



## **Committee of Experts expresses concerns over the situation of sexual exploitation of girls, adolescents and women in Marajó**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women "[Belém do Pará Convention](#)" ([MESECVI](#)) expresses its concerns over the situation of sexual exploitation of girls, adolescents and women in Marajó. This Committee believes that the explanation provided, about this matter, that states that poor girls are raped "because of their lack of underwear" is an additional form of violence against them.

This Committee of Experts reiterates that there is no justification that justifies sexual violence, or any type of violence against women and girls. Through the [Declaration on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for the Good of Humanity](#), the Committee has expressed its concern about these type of declarations that defend as natural the social, political and economic patriarchal order, hinder substantive equality, as they deepen chauvinism and misogyny, reinforce and perpetrate stereotypes and discriminatory gender roles and an intolerance culture, that affects democratic coexistence, obstructs the exercise of women's rights and legitimizes violence against them.

Article 6 of the [Belém do Pará Convention](#) establishes the right of every woman to be free of all forms of discrimination and to be valued and educated free of stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority or subordination. Likewise, Article 7 declares that States must adopt policies aimed at preventing, punishing and eradicating such violence, as well as refraining from any action or practice of violence against women, ensuring that authorities, officials, staff and agents and institutions behave in accordance with this obligation. Similarly, Article 9 states that States must take into account the situation of vulnerability to violence that women and girls may suffer due to their unfavorable socioeconomic status, among others.

For all the above mentioned, this Committee urges Brazilian authorities to increase the efforts in training public officers with a gender perspective as well as taking all the necessary measures to prevent the proliferation of discriminatory discourses that confuse society, encourage tolerance and normalization of sexual violence against women and girls and deviates the guilt of this crime towards the victim, instead of holding the perpetrator accountable. Additionally, the Committee calls upon the State of Brazil to comply with its international obligations undertaken through its signing and ratifying the Belém do Pará Convention, to intensify its efforts to implement the Committee of Experts' recommendations, in order to reach inter-American and international standards in the matters of human rights of women and girls.

*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.*