



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)
rev.1
Ninth Meeting of the Committee of Experts
November 12th to 14th 2012
México City, Mexico

OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10
MESECVI/CEVI/doc.188/13

July 30th 2013
Original: Spanish

**PROGRESS INDICATORS FOR MEASURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
INTER AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT AND
ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
“BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION”**

Adopted by the Committee of Experts (CEVI) on 21st May 2013

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I. VALUATION OF EXISTING EFFORTS TO MEASURE THE EXERCISE OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO LIVE A LIFE FREE FROM VIOLENCE. PROGRESS INDICATORS FOR THEIR MEASURING.¹

I.1. Introduction

Undeniable progress has been made in Latin America and the Caribbean in efforts to prevent, punish, and eradicate all forms of violence against women. International organizations, inter-governmental agencies, and the States of the region alike have striven for progress in guaranteeing women and girls a life free from violence. In that process, the enactment and entry into force of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention) was key in organizing, in terms of State obligations, the array of initiatives to address violence against women, in which civil society and the women's movement have played a leading role.

After two multilateral evaluation rounds conducted by the Committee of Experts of the Follow-Up Mechanism to Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), the importance of measuring the impact that each country in the region has had on the Convention's implementation has been repeatedly highlighted by the Experts. The challenge is to systematize the efforts, initiatives, and policies developed by the States in such a way as to be able to assess and monitor compliance with the obligations to ensure women's right to a life free from violence.

To that end, the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI has adopted decisions that aim to concentrate efforts on the establishment and utilization of indicators that enable us to follow up on the recommendations contained in the country and Hemispheric reports on the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention, while taking into account concerns expressed by the States Party regarding the numerous reporting obligations they are under with respect to an array of international treaties and other agreements.

The **objective** of progress indicators to measure State efforts to guarantee women's right to a life free from violence is to provide a set of useful tools for assessing the situation of the rights of women in each State Party and evaluating compliance with the provisions of the Belem do Pará Convention; weighing the progress made in fulfilling each obligation contained and identifying pending issues and agendas based on participatory dialogue with civil society. By these means, strategies can be formulated and cross-cutting public policies designed aimed at the progressive and integral satisfaction of the set of rights enshrined in the Convention.

Prior progress made by the States Party in implementing the Convention, as evaluated by the Committee of Experts through its participatory multi-lateral evaluation process, has paved the

¹ The document "Valuation of existing efforts to measure the exercise of women's right to live a life free from violence. Progress indicators for their measuring." was developed in January 2013 by Laura Pautassi and Natalia Gherardi from the Latin American Gender and Justice Team (ELA), at the request of the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. This document, to be published by the MESECVI in 2013, describes and explains the construction of rights-based indicators and their application to measuring international obligations under the Convention of Belém do Pará and has provided an important theoretical basis to the current proposal, which was adopted by the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI on May 21st 2013.

way for the establishment of these progress indicators. The development and implementation of questionnaires that were completed by the States Party and the recommendations of the country and Hemispheric reports on the implementation of the Convention have served as crucial inputs to the definition of these indicators by the Committee, in addition to facilitating the systematization of good practices, as well as challenges faced by the States in implementing the Convention.^{2/}

These actions have been complemented by the work of various bodies that also monitor the level of progress made in implementing the Convention, all of which have coincided in highlighting the need for a useful instrument that will guide the ongoing design and evaluation of public policies within the States that aim ensure fulfillment of the set of rights of women to be free from violence.

Progress indicators are measures designed to assess the level of compliance with those obligations defined in the norms—in this case the Belém do Pará Convention—and the standards arising from authorized interpretation of those norms. Specifically, rights-based indicators respond to the normative content and the obligations incumbent upon the States that are derived from international human rights law. In turn, those bodies that have been authorized to interpret these treaties and conventions—in this case the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI—establish a series of obligations in connection with each specific right through the country reports that it prepares. These country reports establish specific guidelines that the States Party are to take into account in designing national strategies for compliance with the Convention and define indicators to measure State action, including not only the fulfillment of the agreements set forth in the Convention, but also the standards of interpretation established by the Committee of Experts.

Indicators are parameters or units for quantitative measurement that can be achieved and verified in relation to a criterion. Empirical verification, in turn, must be complemented by qualitative techniques, such as the use of signs of qualitative progress that are not based on pre-established categories or a given scale of measurement (statistics), but that capture the actor's own definition of the situation and the meaning that he or she assigns to the phenomenon being evaluated, which are key in the interpretation of the facts. The specific purpose of progress indicators is: i) to reflect the progression of changes up to the full satisfaction of the right (the objective); and ii) to monitor follow-up of the achievements that contribute to obtaining the desired objective, which is full compliance with the-negative and positive-obligations contained in the Belém do Pará Convention.³

² In 2008, the Committee of Experts adopted a proposal of 38 quantitative and qualitative indicators that cover the four specific topics addressed in the First Multi-lateral Evaluation Round: i) legislation, regulations, and national plans; ii) access to justice; iii) national budgets; and iv) information and statistics. The Committee adopted these indicators, according priority to those to which replies were most likely to be received from the States, so that results could be measured. (MESECVI (2011), *Follow-up Report on the Recommendations made by the CEVI in the Evaluation Stage of the First Multilateral Evaluation Round* (OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10, MESECVI-III/doc.57/11), available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/biblioteca.asp>)

³ The indicators adopted by the Committee of Experts were mixed in nature, resulting from a combination of quantitative and qualitative indicators (MESECVI (2008a), *Indicators to follow up the recommendations of the*

The progress indicators proposed herein reflect the various concerns expressed by the States Party, through their Competent National Authority (CNA), in a number of technical and political forums on: i) the dearth of technical, financial, and human resources made available to the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women; and ii) their reiterated concern at the sheer number of reports to be transmitted to different international or regional monitoring bodies. Accordingly, the proposed progress indicators seek to simplify procedures and bring greater conceptual and methodological precision to the monitoring process carried out by the Committee of Experts. The main aim of the system of progress indicators, in turn, is to facilitate the work of the Experts so that they can establish quantitative and qualitative units of measure to measure more precisely progress in following up on the recommendations made based on the questionnaires, country reports, and Hemispheric Reports and on the major efforts of the CEVI, especially regarding the definition of indicators.

The system of progress indicators to measure a life free from violence against women is based on the principle of return, yielding, for both States Party and the Committee of Experts, the following benefits:

- i. **For the States Party:** it enables them to standardize available information; begin a process of evaluation of actions taken and pending challenges; avoid duplication of information and efforts, and better identify gaps in existing information sources; harmonize the progress indicators used in line with common provisions of the inter-American human rights system; more widely disseminate information on rights; and launch a process of participatory dialogue with the different civil society actors that should have a voice in establishing and implementing the obligations derived from the Convention;
- ii. **For the Experts of the MESECVI:** the use of progress indicators facilitates more precise measurement of the level of compliance by States Party and the quantification and qualification of the process, which, in turn, unleashes tremendous potentialities, such as the ability to establish a baseline to measure the process over time and identify gaps in the fulfillment of the objectives and recommendations made to the States; allows the Committee to identify information sources necessary and suitable for assessing the realization of women's rights; and simplifies procedures while facilitating more in-depth analysis and progress in identifying challenges faced by States in implementing the Convention. The system of progress indicators, in turn, constitutes a step further than the questionnaires, though ever based on the actions set forth in those instruments, so as to be able to translate the States Party replies into comparable and empirically verifiable parameters and units of measurement.

This proposal of progress indicators is based on the indicators developed for the first and second rounds to follow-up on the recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI,⁴ re-grouped in a matrix that was adopted by OAS Member States during the 42nd Regular Session of the General Assembly (2012) in order to guide the follow-up of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (San Salvador Protocol).⁵ The objective of this harmonization is to provide and encourage a common analytical matrix based on indicators and qualitative signs of progress that will allow for the measurement of compliance with the obligations contained in the Belém do Pará Convention and other agreements that guarantee a life free from violence for all women of the Americas.

I.2. Progress indicators: conceptual and methodological specifics

As a complex phenomenon, violence against women is difficult to grasp using a one-size-fits-all empirical research strategy. Instead, the idea is to combine analyses based on a variety of sources that can be underpinned by techniques for producing both qualitative and quantitative data. The right to be free from violence conceptualizes “non-violence” as a right, which allows for its measurement with rights-based indicators that reflect gaps in State action, such as non-compliance with binding obligations.

There are significant differences between social indicators and rights-based indicators, or indicators that measure the exercise of rights. One key difference is that **social indicators** identify and quantify a phenomenon in and of itself and then construct scales, behaviours, indices, and variables associated with the phenomenon, with some interrelationships between the areas they cover (well-being, education, health, work). For their part, **rights-based indicators** are conceptually based on the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,⁶ to the extent that they do not just quantify, they also qualitatively assess the conduct of States and establish interrelationships in progress toward the fulfillment of human rights and the responsibility of the State through its three branches of government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

Strictly speaking, a human right may only be said to be “fully realized” when effective (administrative, judicial, or quasi-judicial) means exist to allow people to demand observance, protection, and the effective exercise of the right in question, be it a civil, political, economic, or social right as indicated in Articles 4 and 5 of the Belém do Pará Convention. At the same time, this “full realization” is only attained when the so-called “categories” of rights—civil and political rights (CPR) and economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCR)—are both observed and guaranteed and when the satisfaction of all (not just some) rights is guaranteed, because human rights are

⁴ MESECVI, 2008a, op.cit.; MESECVI, 2011, op.cit.; MESECVI (2012a), *Draft Indicators of the Second Multilateral Evaluation Round for Follow up to the Committee of Experts' (CEVI) Recommendations* (OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10, MESECVI/CEVI/doc.176/12); MESECVI (2012b), *Second Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention*. Washington, D.C.: Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention, Organization of American States; MESECVI (2012), National responses to the *questionnaires/Country reports*, available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/library.asp>.

