



## **CIM and MESECVI call for building a new normality free of violence against women**

*Washington DC, November 25, 2020.* In the context of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the [Inter-American Commission of Women \(CIM\)](#) of the [Organization of American States \(OAS\)](#) and the [Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women \(MESECVI\)](#) call on the States of the region to build a new gender social pact that guarantees a life free of violence for all women and girls.

The new normality must be conceived under the logic of equality and non-discrimination, and this requires comprehensive solutions that include significant financial resources to influence cultural changes and the reproduction of stereotypes that continue to recreate and normalize violence against women. In this regard, it is important to highlight the key role of education and the media in the prevention and eradication of this violence, as established in the Convention of Belém do Pará, an international instrument signed and ratified by 32 of the 34 OAS Member States.

Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS, emphasized that "thanks to the struggle of many women, it has become clear that gender-based violence is not a private or domestic matter, nor a chance occurrence. We must provide comprehensive solutions aimed at eradicating the other pandemic that affects half of the population: violence against women and girls. Together with the CIM we reinforce our commitment to bring the needs of women to the top of the international agenda."

"COVID-19 evidenced how major structural inequalities differentially affect women. The first and most obvious was gender-based violence against women. The 'stay at home' has meant putting the lives and physical integrity of many women at risk. From the CIM, as part of the architecture of equality in the region, we will continue to take this agenda to the highest level, as we did in 1994 with the adoption of the most important treaty on violence: the Convention of Belém do Pará," said Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the CIM.

Mayra Jiménez, President of the CIM and Minister of Women of the Dominican Republic, emphasized that "the strength of the Mirabal Sisters, their struggle and their legacy, call us to redouble our efforts to eradicate violence against women and girls. From the CIM we have a historic commitment to provide accompaniment and support to the Ministers of Women and/or high gender authorities to advance the agenda of equality, justice and women's rights".

Preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls requires that the States ensure the institutional strengthening of the Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women, through permanent budgetary resources aimed at developing comprehensive public policies that include a gender perspective and an intersectional approach to address the increase in violence caused by measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Likewise, it is essential to count on the responsibility of all socialization instances as allies of equality and non-violence against women.

No regression is admissible in the rights achieved by women, during or after this crisis.

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*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.*

*The [MESECVI](#) is a systematic and permanent multilateral evaluation methodology, based on a forum for exchange and technical cooperation among the States Parties to the Convention and a Committee of Experts.*