



Committee of Experts condemns the murder of Marielle Franco in Brazil

The [Committee of Experts](#) of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women "[Convention of Belém do Pará](#)" ([MESECVI](#)) condemns and mourns the murder of councilor, activist and human rights defender Marielle Franco and her companion Anderson Pedro Gomes, in Rio de Janeiro.

According to various media sources, the activist was on her way to participate in an event for the rights of Afro-descendant women in a neighborhood of the city. They also emphasize that the defender stood out for her efforts to promote the rights of the Afro-descendant population, especially those of women, and for denouncing police violence in the poorest neighborhoods of the city.

For the Committee of Experts, this tragedy reveals the situation of vulnerability that human rights defenders experience in the country and represents a setback in the international commitments made by the State of Brazil to guarantee the right of all women to live free of violence.

Additionally, the Committee condemns the political violence exercised against the defender and expresses its concern about the risk that other women engaged in public affairs or politics might be facing. Faced with this serious situation experienced by other women in the region, the Committee has drafted a Model Inter-American Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women in Political Life, with the goal of supporting women's full exercise of their political rights under equal conditions in all the spaces and functions of political and public life.

The Committee recalls that Article 7 of the Convention of Belém do Pará obliges the States Party to act with due diligence to investigate and punish violence against women, establishing fair and efficient legal procedures, including protective measures, a timely trial and effective access to said procedures, as well as establishing the necessary judicial and administrative mechanisms to ensure that the victim's family has effectual and just access to compensation and/or damage reparation.

Finally, this Committee highlights the lack of compliance with the orders issued by international organizations that protected Marielle Franco's right to freedom, integrity and security. Consequently, the Committee urges the Brazilian authorities to take all necessary measures to prevent, punish and eradicate violence and harassment against women in public and political life, in conformity with the commitments set forth in the Convention of Belém do Pará, international instrument subscribed and ratified by the State of Brazil.

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.