⁵*Progress Indicators in Respect of Rights contemplated in the Protocol of San Salvador* More information at: [http://www.oas.org/consejo/cajp/fortalecimiento.asp#Protocol of San Salvador](http://www.oas.org/consejo/cajp/fortalecimiento.asp#Protocol%20of%20San%20Salvador)

⁶Principles enshrined in Article 5 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights, 1993.

themselves the goal of development and progress, rather than a means to achieving it. This distinction applies to the measurement tools: socio-economic indicators measure the degree of development achieved, while rights-based indicators measure whether progress has actually been made in the fulfillment of each right.

From the standpoint of rights, both the universal and the inter-American systems for the protection of human rights have opted to classify indicators by differentiating between **progress indicators** (which, in turn, are classified as structural indicators and process indicators) and **outcome indicators**.⁷ Methodologically, a number of different indicators are required so that, taken together, they can yield a more refined measurement, which also involves additional techniques and qualitative factors.

Much of the work done by the Committee of Experts through the First and Second Multilateral Evaluation Rounds has been to identify the levels of fulfillment and compliance with the provisions of the Belém do Pará Convention. On that basis, and seeking to align the questionnaire submitted to the States Party with the methodology used for other follow-up mechanisms of the inter-American and universal human rights systems, a series of progress indicators has been prepared to measure the realization of the right to be free from violence, as stipulated in the Convention. To that end, the proposal also incorporates various existing proposals from other organizations and experts, as well as specific recommendations on appropriate ways to measure the different manifestations of violence,⁸ with the aim of incorporating, as precisely as possible, the range of proposals that are currently being implemented.

I.3. Proposed Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention

The indicator system proposed in this document for measuring fulfillment of the obligations under the Convention, as well as the implementation of the recommendations made by the

⁷ MESECVI, 2012b, op.cit.; United Nations (2006a), *Report on indicators for monitoring compliance with international human rights instruments* (HRI/MC/2006/7), and U.N. (2008), *Report on indicators for promoting and monitoring the implementation of human rights* (HRI/MC/2008/3). As for the inter-American system, this distinction was first made by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (2008), *Guidelines for Preparation of Progress Indicators in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights*, Organization of American States (OAS), Washington, D.C., and subsequently in the document *Progress Indicators in Respect of Rights contemplated in the Protocol of San Salvador* (OEA/Ser.L/XXV.2.1.GT/PSSI/doc.2/11), prepared by the Working Group to Examine the National Reports Contemplated in the Protocol of San Salvador, Washington, D.C., December 2011.

⁸ We have analyzed, *inter alia*, the proposals put forward by:

- ECLAC (2006) *Guía de asistencia técnica para la producción y el uso de indicadores de género*. Santiago, Chile: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Alméras, D., Milosavljevic, V., Montaña, S., and Rico, M., (2002) *Violencia contra la mujer en relación de pareja. América Latina y el Caribe. Una propuesta para medir su magnitud y evolución*. Serie Mujer y Desarrollo N° 40, Santiago, Chile: ECLAC
- UNSTATS (2009) “Informe de los Amigos de la Presidencia de la Comisión de Estadísticas de las Naciones Unidas sobre los indicadores de violencia contra la mujer,” E/CN.3/2009/13, adopted at the fortieth session, February 24-27, 2009;
- IIDH (2008), “Indicadores sobre violencia contra las mujeres. Sistematización y evaluación crítica” San José: Inter-American Institute of Human Rights;
- IIDH (2010) *Sistema de Indicadores para evaluar desde la sociedad civil el cumplimiento estatal de la Convención Interamericana para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar la Violencia contra la Mujer-Belém do Pará (SIBdP)* San José: IIDH;
- MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Women (REM) 2011. *Diagnóstico Regional. Indicadores en violencia doméstica basada en el género en el MERCOSUR*.

Committee of Experts of the MESECVI to the States Party includes three types of indicators: structural, process, and outcome.

The **structural indicators** reflect the ratification or adoption of basic international legal instruments for the realization of fundamental human rights. They compile information on how the State's institutional apparatus and legal system *are organized* to meet its obligations under the Convention. At the national level, the structural indicators show whether measures, legal norms, strategies, policies, plans or programs exist or have been adopted, and whether government agencies have been established to implement women's rights. Structural indicators must focus in particular on the domestic laws that relate to the right to live a life free from violence and on the institutional mechanisms that promote and enforce those laws. Although structural indicators basically point to the existence or non-existence of measures, they should also include relevant information on the nature and status of these measures, such as whether or not the rules are actually in effect or working, or the hierarchical status of a government agency or institution, or its functional sphere of competence. In other words, structural indicators should also tell us whether the State's regulatory framework and strategies are appropriate and effective for guaranteeing the right in question.

The Committee of Experts has included structural indicators in its work from the outset, with the specific aim of exploring "*the extent to which States had implemented the recommendation to use the broad definition of violence against women established in the Convention of Belém do Pará.*"⁹ The evaluation of these structural indicators, conducted from 2008 to 2010, found that this recommendation has been implemented only partially, since many States continue to focus compliance on laws that encompass intra-family or domestic violence, leaving women entirely unprotected in connection with other manifestations of violence committed in the public sphere.¹⁰

The **process indicators** seek to measure the quality and extent of the State's efforts to implement the rights protected, by measuring the scope, coverage, and content of the strategies, policies, plans, programs or other specific activities and interventions designed to achieve the targets corresponding to the realization of a particular right, as contemplated in the Convention. These indicators help us to *directly monitor the implementation* of public policies in terms of the gradual realization of rights. Process indicators can also provide information on changes in the levels of quality or coverage of programs and social services over a given period of time.

While a structural indicator normally does not require a benchmark (generally speaking, it yields a "yes" or "no" response), process indicators rely on benchmarks or targets that are usually expressed as figures or percentages. Process indicators are therefore more dynamic and geared to changes over time than structural indicators. They must also reflect the efforts of various

9 Recommendation 4 of the First Hemispheric Report: "Punish violence against women through reforms to the penal codes or the enactment of special laws, according to the provisions of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, Convention of Belém do Pará, and pursuant to international standards of international law on human rights." MESECVI (2008b), *First Hemispheric Report*, Washington, D.C.: MESECVI/OAS, available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/library.asp>.

10 MESECVI (2011) op. cit., 3, the Committee of Experts defined structural indicators in indicators 1.1.a to 1.3.

structures and bodies within the State to achieve the implementation of the obligations derived from the rights contemplated in the Belém do Pará Convention.

Article 7 of the Convention establishes the obligation of States to adopt policies to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women. Accordingly, process indicators were explicitly included in the recommendations of the Experts to the States Party, since not only is the design and implementation of public policies key to guaranteeing women's right to be free from violence, but these indicators also reflect the effective extent of the States' compliance with the obligations. Thus, Recommendation 18 of the First Hemispheric Report (2008) recommends that States "*Develop comprehensive and inter-sectoral national policies on violence against women, without limiting such policies to violence within the family or domestic violence,*" a recommendation that was strengthened in the Second Hemispheric Report (2012), as the Committee found that, in general, the States did not have comprehensive and inter-sectoral public policies on violence against women. Rather, they have action plans (in general, for equal opportunity or gender equality) or isolated national strategies, reflecting major effort by the State but without the impact of public policy and not implying a "*joint, coordinated effort by the State, organizations working in this area, and society.*"¹¹

The **outcome indicators** reflect individual and collective achievements pointing to the status of realization of a human right in a given context. They seek to measure the actual impact of State strategies, programs, and interventions concerning the guarantees of women's rights. To some extent, they constitute an indication of how public actions and policies impact those aspects that define the degree of effectiveness of a right upheld in the Convention. Thus, they provide a quantitatively comparative and verifiable measure of the State's performance with respect to the progressive realization of rights. Improvements in outcome indicators may be a sign that the measures adopted were appropriate and suggest gradual progress toward the full and effective exercise of rights.

Generally speaking, it is often difficult to use outcome indicators owing to the lack of information in many States of the Hemisphere. On every occasion, the Committee of Experts has reiterated its concern regarding the lack of available records and statistics on violence against women: "*Although some States provided recent figures, it is essential to have the information requested under the indicator to ascertain the magnitude of the problem of violence, its victims, its aggressors, and its extent. Without this information, realistic public policies cannot be designed or specific measures implemented to prevent and deal with this violence.*"¹² Consequently, the Committee has emphatically urged the States to step up efforts and investments in order to generate and compile quantitative and qualitative information, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, race, age, marital status, socioeconomic status, and migratory condition, among others, respecting standards of validity and methodological and statistical reliability.

The above indicators must be supplemented with **qualitative signs of progress**. These differ from indicators in that they do not set out from a pre-established category or an already given

¹¹ MESECVI (2011) op. cit., 10.

¹² MESECVI (2011) op. cit., 23.

scale of measurement (statistic), but rather take the situation as defined by the social actor involved and the meaning that she or he attaches to the phenomenon assessed: an interpretation that is ultimately vital for adequately explaining the facts. Signs of progress in these qualitative dimensions reflect progress in the full satisfaction of women's rights. If these rights have been established by taking real possibilities into account, signs of progress may best be interpreted sequentially over periods of time, in the short, medium or long term, although this is not an exclusive prerequisite.

Progress indicators are used to monitor achievements that contribute to obtaining fulfillment of women's rights. As mentioned above, the Committee of Experts recommended the incorporation of qualitative indicators and has placed particular emphasis on ensuring, for example, that health services for women victims of violence are adequate and in line with existing human rights standards, which has been translated as the "*4-A Scheme*."¹³ This system makes it possible to associate the individual components of each right (that it is available, affordable, acceptable, and adaptable) with the corresponding State obligations: affordability, accessibility, acceptability, and adaptability.

