



## **Committee of Experts expresses its concern over number of femicides and speech that foments violence against women in Costa Rica**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the [Belém do Pará Convention \(MESECVI\)](#), received information on worrying number of femicides and about the proliferation of hate speech against women in Costa Rica in the context of the last electoral process.

In this context, the Committee expresses its deep concern over the murder of 9 women so far this year, of which 7 occurred in March, during the electoral period. In its [Declaration on Femicide](#), the Committee notes that the high rates of violence against women, their limited or lack of access to justice, the impunity that prevails in cases and the persistence of discriminatory sociocultural patterns, among other causes affect the increase in gender-based deaths of women.

At the same time, the Committee expresses its concern over the proliferation of moral and / or religious discourses that encourage violence, discrimination and insecurity against women. The Committee has been firm in pointing out that discrimination and violence against women constitute violations of human rights, and justifications based on religious beliefs or values are not admissible.

For the Committee, this speech confuses society, promotes insecurity and total helplessness of women victims of violence. It also justifies discrimination and harmful practices against them, deepening machismo and misogyny. It fosters a culture of intolerance that affects democratic coexistence, reinforce and perpetuate discriminatory gender roles and stereotypes, and legitimize violence against women. Given this serious situation that thousands of women live in the region, the Committee has expressed its concern through the [Declaration on Gender and Women's Empowerment as a Benefit to Humanity](#).

At the same time, the Committee expresses its concern over the presentation of a bill in the Legislative Assembly to transform the National Institute of Women (INAMU) into a family institute. INAMU is the organism in charge of protection of women and struggle to end violence and discrimination against them. Its transformation puts at risk the fulfillment of the responsibilities assumed by the State upon ratifying the Belém do Pará Convention.

Therefore, the Committee encourages the deepening and dissemination of knowledge with a gender perspective and the strengthening of the secular state. Together, the State is encouraged to condemn all forms of violence against women by all appropriate means and without delay of any kind and to continue to deepen policies aimed at preventing, punishing and eradicating such

violence, as established in Article 7 of the [Belém do Pará Convention](#). Finally, the Committee reiterates the call to adapt to the commitments enshrined in this Convention, an international instrument signed and ratified by Costa Rica.

*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 among its nationals, who exercise their functions in a personal capacity.*