



## **Committee of Experts laments the dismissal of the Secretary for Women in Guatemala**

The [Committee of Experts](#) of the Follow-up Mechanism to the [Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI) laments the dismissal of Dr. Ana Leticia Aguilar Theissen as Presidential Secretary for Women (SEPREM) by the President of Guatemala, Jimmy Morales. According to various sources, the former Secretary for Women was dismissed after speaking in favor of Draft Law 5376 for the Comprehensive Protection of Girls and Adolescent Victims of Sexual Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in the Congress of the Republic.

We highlight the work of Dr. Aguilar Theissen with SEPREM to promote equality between women and men, as well as her struggle to prevent and eradicate violence against girls and women. These commitments to equality are in line with the international commitments adopted by the State of Guatemala in the area of women's human rights.

For this reason, the Committee applauds Dr. Aguilar Theissen's support for Draft Law 5376 and encourages all State agencies to ensure the protection of all girls, adolescents and women victims of sexual violence, sexual exploitation, trafficking in persons and any type of violence.

Finally, this Committee offers its support to the State in its work to deepen efforts to guarantee the human rights of all women and girls as established in the Belém do Pará Convention, the recommendations of this 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.*