Put otherwise, the relationship between rights and obligations translates as:

1. The obligation of "**affordability**" or "**availability**," implying a duty to fulfill each of the rights included in the Convention, wherein each State Party assumes the dual obligation of: i) establishing means, services, or institutions appropriate to the set of duties established in Article 7 of the Convention and; ii) refraining (negative obligation) from "*any act or practice of violence against women and to ensure that their authorities, officials, personnel, agents, and institutions act in conformity with this obligation* (Article 7.a);
2. The obligation of "**accessibility**" makes it incumbent upon the State to guarantee the right all women to be free from violence, ensuring the availability of all means, actions, and services without any form of discrimination (Article 6 of the Convention).
3. The obligation of "**acceptability**," by which the State must ensure adequate quality of policies, actions, and services provided to guarantee women's right to be free from violence (Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention).
4. The obligation of "**adaptability**," makes it incumbent upon the State to develop policies and institutions and provide all services best geared to the needs of women, girls, and adolescents, elderly women, indigenous women, Afro-descendant women, women whose condition is as migrant, refugee, or displaced person, and women who are disabled or socio-economically disadvantaged (Article 9 of the Convention).

In order to optimize analysis and better organize the information surveyed in the process of monitoring compliance with the Belém do Pará Convention, we propose that States classify information submitted to the Committee of Experts below three headings: (i) acceptance of the

¹³The 4-A Scheme was originally developed by Katarina Tomaševski (2001): *Human rights obligations: making education available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable*. Education Primers No. 3. Novum Grafiska AB, Gothenburg, Sweden. Ms. Tomaševski served as a UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education. The system was later adopted for all human rights.

right; (ii) financial context and budgetary commitment; and (iii) institutional or State capacities. These categories enable us to capture the operational aspects of the realization of rights and will be monitored using indicators and signs of qualitative progress (structural, process, and outcome indicators, and qualitative signs of progress) in a common analysis matrix.

These *conceptual categories* correspond to different aspects in which the progress in the guarantee and the protection of the rights of women is reflected. The classification between *types* of indicators reflects the need to show that progress in ensuring every right under the Convention is given at different *levels*: in the structural conditions of State action and the context in which States operate, in the actions and the processes that States undertake and eventually in the results, in terms of the fulfillment of the right of women to live a life free from violence, which results from combining certain structural conditions with the specific actions that the State has taken to guarantee that right.

The intersection of these *dimensions* allows for different indicators to assess the State's progress in a certain *area*- for example the reception of a right- and at a certain *level*- such as structural conditions. This results in information on progress in fulfilling the right in a well located *sphere*- which in this case would be the degree of assimilation of a right established in the Convention in the norms that drive State action and the basic infrastructure that supports that action. Emphasis should be placed on this sphere, with particular notice of the obstacles that exist within it, in order to further advance the progressive realization of the right to the fulfillment of all rights of women.

The first category is **acceptance of the right** in the legal system, in the institutional apparatus, and in public policies. An attempt is made to cull information regarding the way in which rights protected under the Convention are built into the domestic legal system and public policies. On the one hand, the idea is to survey the level at which a right is upheld, the laws and regulations that recognize it, how it is enforced operationally, and how high it ranks in the legal hierarchy. Thus, each right in question may be recognized in the Constitution, in laws, in jurisprudence, or in government programs and practices. At the same time, information is sought on the scope of that recognition, that is to say, how precisely the State's fundamental obligations or the minimum enforceable standards are defined, and who the individual or collective holders of that right are, as well as the conditions governing its exercise. Finally, information is also sought regarding administrative and judicial guarantees of the right, and the remedies available in the event of noncompliance with the obligations involved, as well relevant case histories. One important aspect is knowing what type of policies or social services the State has established as the measures or channels through which the rights upheld in the Convention are to be implemented and/or realized. At times, programs or services establish hand-outs, rather than actually acknowledging the existence of rights. Accordingly, it is important that States show to what extent each right is built into the rationale and meaning of public policies. The inevitable references are Articles 1, 2, 3, and 7 of the Convention.

The second category in the process of evaluating and following up on compliance with the obligations assumed under the Convention is **the underlying financial context and budgetary commitments**. This category refers to the effective availability of resources in State Social Expenditures, their distribution as traditionally measured (percentage of Gross Domestic Product

for each social sector) or according to other indicators, and the budgetary commitments that allow for evaluation of the level of importance that the State has assigned to guaranteeing women's right to a life free from violence. The importance of measuring this category stems from the fact that if a State implements a public expenditure policy involving cuts to social infrastructure (for example, in services caring for women victims of sexual violence or the privatization of strategic areas or services) or cuts in budgetary allocations to the justice system, the effect is not only regressive; it also leaves women entirely unprotected and transfers the cost to women and their families.

Hence the importance of defining the State's financial responsibilities as precisely as possible, as the Committee of Experts has reiterated in its two Hemispheric Reports, which indicate that budgetary commitments are of particular importance, since they constitute the guarantee of the implementation and continuity of policies to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women, and are also evidence of the government's political will in the struggle to eradicate violence against women. The Committee has also underscored its concern regarding the lack of information received from the States on budgetary allocations related to violence against women, especially regarding four issues: women's police stations, training for officials, victim care programs, and prevention campaigns. These are the responsibility of different agencies; or, in other cases, States have indicated the annual allocation by program or action without mentioning the percentage of the national budget. Once again, the availability of indicators in these categories is essential to efforts to follow-up on the Convention.¹⁴

A third category of information refers to **State or institutional capacities**. It describes an instrumental, technical aspect and the distribution of power resources within the State apparatus. This category involves ascertaining how and under what parameters the State (and its various branches and subdivisions) resolve socially sensitive issues related to guaranteeing women's to live free from violence and, in particular, how they define their goals and strategies for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women and the parameters applied to the implementation of the rights upheld in the Convention. It also involves analyzing the options open to government bodies to problematize, prioritize, decide on, and manage public affairs related to violence against women.

Consequently, it is necessary to identify inter-institutional relations, the division of tasks and resources, and the skills and quantity, quality, and specialized training of the human resources tasked with guaranteeing the right of women to be free from violence. Including State capacities as a category allows us to grasp how States' political will and technical capacity materialize and translate into compliance with the Convention. This implies taking account of the essence of the provisions of Article 8 of the Convention, as well as its Articles 7 and 9.

¹⁴In view of the lack of reply, the Committee indicated that "*this means that the States not only do not have these budgets, but that no coordinated interagency planning exists that would enable funds to be negotiated for concerted actions to prevent violence against women and for victim care. From among replies received, the item under the indicator with largest budgetary allocations is care programs. The item under the indicator to which fewest replies were received was prevention campaigns.*" MESECVI (2011) op. cit., 24.

The advantage of this methodology is that it enables an *assessment* and not merely a *descriptive stocktaking* of the way in which States Party are advancing towards progressively guaranteeing the rights enshrined in the Convention. In fact, once a general overview of the situation of the effective enjoyment of the rights contemplated in the Convention has been obtained by consulting the outcome indicators, this classification also makes it possible to identify the causes of the progress (or lack of it) through the structural and process indicators. Thus, if, for example, prolonged stagnation is found in connection with a specific women's right, it may be explained, firstly, by a *structural fault*- the absence of structural conditions propitious to progress in guaranteeing the right, e.g. the fact that legislation on trafficking in persons has not been enacted and therefore the necessary authorities have not been established or adapted within the State apparatus to work for prevention, punishment, and eradication.

It may be the case that significant progress is found with indicators of structural conditions. Stagnation in this case may be due to shortcomings in state capacities, i.e., in specific actions carried out by the government to ensure progress in guaranteeing the rights contemplated in the Convention. There may also be situations where shortcomings of structure and public policy combine, in which case, this methodology makes it possible to assign importance to one or the other by consulting the indicators and requesting that they be defined.

The above-mentioned categories (acceptance of the right; financial context and budgetary commitment; and State capacities) should therefore be supplemented by the following **cross-cutting principles**: i) equality and non-discrimination; ii) access to justice; and iii) access to information and political participation – all of which are core principles contemplated in the Convention. These cross-cutting principles are highly useful for gathering information on the situation of women suffering from structural inequality and inequity issues or on sectors vulnerable to violence (Article 9 of the Convention) but also for ascertaining the effectiveness of the policies being implemented by the State to guarantee each right recognized in the Convention.

Since the Belém do Pará Convention includes specific provisions in connection with these cross-cutting principles (Articles 7, 8, and 9), for purposes of presenting the indicators proposed herein, they have been included in the same analysis format as other articles of the Convention. Nonetheless, some of their manifestations are also present in the analysis of the other indicators since, owing precisely to their cross-cutting nature, they cannot be split off completely.

As cross-cutting categories, **equality and non-discrimination** indicators seek to determine whether or not the conditions exist to enable women to effectively be free from violence, as stipulated in Article 6 of the Convention, through the free interplay of institutions and democratic and deliberative processes. The scope—or yardstick—focuses on guarantees of actual, not merely formal, equality, while including the eradication of all forms of discrimination to which women are subject, whether by reason of gender, ethnicity, age, or political, labour, or socioeconomic condition.

A second cross-cutting principle for measuring the fulfillment of women's rights is **access to justice**. This involves monitoring in a broad sense that includes examining the legal and factual possibility of accessing administrative and judicial complaint and protection measures. In the

area of human rights, standards have been developed regarding the right to appropriate and effective judicial and other remedies for denouncing the violation of fundamental rights, which have been incorporated in Articles 7, 8, and 9 of the Convention.

Thus, States do not have merely a negative obligation—not to obstruct access to such remedies; rather, they have a positive obligation to organize the institutional structure in such a way that everyone can access justice. To that end, States must eliminate the regulatory, social, or financial obstacles that prevent or curtail women’s effective access to justice. In recent years, in connection with the right to live a life free from violence and, in particular, the right to obtain precautionary measures and punishment for acts of violence, societies have begun to recognize the imperative need for women victims of violence to receive free legal advice and representation (IACHR, 2007).

