



## **Committee of Experts welcomes that Costa Rica declares violence against women as a priority interest**

The [Committee of Experts](#) of the Follow-up Mechanism of the [Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI) welcomes the issuance of a decree and directive declaring the prevention and care of violence against women as of national priority interest on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Costa Rica.

According to the National Institute for Women (INAMU), the decree incorporates around 40 actions and obliges all state entities to register or strengthen programs to prevent and address violence against women, within the framework of the National Policy for Prevention and Attention to Violence against Women of all ages (PLANOVI 2017-2032).

Among the actions announced, the decree highlights the creation of new Centers for Comprehensive Care and Shelter for women and their children (CEAAM), the expansion of local committees for immediate care and monitoring of situations of high risk of femicide (Clais) and the creation of new Social Defenders in vulnerable areas. In this regard, the Minister for the Status of Women, Ana Patricia Mora Castellanos, said that "it is clear that we are in a situation where we have to act more quickly and raise our voices so that this violation of human rights stops."

In this regard, through the [Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI, 2017), the Committee has urged the States Party to approve public policies aimed at preventing and eradicating conducts, cultural or discriminatory practices based on the subordination or inferiority of women and girls, taking into account the intersectionality with other dimensions of discrimination, such as girls, elders, indigenous people, afro-descendants, immigrants, displaced people, inmates, women from rural areas, with disabilities or in poverty.

The Committee welcomes the political will of the State to carry out national plans, actions and programs to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women, in order to guarantee a life free of violence for all women, girls and adolescents in the country. This initiative corresponds to a significant advance in the State's commitments upon signing and ratifying 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.*