

## **Committee of Experts laments that 201 girls have been forced to continue their pregnancies in 2017 in the province of Misiones, Argentina**

The [Committee of Experts](#) of the Follow-up Mechanism to the [Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI) laments that 201 girls under the age of 14 have been forced to continue their pregnancies during the year 2017 in the Province of Misiones in Argentina, according to the statements of the Minister of Social Development, Lisandro Benmaor.

Through the [Hemispheric Report on Sexual Violence and Child Pregnancy in the States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention](#) (2016), the Committee has indicated that, according to the regulations in the region, all pregnancies of girls under 14 years of age should be considered a result of sexual violence. Therefore, states should guarantee specialized attention to girls who have suffered this type of violence, investigate these aggressions and ensure their access to interruption of pregnancy and subsequent services in security and without discrimination.

Although the province of Misiones has a protocol for the care of rape victims that includes emergency contraception and non-punishable abortions, the concern of the Committee points to the fact that, in practice 201 girls could not access the services that are supposedly available for these cases. This not only shows the lack of application of the protocol, but also the failure of the country to guarantee the protection of girls who must face very serious consequences in their psychological, physical and reproductive health.

Child pregnancy is of high risk, increases the risk of maternal and infant mortality and generates other problems such as premature births, fetal distress, among other serious consequences for the life projects of girls. For this reason, the Committee urges the State to investigate the cases of the 201 affected girls, clarify the reasons why the existing protocol was breached and ensure effective access to all girls who need it. Finally, the State is encouraged to double its efforts to guarantee the human rights of all women and girls, as well as to adapt any plan or protocol as established in the Belém do Pará Convention, the recommendations of the Committee and other international legislation in the matter.

*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.*