The Committee of Experts, in turn, has noted with concern that in both the country and follow-up reports, the indicators referring to access to justice received the fewest replies and, in the view of the Committee, it is *“unfortunately, the area where least progress has been made. (...) The Committee recommends to the States Party that these modules [on violence against women] be included in national surveys or censuses to obtain data that can be systematized, compared, and monitored in the medium and long term.”*¹⁵

Finally, it is the principles of **access to information and civil society participation** in public policies that guarantee the right of women to be free from violence. The dissemination of information in a democratic society allows citizens to oversee the actions of the governors whom they have entrusted with the protection of their interests. Hence the positive obligation of the State to make that information available to everyone, especially when it alone possesses that information and there is no other way of obtaining it—without prejudice, of course, to exceptional, legally pre-established restrictions, based on precepts of proportionality and necessity.

Appropriate access to public information is a democratic safeguard and a key tool for citizen participation. It is also essential to ensuring horizontal and vertical accountability and for holding to account the bodies responsible for the public policies that seek to guarantee the rights established in the Convention. The Committee of Experts has defined indicators in this area (3.1 to 3.3) to measure whether records exist—in police offices, the courts, public prosecutor’s offices, and health systems—on reports of violence against women, and whether that data has been published. Through the first Multilateral Evaluation Round, the Committee noted that, although the judiciary and public prosecutor’s offices are the principle public authorities with records of violence against women, there is a major deficit in the implementation of records in the areas of evaluation contemplated by the indicators (police, courts, public prosecutor’s offices, and the health system) and in no case has a country reported data for the three records covered by the indicator. Neither do the reports provide further information on the characteristics of these records, or whether they are available to the public.¹⁶

¹⁵ MESECVI (2011) op. cit., 12.

¹⁶ MESECVI (2011) op. cit., 12.

Thus, applying a human rights perspective, everybody, especially women, girls and adolescents, older persons, and gender non-conforming people, must play an active part in the preparation, implementation, and evaluation of the—positive and negative, immediate and gradual—obligations derived from the rights recognized in the Convention, with respect to guarantees of a life free from violence.

To summarize, progress indicators are useful tools if used as multifaceted approximations of the status of realization of women's rights in every State Party to the Belém do Pará Convention. The indicators, taken separately, do not reflect a linear correspondence between the progress made in guaranteeing the right of women to be free from violence, but are instead a series of tools that, when systematically interpreted, may provide an overview of the realization of the rights contained in the Convention. Comparisons between countries based on a just one or a small group of indicators, although useful in analyzing how each country is making progress in some areas, cannot be taken as conclusive proof of differences between countries in the realization of the right, so that this practice is not to be recommended. Since they constitute multifaceted approximations, analyses of this type should be made with great caution and, insofar as possible, by making a systematic interpretation based on a wide array of indicators.

The combination of indicators is also an essential tool for adequate interpretation of the progress made in the realization of women's rights. Many of the indicators proposed herein, taken in isolation, cannot provide a precise approximation of the realization of rights in the countries. It is important to understand that the vast majority of these indicators provide *approximations* of the progress made in the enjoyment of rights *only if* interpreted in connection with others. Therefore, it is important to assess these types of indicators, which can only be interpreted adequately in the context of a rights-based perspective, in connection with others, since they provide information necessary to assess whether or not the conditions exist for the sustainable and full exercise of rights.

Moreover, owing to the undeniable interconnection of indicators, the outcomes shown in each of the four indicator matrices do not necessarily reflect the linear impact of the structural indicator; but rather the linear impact of the combination of measures and actions taken in the period under review. For example, we must assume that the reduction in the incidence of violence against women and girls, established as an outcome indicator in the matrix of indicators of legislation, does not result solely from the existence of legislation that reflects acceptance of the right of women to live free from violence, but also from the implementation of public policies, access to justice, and adequate funding for State actions.

The rule established for the preparation of reports reflecting progress in implementing the rights enshrined in the Convention indicates that, for each right, the information requested from the State will be organized on the basis of indicators classified into three conceptual categories (acceptance of the right, financial context and budgetary commitments, and State capacities), and three cross-cutting principles (equality and non-discrimination, access to justice, and access to information and participation), based on the articles of the Belém do Pará Convention.

For each right, matrices are included as a reference point for the information that the State Party should include in its Report, which will serve as the basis for analysis by the Experts of the

degree of implementation of the Convention. The States are requested to complete the matrices, preferably with the most recent information available. The unavailability of information on specific indicators should not be an obstacle to the presentation of reports. Ideally, each State will gradually assume the commitment to incorporate the production and compilation of the information required in its future reporting activities. Those States wishing to provide supplemental information may also include it as an annex to the report.

Presented below are 10 methodological guidelines for completing the matrix of indicators, as well as the table of Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention

II. GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING THE TABLE OF PROGRESS INDICATORS FOR MEASURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION

1. Indicators set out in one part of the table need not be repeated elsewhere. Rather, a reference to their original location will suffice.
2. The table of indicators provides a broad description of various possible sources of information. This does not presuppose that States will have all—or even most—of these sources available. The purpose of the lengthy description is for States to keep in mind the variety of information sources to which they may turn and build up over time.
3. For each right identified in the text of the Convention, tables are included as a reference for the information that States Party are required to include in their reports and which will serve as the basis for the review by the Committee of Experts. States are requested, if possible, to include the most up-to-date information available in preparing the tables.
4. A lack of sufficient information to cover all the indicators requested will not preclude the submission of reports, with States undertaking gradually to include the necessary production and collection of data resources over time. By the same token, States that wish to include supplementary information may do so in the form of annexes or appendices to the report.
5. To the extent possible, States are requested to provide disaggregated information for different groups of women and girls: adult women, adolescents and girls, older women, of diverse ethnic origin, Afro-descendants, persons with disabilities, people with different sexual preferences, sexual orientation, gender identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons, or persons deprived of their liberty. This disaggregation should be done wherever possible, even when not expressly mentioned for each indicator.
6. Quantitative information comes from two sources: surveys and administrative records, with information on services provided by institutions such as the police, the Attorney General's office, the judiciary, and health care facilities.

It is essential to move forward with the standardization of surveys to ensure the necessary comparability within and among countries. However, for the purposes of the information

requested in the table of indicators, countries are asked to identify all the available sources of information, even if they are not comparable for the time being.

It is also important to advance toward the unification of administrative records, remedying their shortcomings as an information source. However, for the purposes of the information requested in the table of indicators, countries are asked to include all available information on sources of administrative records, while stating how that information was collected in order to allow it to be appropriately weighed.

7. For the purposes of this document, femicide is defined as “the violent death of women based on gender, whether it occurs within the family, a domestic partnership, or any other interpersonal relationship; in the community, by any person, or when it is perpetrated or tolerated by the State or its agents, by action or omission.”
Those countries that have defined this form of violence against women in a legal instrument are asked to identify any differences with the definition adopted by the MESECVI.
In identifying femicides in different scenarios, States are requested to disaggregate information relating to the various scenarios in which women are killed, not provide the sum thereof.
8. With regard to information concerning budgets and prosecution costs, States should provide data for the most recent fiscal year.
9. In order to calculate the femicide rate by determining the proportion of believed femicides to the number of homicides overall, it is suggested that official figures from administrative records and judicial investigations be used. In the absence of official data, the estimates contained in reports of National Machineryes for the Advancement of Women and/or civil society organizations based on newspaper publications could be used as an approximation. In such cases, the sources of estimates should be clearly indicated.
10. The indications "R" (R1 to R42) refer to the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI to the States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention, in the framework of the Second Multilateral Evaluation Round (2009-2012). These recommendations are contained in the *Second Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention* (MESECVI, 2012). Available in the following link: <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/biblioteca.asp>

III. PROGRESS INDICATORS FOR MEASURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION¹

III.1. Legislation

Art. 1, 2, 3 y 7 c), e) y g)

	STRUCTURAL	PROCESS	RESULTS
RECEPTION OF THE RIGHT			
Indicator	<p>1. Incorporation of Belém do Pará in domestic law (at the constitutional, supralegal, or legal level). R1</p> <p>A number of elements contained in the Convention of Belem do Para have been incorporated in some of the legislation in The Bahamas, including the Sexual Offences Act, which provides protection from various forms of violence. The Act, which was amended in 2008, removed the minimum sentences for sexual offences, and broadened the scope of procuration to incorporate procuration by electronic means. Section 7 (a) of the Act states that any person found guilty of the offence of procuration is liable to imprisonment for 15 years. This Act also established new offences of voyeurism and child pornography.</p>	<p>1. Convention of Belém do Pará ratification processes.</p> <p>The Convention was ratified on 3 May 1995 and signed 16 May 1995.</p>	<p>1. Violence rate based on surveys: number of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women by age group who report being victims of any form of violence (physical, sexual, psychological; patrimonial, economic and others) at the hands of a partner, former partner over the past twelve months, divided by the total number of women in those same age groups, multiplied by 100,000 and divided by the number of women living in the country. R1, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>

