicus Curiae presented to the CEDAW Committee in 2019, on a case of human trafficking, was also recalled. In this legal analysis, the Mechanism argues that the burden of proof should be reversed and that it is the State's duty to act with due diligence to identify the nature of the violence and the woman as a victim and to adopt all necessary measures to ensure her effective protection.

[Full video of the webinar](#)

*The [CIM/OAS](#) is the region's main political forum for the recognition of women's human rights and gender equality. Since its creation in 1928, the CIM has played a predominant and strategic role in the promotion of women's rights in the hemisphere.*