

COMPREHENSIVE LAWS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



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The Committee of Experts of the MESECVI¹ recommends that States implement comprehensive laws that address all forms of violence in the public and private spheres.

OF THE
32 STATES

PARTY TO THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION:

8 countries have comprehensive laws:

Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

The other countries have laws that protect women in the private sphere.



Why have comprehensive laws?

Because, among other advantages, they make a wide-ranging approach possible, expand protection for the victims, and help coordinate the different institutions involved in public policy, access to justice, investigation, and gathering information and statistics.

Challenges: To broaden the laws that address only domestic violence or do not address all forms of violence, pursuant to the definition established by the Belém do Pará Convention.

WHAT DOES THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION SAY?

Article 7: The States Party condemn all forms of violence against women and agree to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies to prevent, punish, and eradicate such violence and undertake to: c) include in their domestic legislation penal, civil, administrative, and any other type of provisions that may be needed to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women, and to adopt appropriate administrative measures where necessary.

Additional source and resources: Second Follow-Up Report on the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, available at <http://www.oas.org/en/mese cvi/docs/MESECVI-SegundoInformeSeguimiento-EN.pdf>

¹ Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Belém do Pará Convention."