	<p>2. Incorporation of the concept of gender-based violence, as defined in the Convention, in the legislation against violence. R1</p> <p><u>The government is in the process of drafting a Gender-Based Violence Bill which defines gender-based violence “as any physical, economic or financial, emotional, verbal or psychological, abuse against a person because of the person’s gender or gender identification, whether or not constituting a criminal offence, etc”.</u></p> <p>3. Incorporation of psychological, physical, sexual, patrimonial, economic, institutional, political and other forms of violence into antiviolence legislation, considering girls</p>	<p>2. Bills or enactment of specific laws on violence in the country and at the federal, state, provincial, and local levels, according to the legislative division. R1</p> <p>A Gender-Based Violence Bill is being drafted.</p> <p>Other statutes include: the Sexual Offences Act, which was amended in 2008, the Child Protection Act, 2007 and the Penal Code.</p> <p>3. Number of reports presented by the country to international oversight agencies in connection with the right to a life without violence.</p>	<p>2. Violence rate based on surveys: number of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women by age group who report being victims of any form of violence (physical, sexual, psychological; patrimonial, economic and others) at the hands of a partner, former partner throughout the life, divided by the total number of women in those same age groups, multiplied by 100,000 and divided by the number of women living in the country. R1, R40</p> <p>While no national surveys were conducted on gender-based violence, various public and private agencies collect data on incidences of the various forms of violence. These agencies include: the Royal Bahamas Police Force (sexual assault), Princess Margaret Hospital (various forms of assaults, including rape), Department of Social Services (child sexual abuse), and Crisis Centre (sexual, physical & psychological abuse).</p> <p>3. Violence rate based on surveys: number of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women by age group who report being victims of any form of violence by a perpetrator other than a partner or</p>
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<p>and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, pregnant, socio-economically disadvantaged, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants or affected by armed conflicts, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. R1</p> <p>The law is not specific to rural, disabled or other vulnerable groups of women, but The Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act, 2007 provides protection for all persons in the household, including persons in intimate relationships.</p> <p>The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention and Suppression) Act, 2008 provides protection to victims of violence, including migrant women and women with disabilities.</p> <p>4. Enactment of specific legislation on different forms of violence, including:</p> <p>a. Trafficking in girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women R2</p> <p>The Trafficking in</p>	<p>(1) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Report (6th periodic report submitted in 2017) – a CEDAW interim report was submitted in 2014</p> <p>(2) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Initial Report submitted in 2003)</p> <p>(3) Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination Report (CERD) (Combined 5th – 14th Periodic Report submitted in 2003)</p> <p>(4) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)</p> <p>(5) Universal Periodic Review, (2nd National Report submitted in 2012)</p>	<p>former partner (physical, sexual, psychological, patrimonial, economic, institutional, political and others) over the past twelve months, divided by the total number of women in those same age groups, multiplied by 100,000 and divided by the number of women living in the country. R1, R40</p> <p>No national surveys were conducted on the number of victims of violence by a perpetrator other than a partner or former partner, over the past twelve months.</p> <p>It should be noted however, that the number of reported cases of sexual offences to the Police for 2013 are as follows:</p> <p>Adult rape Prevalence (104); Attempted Rape Prevalence (20); Unlawful sex (154), which include persons under 16.</p> <p>4. Violence rate based on surveys: number of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women by age group who report being victims of any form of violence by a perpetrator</p>
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	<p>Persons (Prevention and Suppression) Act was enacted on 10th December, 2008.</p> <p>b. Forced prostitution (per Rome Statute) R2</p> <p>Also, the Penal Code (pg. 138) Section 43 states: <i>“Whoever lives on the proceeds of prostitution shall be imprisoned for 6 months.”</i></p> <p>The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention and Suppression) Act, 2008 addresses prostitution in Sections 3(3) and 3(4).</p> <p>c. Sexual harassment in the workplace, at school, at health facilities, etc. of public or private nature, in particular for indigenous women, considering also those who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons, senior citizens or deprived of their freedom. R3</p> <p>The Sexual Offences Act, Section 26(1) states that <i>“Any person who (a) being a prospective employer importunes or solicits sexual favours from</i></p>	<p>4. Number of parallel reports presented by civil society to international oversight agencies in connection with the right to a life without violence.</p> <p>1. The Bahamas Crisis Centre submitted a Shadow Report to the CEDAW Committee in 2012.</p>	<p>other than a partner or former partner (physical, sexual, psychological, patrimonial, economic, institutional, political and others) throughout the life, divided by the total number of women in those same age groups, multiplied by 100,000 and divided by the number of women living in the country. R1, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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	<p><i>another person (b) being in a position of authority over, or being a co-worker of, another person in any place of employment or any institution, importunes or solicits from a person in a position of authority in any place of employment or any institution, any favour, benefit or advantage, or the forbearance from the exercise of any right, power or duty relating to that authority under any holding out or promise of sexual favours is guilty of the offence of sexual harassment is liable to a fine of five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for two years or to both such fine and imprisonment”</i></p> <p>d. Femicide as “the violent death of women based on gender, whether it occurs within the family, a domestic partnership, or any other interpersonal relationship; in the community, in their workplace, in public space, by any person or group of persons known or unknown to the victim, or when it is perpetrated or tolerated by the state or its agents, by action or omission,” either as an autonomous offense or as</p>		
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	<p>an aggravating factor in homicide. R6</p> <p>Femicide is not addressed in Bahamian legislation.</p> <p>Homicides of females are addressed under of the Penal Code.</p> <p>e. Rape and sexual abuse within marriage and de-facto unions. R4</p> <p>Under the Sexual Offences Act, a spouse cannot bring a complaint for rape by his/her spouse. The legislation provides for the offence of sexual assault in certain circumstances, in relation to husband and wife (Section 15). The Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act, 2007 protects spouses, partners or any member of the household from sexual violence by enabling spouses, partners , or other adult members of a household to make an application for a protection order to prevent an offender from committing further, or intended, harm to members of a household.</p> <p>f. Rape, sexual abuse, sexual violence within the nuclear family or extended.</p> <p>The Sexual Offences Act,</p>		
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	<p>(Section 6) states that “<i>Any person who</i> <i>(A) Commits rape;</i> <i>(B) Attempts to commit rape; or</i> <i>(C) Assaults any person with intent to commit rape, is guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for life</i> Section 13 Of Sexual Offences Act states that: “<i>Any person who knowing that another person is by blood relationship, his or her parent, child, brother, sister, grandparent, grandparent, uncle, niece, aunt, or nephew as the case may be has unlawful sexual intercourse with that other person whether with or without the consent of that other persons is guilty of the offence of incest and liable to imprisonment —</i> (i) if he is an adult who commits the offence with a minor, for life; (ii) if he is an adult who commits the offence with another adult; for a term of ten years; and (iii) if he is a minor who commits the offence with another minor, for a term of two years.”</p> <p>Section 6 states that “<i>Any person who commits rape is guilty of an offence And is liable to imprisonment for life, subject to on the</i></p>		
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	<p><i>first conviction of an offence. A term of imprisonment of 7 years and in the case of a 2nd or subsequent conviction for the offence a time of imprisonment of 14 years”.</i></p> <p>Section 2 of Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act defines domestic violence as physical, sexual, emotional, financial, and can be committed by a person against a spouse, partner, child, any other person who is a member of the household or dependent</p> <p>g. Sexual violence in armed conflicts, as a form of torture, war crime and/or crime against humanity. R7</p> <p>The Bahamas acceded to the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in September, 2015, whereby <i>States Parties, inter alia, reaffirmed “that the rights of children require special protection, and calling for continuous improvement of the situation of children without distinction, as well as for their development and education in conditions of peace and</i></p>		
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	<p><i>security” in the context of armed conflict.</i></p> <p>h. Sexual violence in hospitals, places of learning, detention centers, and other state institutions, in particular for indigenous women, considering also those who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons, senior citizens or deprived of their freedom. R8, R9</p> <p>The Sexual Offences Act, Chapter 99, governs sexual offences in The Bahamas. These offences include rape, unnatural crime, indecent assault, serious indecency, procurement, sexual offences in relation to children, and to persons with mental impairment.</p> <p>i. Obstetric violence in hospitals and other health institutions in the States. R9</p> <p>There are no specific provisions in place that criminalizes obstetric violence.</p> <p>j. In connection with sexual and reproductive rights, specific legislation that includes the punishment of obstetric violence, particularly in</p>		
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	<p>teenage pregnancies; that allows the legal interruption of pregnancy for therapeutic reasons; that allows the legal interruption of pregnancy for rape; that punishes forced sterilization; that guarantees access to contraception, including emergency oral contraceptives; that punishes non-consensual artificial insemination. R9, R10, R11, R12, R13, R14</p> <p>Abortion is illegal in The Bahamas. Section 295 of Penal addresses this:</p> <p>The law states: <i>“Whoever intentionally and unlawfully causes abortion or miscarriage shall be liable to imprisonment for 10 years”</i>.</p> <p>Section 309 of the Penal Code” states that <i>the offence of abortion or miscarriage of a woman can be committed either by that woman or any other person. And that woman or any other person can be guilty of using means with intent to commit that offence. Although the woman is not in fact pregnant.</i></p> <p>Section 313 states that <i>“Any person who does an act in good faith for the purposes of medical or surgical treatment and intent to cause death shall</i></p>		
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	<p><i>not be presumed from the fact that the act was or appeared likely to cause death.</i></p> <p>k. Emergency prophylaxis treatments for HIV / AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases in the public health services, especially in cases of sexual violence. Attention protocols to determine treatment steps and the form of attention to the users especially in the cases of sexual violence. R15.</p> <p>Health policies provide for emergency contraceptives in cases of rape. Provisions are also in place for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, through the prescribing of prophylactic treatment.</p> <p>l. Psychological violence against girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women by their gender, for their belonging to an ethnic group or their ethnic identity, their sexual preference, by their sexual identity, in any public or private, for any person/group of people. R1</p> <p>Psychological violence is addressed in the Domestic</p>		
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	<p>Violence (Protection Orders) Act, 2007 as regards all persons as outlined in item (2) above. The Act does not refer to specific categorizations of women.</p> <p>Psychological violence is also addressed in the Child Protection Act, 2007. (Part I, Paragraph 3 subsection 3(b)).</p> <p>m. Alimony rights for indigenous, rural, children in case parents fail to comply with their obligations.</p> <p>Section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act makes financial provisions “for parties to a marriage and any children of the family in connection with proceedings for divorce, nullity of marriage or judicial separation”</p> <p>The Child Protection Act Section 22(2) states that <i>a court may upon the application of any parent of a child or in the cause of a hearing of any such application by one parent make such order as it may think first regarding</i></p> <p><i>Section22 (1) Where a court make an order under subsection 1 or under subsection 21 (4) given the custody of the child to one parent it may further order</i></p>		<p>5. Violence rate broken down by urban/rural areas, socioeconomic strata, ethnic groups and age groups, by different types of violence.R1, R40</p> <p>Data not available.</p>
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	<p><i>that the other parent pays to the parent having custody of the child a weekly or other periodical sum towards the maintenance of the child as the court thinks reasonable having regards to the means of the parent.</i></p> <p>Neither Act refers to special categories of children.</p> <p>5. Enactment of legislation that explicitly bans the use of such methods as conciliation, mediation, probation, suspended sentences, application of the opportunity, commutation of punishment and others intended to resolve cases of violence extra-judicially. R2</p> <p>There is no legislation that explicitly bans the use of such methods as conciliation, mediation, probation, suspended sentences, application of the opportunity or commutation of punishment</p>	<p>5. Number of state offices, secretariats, or mechanisms specializing in violence against women. Coverage by jurisdictions (national, state, provincial, local).</p> <p>1. The Department of Gender and Family Affairs (Ministry of Social Services and Community Development). 2. The Royal Bahamas Police Force; 3. The Domestic Violence and Counselling Unit (Ministry of Social Services and Community Development) 4. Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Unit (Ministry of Health) 5. Sexual Assault and Follow-Up Evaluation Unit (Ministry of</p>	<p>6. Percentage of legal cases (criminal, civil or administrative) of violence against girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women that were prosecuted in proportion to the total number of reports of violence against women. R1, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>7. Femicide and /or Violent Deaths of Women (VDW) rate per 100,000 women: number of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women killed in the past twelve months through any form of femicide, multiplied by 100,000 and divided by the number of women living in the country. R6, R40</p>
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	<p>6. Existence in legislation of criminal and/or administrative sanctions for public officials who fail to enforce the regulations and/or national plan/action/strategy on violence against women. R17</p> <p>The Royal Bahamas Police Force has a Complaints and Corruption Unit.</p> <p>General Orders, which governs the actions of public servants in The Bahamas, provides for disciplinary proceedings for public officials who have failed to carry out their duties.</p> <p>7. Number and characteristics of civil society organizations involved in the promotion and protection of the right to a life without violence, considering organizations</p>	<p>Health) 6. Trafficking in Persons Committee and Task Force (Ministry of National Security)</p> <p>6. Number of public officials prosecuted and/or punished under criminal and/or administrative provisions for failing to enforce the regulations and/or national plan/action/strategy on violence against women. R17</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>Femicide is not defined in Bahamian legislation.</p>
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	<p>particularly involved with girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. Indicate forms and type of participation. R16</p> <p>Civil society organizations that promote the rights of women to a life without violence include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Crisis Centre • Bahamas Women Media Watch • Holla Back • Bahamas Human Rights Network • Caribbean Association for Feminist Research in Action (CAFRA) • Links Incorporated • Zonta Clubs 	<p>7. Existence of systematic training, staff training and awareness of the public sector officials on the legal tools of punishment, protection and promotion of women's rights, particularly the right to a life free of violence. R19</p> <p>The Bureau of Women's Affairs in collaboration with OAS, UN (in 2012, 2014, and 2015) and Commonwealth Secretariat (in 2016) agencies, as well as regional and national organizations, have conducted workshops / trainings and awareness raising activities on laws and policies that protect the rights of women and girls.</p> <p>a. Type of processes (nature, timing, content)</p> <p>Awareness raising activities are held during annual, bi-annual celebrations, including: International Women's Day, National Women's Week, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 16 Days of Activism to</p>	<p>8. Estimated femicide² of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women</p>
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		<p>end gender based violence, 1 billion women rising. These may include panel discussions, workshops, cultural events, presentations, media appearances by experts, articles or press releases in the nation.</p> <p>The Royal Bahamas Police Force training for new recruits addresses domestic violence.</p> <p>b. Number and type of public sector entities that assume these processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Gender and Family Affairs • Ministry of Social Services and Community Development • Royal Bahamas Police Force <p>c. Number of officials and officers who accessed the processes.</p> <p>In 2012, a Family Violence Summit was held for approximately 200 public officials and civil society.</p> <p>Though the exact number is unavailable, the Royal Bahamas Police Force and Royal</p>	<p>rate per 100,000 women: number of killings in the past twelve months multiplied by 100,000 and by the percentage of women's killings deemed to be femicides, then divided by the number of women living in the country. R6, R40</p> <p>Same as Item 7 above</p> <p>9. Mortality rate, by sex, through accidents, homicides, or suicides cause broken down. R6, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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	<p>8. Number of women's organizations particularly working with girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom involved in monitoring women's rights to live free from violence.</p> <p>National Mechanisms to the follow up of the Belém do Pará Convention, with participation of the State and the Civil Society. R17, R31</p> <p>The Bahamas Crisis Centre Zonta Clubs (works with P.A.C.E.) "Providing Access for Continuing Education" for teen mothers.</p> <p>9. Existence of spaces, mechanisms and tools with recognition and legal status for interagency coordination between the public and civil society organizations based</p>	<p>Bahamas Defence Force incorporate domestic violence sensitivity training in the overall training for new recruits.</p> <p>d. Exchange mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation of training processes.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>8. Existence of systematic education school curricula in secondary education, university and the general public on the promotion and protection of women's rights, and the penalties for violation of the right to a life free of violence. R16</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>10. Number and percentage of criminal proceedings for the crime of femicide, homicide, murder versus number and percentage of criminal cases with judgment (conviction or acquittal) for the crime of femicide, homicide, murder. R6, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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	<p>on the promotion and protection of the right to a life free of violence for women. R16, R31</p> <p>In 2015, the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs established two working groups which address the promotion and protection of their right to a life free of violence for women – i.e. the Migration Working Group and the National Reporting and Coordinating Mechanism</p> <p>The Trafficking-in-Person (TIP) Task Force and Committee within the Ministry of National Security.</p> <p>Specific laws on violence that include budgetary allocations. R1, R34</p> <p>Laws that address gender-based violence include: the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act; The Sexual Offences Act; including the Ministry of Social Services;</p> <p>Other relevant laws include: The Criminal Procedure Code; Trafficking in Persons Unit; the Penal Code and the Evidence Act</p>	<p>9. Existence of regular and commemorative activities at the school level to promote women's rights, particularly the right to a life free of violence. R16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nature of activities ✓ Frequency ✓ Mechanisms and tools for implementation. <p>The Government often invites school children to the following events which address women's rights and/or violence against women annually:</p> <p>International Day to Eliminate against all Forms of Violence against Women</p> <p>National Women's Week</p> <p>International Women's Day</p> <p>World Day against Trafficking in Persons</p> <p>Child Protection Month</p>	
	<p>10. National budget law, with earmarks for the implementation of laws,</p>	<p>10. Monitoring of public agencies and by civil society and</p>	

