



Committee of Experts welcomes that the Constitutional Court of Colombia recognizes and seeks to prevent institutional violence against women

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the [Belém do Pará Convention \(MESECVI\)](#) welcomes that, after the First Family Commissioner of Bogotá denied protection measures to a woman victim of aggressions by her ex-partner, the Constitutional Court of Colombia affirms that the authorities in charge of the care of women victims of violence incur institutional violence when their actions or omissions cause them psychological damage to the victims.

The Court's Review Chamber concluded that the irregularities committed against the victim constituted acts of institutional violence against her, since, as a victim of domestic violence, she sought the protection of said authority. Consequently, the Court stated that this violence is the result of acts of discrimination that prevent women from accessing effective protection, sending victims, their families and society a message that the state authority tolerates aggression against women.

The Committee welcomes the measures that the Court has announced to prevent the State from becoming a re-victimizer of women victims of violence, among which the following stand out: i) the process of protection measures and the compliance process must occur within a reasonable term to avoid new acts of violence; ii) women should be allowed access to information about the status of the investigation so that they exercise their right to defense; iii) officials responsible for the care route should be impartial, ensuring that their decisions are not based on preconceptions about the way in which a victim of violence must act or the seriousness of the facts so that they are recognized as an aggression; among others.

It should be recalled that, through the [Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI, 2017), the Committee has maintained that the obligation of the States is fundamentally positive, which means organizing the institutional apparatus in such a way that all people can access justice. To this end, States must remove the regulatory, social or economic obstacles that impede or limit the possibility of access to justice for women and girls.

For all the above, the Committee welcomes the political will of the State to prevent, punish and eradicate institutional violence against women, in order to guarantee effective access to justice for all women, girls and adolescents in the country, as well as guaranteeing that the victims are not held responsible for the violence suffered. This initiative corresponds to a significant advance in the State's commitments to sign and ratify the Belém do Pará Convention.

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.