	<p>programs, plans on violence. R1, R34, R35</p> <p>No national budget law exists. In 2016, the Cabinet approved \$2 million for the first year of the implementation plan for the national Strategic Plan to Address Gender-Based Violence.</p>	<p>effective action to counteract legal action or other sectors intended to limit, prevent, or restrict the interpretation and enforcement of the provisions governing different forms of violence. R6</p> <p>Bahamas Women’s Watch, Holla Back, and the Bahamas Crisis Centre are three civil society agencies that advocate for action to eliminate violence against women.</p>	
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<p>Qualitative signs of progress</p>	<p>11. National budget law identifying funds allocated for women’s mechanisms, specialized offices, health sector, education sector, etc. R1, R34</p> <p>As indicated, no national budget law exists for funding the implementation of laws on violence, however, The Department of Gender and Family Affairs, which has violence against women within its portfolio receives \$350,000 annually.</p> <p>The Ministry of Social Services provides annual grants to NGOs working on women’s rights and the elimination of violence against women. The Bahamas Crisis Centre receives \$30,000 per annum; the Bahamas AME Conference receives \$20,000 per annum; the Roman Catholic Dioceses receives \$14,000 per annum; the Salvation Army receives \$10,000 per annum; All Saints Camp receives \$10,000 per annum; and the Red Cross receives \$60,000 per annum.</p> <p>There is a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Programme which receives funding through the national health programmes budget.</p>	<p>11. Publication of reports on budget allocations and execution. R35</p> <p>Reports on budget allocation are available in print and online.</p> <p>12. Publication and dissemination of public information on the budget and its execution. R35</p> <p>Information on the budget is available via print and electronic means.</p>	<p>11. Number and percentage of repair processes on collateral victims of femicide by type of relationship with the victim. R40</p> <p>Data not available.</p> <p>12. Pregnancy rate in children and adolescents (10-14 years old) R10, R11, R14</p> <p>The pregnancy rate is not currently available.</p>
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	<p>The MCH Unit has oversight for areas including antenatal, postnatal, Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) and Adolescent Health.</p> <p>12. Number and characteristics of civil society organizations involved in budget oversight initiatives and budget execution.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>13. Attention protocols for ensuring the enforcement of provisions enacted in connection with different forms of violence. R10, R11, R15, R27</p> <p>There are no attention protocols. However, the Gender-Based Violence Strategic Plan of action recommends that the judicial and security units follow a nationally established protocol for gender based violence. Also recommended is that the existing police protocols for responding to gender-based violence be assessed.</p>	<p>13. Participatory processes for the drafting of attention protocols for ensuring the enforcement of provisions. R10, R11, R15</p> <p>It is anticipated that a participatory approach will be taken when attention protocols are drafted.</p> <p>14. Publication and dissemination of protocols. (should include advertising and distribution in the various languages</p>	<p>13. Indicate rate of pregnancies, pregnant women attending antenatal care, deliveries that are attended by skilled health personnel versus midwife, term deliveries, abortions and maternal mortality in children and adolescents.</p> <p>Rate of pregnancy for 2016 and 2015 are not currently available.</p> <p>Antenatal care attendance (2014): 3961 visits of which 11 (less than 1 percent) were under age 15 years</p> <p>Deliveries that are attended by skilled health personnel - In 2014 the proportion was estimated at over 98%. It should be noted that most registered midwives are also registered nurses.</p> <p>14. Number and percentage of deliveries at term in children and adolescents. R10, R11, R14</p> <p>Based on available public hospital records, among girls 10-19 years, 87.9% had deliveries at term in 2014.</p> <p>15. Number and percentage</p>
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	<p>14. Infrastructure, equipment and specialized personnel providing health services in indigenous, rural, communities. R9</p> <p>Public health clinics and medical professionals, including doctors and nurses are located in all of the Family Islands.</p> <p>15. Number and characteristics of civil society organizations involved in preparing protocols and monitoring</p>	<p>spoken in the country) R10, R11, R15</p> <p>These protocols are disseminated internally for agency use.</p> <p>15. Records of actions taken to disseminate and enforce the protocols designed. R10, R11, R15, R39</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>of abortions in children and adolescents. R10, R11, R14</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>16. Maternal mortality rate in children and adolescent. R9, R10, R11, R14</p>
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	<p>their enforcement, considering organizations particularly involved with indigenous girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women, who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. R10</p> <p>It is anticipated that CSOs will be included in drafting national protocols and policies to ensure an effective, integrated and coordinated criminal justice system that would prevent the escalation of GBV – as recommended in national Strategic Plan to Address GBV.</p> <p>The Child Protection Council participated in the preparing of protocols for abused children.</p>	<p>16. Existence and operation of a program using traditional knowledge, disseminating it and promoting articulation with the general health system.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>Data unavailable.</p>
<p>III.1. National Plans Art. 1, 2, 7 y 8 c), d) y f)</p>			
	<p>16. National plan, policy, action, strategy for the prevention, attention, and eradication of violence against girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women in its different forms. Scope and characteristics considering girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse,</p>	<p>17. Civil society</p>	<p>17. Number and percentage of children and adolescents whose births are attended by skilled health personnel versus midwife. R9</p> <p>In 2013, the proportion of birth attended by skilled health personnel was estimated at over 98%. Most registered midwives are also registered nurses.</p>

	<p>Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. R17</p> <p>The National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence, addresses all forms of violence, including women and girls throughout the country. To date, the Department of Gender and Family Affairs has begun to implement activities in the Year 1 Implementation Plan (of the Strategic Plan to Address Gender-Based Violence).</p> <p>17. Incorporation of actions and strategies for the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women in the national plans of other sectors, considering girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. R18</p> <p>Strategies to address GBV have been incorporated in</p>	<p>participation in the design, monitoring, and evaluation of the national plan/action/strategy. R20, R31</p> <p>As indicated above, civil society participated in the drafting of the National Strategic Plan to Address Gender-Based Violence. A monitoring and evaluation component, with input from civil society is included in the Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>18. Number and percentage of girls and young pregnant women attending antenatal. R9</p> <p>Based on records of first visits to public health clinics</p>
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	<p>the 2016 National Development Plan – Vision 2040 – led by the Economic Development and Planning Unit</p> <p>18. Incorporation in official documents (public policy) of the concept of violence according to the Convention of Belém do Pará. R1</p> <p>The national Strategic Plan to Address GBV incorporates the concept of violence in accordance with international standards – including the Convention of Belem do Para.</p> <p>19. Incorporation of the topic of violence against girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women on the agenda of the</p>	<p>18. Training actions and plans on the rights of women, violence against women, and the Convention of Belém do Pará for pertinent decision-makers and authorities (including technical staff at ministries, lawmakers, justice operators, health practitioners, security and police forces, and personnel at centers providing specialized attention for violence against women, among others). R19</p> <p>In 2016, the Bureau of Women’s Affairs received technical assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat to conduct CEDAW trainings as well as trainings on GBV.</p> <p>19. Existence of social programs for women victims of violence or with a priority for attending to such women.</p> <p>The following agencies conduct programmes for women victims of</p>	<p>in 2014, there were 11 antenatal clients under the age of 15 years.</p> <p>19. Ratio between the increased of VDW (violent death of women) and the increase of VDM (Violent death of men) in the past twelve months. R6, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>20. Rate of decline of VDW in relation to rate of decline VDM. R6, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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	<p>mechanism for the advancement of women. Broken down by jurisdictions (national, state/provincial, local). R</p> <p>One of the primary focus areas of the Department of Gender and Family Affairs, which was established in September, 2016, is implementing prevention, intervention, and response activities to address gender-based violence.</p> <p>20. Preparation and implementation of permanent training plans on the rights of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women, violence against women, and the Convention of Belém do Pará for the pertinent decision-makers and authorities. R19</p> <p>The SCAN Unit conducts training sessions 4 to 5 times per year or based on the demand. Targeted groups include: the police, nurses, social workers and others who deal with children.</p> <p>The Department of Gender and Family Affairs launched an awareness raising campaign on sexual</p>	<p>violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bahamas Crisis Centre • The Christian Counselling Centre • The Community Counselling and Assessment Centre • The Salvation Army • Domestic Violence and Counselling Unit • Victim Support Unit (Royal Bahamas Police Force) <p>20. Number of legal or forensic physicians, forensic psychologists, criminologists trained per 100,000 girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women. R19, R23</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	
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	harassment targeting high school students (roughly 35% females and 65% males)		
BASIC FINANCIAL CONTEXT AND BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS			
Indicator	21. Design and	21. Number of users	21. Percentage of budget

<p>Qualitative signs of progress</p>	<p>implementation awareness and prevention campaigns about different forms of violence in the various languages spoken in the country. R16</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>Number and characteristics of civil society organizations involved in the promotion and protection of the right to a life without violence, considering organizations particularly involved with indigenous girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. Indicate forms and type of participation. R20</p> <p>A number of organizations are involved with the promotion and protection of victims of violence, including. For example, the Catholic Church runs a programme for batterers.</p> <p>22. Percentage of public spending allocated to the different plans, strategies, and programs on violence against women in the last fiscal period. R36</p>	<p>attended to by the various services for girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are victims of violence, considering those who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons, pregnant, socio-economically disadvantaged or affected by armed conflict or deprived of their freedom. R23, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>spending allocated to programs, plans, and agencies related to different forms of violence against women. R35</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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	<p>Percentage of spending on programmes on violence against women is unknown, but \$2 million has been allocated towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan to Address Gender-Based Violence. Additional public agencies who receive funding include the Domestic Violence and Counselling Unit.</p> <p>23. Budgets assigned in the last fiscal period to: R36 Police stations for women or to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ her agencies where complaints can be lodged ✓ Specialized offices attached to the judiciary or prosecution service (attorneys' offices, defence offices) ✓ Training for officials from different branches of government ✓ Programs for attending to women affected by violence <p>The Bahamas Crisis Centre has ongoing programmes with respect to women and violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prevention campaigns Studies to monitor and assess the different components of strategies, plans, programs, actions 	<p>22. Percentage of women victims of violence who seek attention in proportion to the total number of women who suffer violence, taking shortcomings in records and other statistical defects into account. R23, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>23. Average time that passes between the first manifestation of violence and the victim's first contact with an agency or establishment that provides attention and services.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>22. Publication of final reports on the budget and its execution. R35</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>23. Monitoring reports of knowledge, understanding and application of specific protocols and regulations on the rights of women, as part of regular assessments to access incentives, credits, ranks (the justice, health, education). R10, R11</p> <p>(1) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Report (6th periodic report submitted in 2017)</p> <p>(2) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Initial Report</p>
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			<p>submitted in 2003)</p> <p>(3) Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination Report (CERD) (Combined 5th – 14th Periodic Report submitted in 2003)</p> <p>(4) Universal Periodic Review (2nd National Report submitted in 2012)</p>
	<p>24. Ratio between national economic growth and coverage of the guarantee of a life without violence.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>24. Existence of support networks in the local level (community, national, regional) for emergency care and follow-up to the problem of violence against women. R26, R30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number and type of institution (public, private, nature of institutional activities) that make up the support network. ✓ Established mechanisms for interagency communication and coordination. ✓ Distinct mechanisms for emergency and for monitoring the problem of VAW. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Gender and Family Affairs • The Ministry of Social Services and Community 	<p>24. Number of indigenous, rural, women satisfied with the health care received. R9</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>

		<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAFE and SCAN • NGOs (such as the Bahamas Crisis Centre and Salvation Army) 	
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	STRUCTURAL	PROCESS	RESULTS
RECEPTION OF THE RIGHT			
Indicator	<p>25. Number and characteristics of civil society organizations involved in budget oversight initiatives and budget execution, considering organizations working in particular with girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. R17, R20</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>26. Number of shelters and homes for victims of violence against women and their children. R26, R30</p>	<p>25. Existence and operation of a public institution (mechanism for the advancement of women) involved in monitoring compliance with legislation regarding violence against women, also considering girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. R1, R17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Gender and Family Affairs • Royal Bahamas Police Force • Attorney General’s Office <p>26. Existence and operation of a public institution involved in monitoring compliance with legislation regarding indigenous, rural, children’s and indigenous, rural, women’s rights.</p>	<p>25. Acknowledgment and respect for traditional knowledge and practices by the general health system. R9</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>26. Monitoring and impact assessment of policies, national plans, actions, strategies, in terms of their different components, at the national, provincial, state, and</p>

	<p>(i) Links Safe House, (ii) The Salvation Army, (iii), Great Commission Ministries. It should be noted that boys over the age of 10 are not permitted to stay in shelters with their mothers. There are no shelters in the Family Islands.</p> <p>27. Number of public or state-supported legal services specializing in women affected by violence. R23, R30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Public Prosecutions (Office of the Attorney General) • Office of the Public Defender (Office of the Attorney General) • The Eugene Dupuch Legal Aid Clinic <p>28. Number of services that provide care and psychological support before, during and after the legal process. R23, R30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bahamas Crisis Centre • Domestic Violence & 	<p>Department of Gender and Family Affairs has an obligation to monitor international, regional and national commitments to women's rights</p> <p>27. Percentage of social public spending allocated to ensuring a life without violence R36</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>28. Percentage of public spending allocated to: R36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ actions, plans, strategies, and programs to address violence ✓ Infrastructure investments for cases of violence (shelters, preventive measures, availability of mechanisms, etc.) ✓ training in violence for personnel from the three branches of government ✓ sexual and reproductive health services ✓ health services ✓ in the education sector in the employment sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data unavailable. 	<p>local levels. R17, R33</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>27. Number of public institutions with specific dependencies on women, created, operating with budget and budget execution. R36</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>28. Percentage of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are aware of their rights R16, R38</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;">Counselling Unit, Ministry of Social Services and Community Development</p> <p>29. Number of toll-free telephone lines, with national, state, and/or local coverage, for women. R30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Hotlines: (242) 322-2763 (242) 422-2763 • The Bahamas Crisis Centre Hotline: (242) 328-0922 <p>Royal Bahamas Police Force =919</p> <p>30. Number of public health programs for women victims of violence in the different forms it can take, considering girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their</p>	<p>29. Spending on ensuring life without violence and spending on health, both broken down by jurisdictions (state, provincial, local). R36</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>30. Per capita public spending on health care. R36</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>31. Regular reports (semi-annual or annual) public access to management accountability in the budget for the implementation of plans and programs for the treatment and eradication of violence against women. R17</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>32. Social audit reports to account</p>	<p>29. Percentage of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are aware of the existence of specialized services for different manifestations of violence, considering girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. R16, R33, R38</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>30. Number and type of programs from the government (college level or above) for the systematic training of specialists in different disciplines on the problem of violence against women (legal medical, forensic psychologists, criminologists, etc.) R19</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>31. Annual percentage of people graduated from these special programs. R19</p>
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	<p>sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. R30</p> <p>Public Health Programmes include:</p> <p>--Psychological Counselling Programme --The National HIV/AIDS Programme</p> <p>31. Number of psychological counselling services R30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandilands Rehabilitative Centre • Community Counselling & Assessment Centre (New Providence and Abaco Island) • The Crisis Centre • Domestic Violence and Counselling Unit <p>32. Civil society organizations involved in monitoring and evaluation, considering in particular organizations working with girls and</p>	<p>for the management of the budget for the implementation of plans and programs for the treatment and eradication of VAW. R17</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>33. Accessibility and availability of care services for victims of different forms of violence, by jurisdiction and geographical region. R23, R33</p> <p>The Princess Margaret Hospital in Nassau and the Rand Hospital in Grand Bahama provide care services to victims of violence.</p> <p>The Christian Counseling and Assessment Centre facilitates care services in Marsh Harbour, Abaco.</p> <p>The Crisis Centre</p> <p>The Victim Support Unit (Ministry of Social Services and Community Development)</p> <p>34. Existence of care protocols for the implementation of various public care and support to girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women victims of violence: R27, R30</p> <p>Protocols regarding public care and support for victims of violence are in place for school officials, healthcare professionals, and national security forces.</p>	<p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>32. Percentage of specialists working in public sector institutions linked to the issue of violence against women. R23</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>33. Number and types of scholarships and exchange programs to meet the absences of expertise in different disciplines on the problem of violence against women. R19</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>34. Annual percentage of people graduated from these special programs and placed on public sector bodies linked to the issue of violence against women. R19</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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	<p>adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. R31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Crisis Centre • Bahamas Women Watch • Zonta Clubs • Holla Back Bahamas <p>33. Characteristics, coverage, and schedule of outreach campaigns dealing with the right to a life without violence. R32</p> <p>Trafficking in Persons Task Force Education Committee launched a Prevention Campaign in 2014.</p> <p>The Department of Gender and Family Affairs has launched a National Awareness Campaign to End GBV.</p>		
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	<p>34. Characteristics, coverage, and schedule of outreach campaigns against the sexual harassment. R32</p> <p>The Department of Gender and Family Affairs launched a campaign, geared toward high school students, on sexual harassment in February 2017 and will continue in the new school year.</p>		
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III.1. Access to Justice
Art. 7 d), f) y 8 c) y d)

BASIC FINANCIAL CONTEXT AND BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS

Indicator			
	<p>35. Legislation that explicitly bans the use of such methods as conciliation, mediation, suspended sentences, probation, application of the opportunity, commutation of sentences and others intended to resolve cases of violence against women extra-judicially. R5</p> <p>There is no legislation that bans conciliation. The courts are free to deal extra-judicially with matters.</p>	<p>35. User satisfaction studies on the accessibility, availability, and quality of the different attention services for victims of violence. R33</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>35. Number of comprehensive care services for women survivors of violence created and operating nationwide, with budget and running. R23</p> <p>While no comprehensive care services for women survivors of violence exist, a number of agencies provide components of care services. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bahamas Crisis Centre 2. Links Safe House 3. Bahamas Reproductive Health and Rights Centre 4. Salvation Army 5. Great Commission

	<p>36. Existence of legislation on protective measures, at the request of the victim or third parties or on an ex officio basis, before and during administrative and/or judicial proceedings. R26</p> <p>Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act, 2007</p> <p>The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention and Suppression) Act, 2008</p> <p>Child Protection Act, 2007</p> <p>37. Judicial proceedings provide mechanisms for enforcing protective measures and guarantee the safety of women victims of violence, their children, and their witnesses. These mechanisms include: R26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation funds • Mechanisms for rescuing women • Changes of identity • Witness protection • Safe-conducts to leave the country • Safe reference networks • Panic buttons 	<p>36. Perception studies on the identification of violence against women. R33</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>37. Characteristics and coverage of the means used to provide girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women with information on their violence attention rights. R32</p> <p>The Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Unit provides information on abuse in pamphlets, coloring books, “Say No, then Go” (By Dr. Carter, 2011)</p>	<p>36. Annual percentage on the progress of the national coverage of comprehensive care services for women survivors of violence. R26, R33</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>37. Percentage of public spending allocated in the last fiscal period for the implementation of programs of violence against women by implementing institution (public and/or private) or the expenditure items. R36</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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<p>Qualitative signs of progress</p>	<p>The Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act mandates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Police assist with: obtaining Medical Assistance; getting the victim to a place of safety and removing her personal belongings; informing victims of the importance of preserving evidence; and informing victims of their rights <p>38. Competence of ministries or supervisory offices to receive complaints from health system users. R23</p> <p>Relevant concerns may be raised with The Public Hospital's Authority..</p> <p>38. Specific mechanism to receive complaints from users regarding the justice system R23</p>	<p>38. Existence of permanent mechanisms for participation in offering recommendations on the design and implementation of violence prevention and attention policies. R20</p> <p>Department of Gender and Family Affairs.</p>	<p>38. Establishment and institutionalization of accountability mechanisms by state institutions and social audit on the management of budgets for the implementation of plans and programs for the treatment and eradication of violence against women. R17</p> <p>The establishment of a GBV Authority has been proposed in the national Strategic Plan to Address GBV.</p>
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	Complaints and Corruption Unit (The Royal Bahamas Police Force)		
STATE CAPACITIES			
Indicator	<p>39. Existence of constitutional relief (amparos, protective actions, custody). R23</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>40. Availability of procedural guarantees in judicial proceedings involving violence: (i) independence and impartiality of the court; (ii) reasonable time; (iii) equality of arms; (iv) res judicata; (v) appeals to higher courts against judgments. R23</p>	<p>39. Percentage of protective orders issued in cases of violence against women, in proportion to the number of protective orders requested, broken down by the type of crime and/or type of violence reported. R25, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>40. Judgments and rulings that make use of and include the Convention of Belém do Pará R28, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>39. Rate of demand for attention (number of women served over the past twelve months, divided by the total female population, multiplied by 1000): R33</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For physical / psychological / sexual / patrimonial or economic violence at the hands of the partner, former partner or acquaintance of the woman. <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>Service usage rate: R33</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ By victims of different forms of violence ✓ Telephone assistance ✓ Legal assistance ✓ Health care services ✓ Supply availability of antibiotics, anti-retrovirals and emergency contraception in cases of rape. <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>40. Coverage, scope, jurisdiction, and funding: R33</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ of attention programs for victims of violence ✓ of assistance programs for elderly women ✓ of assistance programs for girls and adolescents

	<p>The courts are independent and make an effort to ensure that those appearing before them are treated equally. There is an appellate court system.</p>		<p>✓ of health insurance plans, by sex, age, and geographical region, as subscribers or beneficiaries</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
<p>Qualitative signs of progress</p>	<p>41. Existence of criminal investigation protocols on crimes of violence against women, femicide and violent deaths of women, with a gender perspective. R6</p> <p>Legislation and rapidly available mechanisms for protection of indigenous, rural, girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women victims of violence, with particular attention of intercultural backgrounds. R24</p> <p>The Sexual Offences Unit has unit has protocols to investigate acts of violence against women.</p> <p>There is no legislation specific to groups of women as identified the Sexual Offences Act applies to all persons.</p>	<p>41. Number of judicial sentences or rulings on domestic violence or any other form of violence (physical, sexual, psychological, patrimonial, economic, institutional, political , workplace violence, sexual harassment, political harassment, obstetric violence, etc.) broken down by sex, age, race, ethnic origin, and socio-economic.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>42. Number of judgments or resolutions related to reparation of victims, type of reparation. R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>43. Existence of an office, rapporteurship, or other kinds of specific agency within the trials and appeals courts and at the supreme court.</p> <p>A Witness Protection Unit is attached to the Attorney General's Office</p>	<p>41. Unreported violence rate: number of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who were victims of different forms of violence over the past twelve months and who did not report those acts of violence, divided by the total number of women in their age groups. R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>42. Number and percentage of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who access the emergency kit in institutions. R39</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>

	<p>42. Number and characteristics of civil society organizations that are involved as advisors or as complainants in criminal proceedings for violence against women and femicide.</p> <p>The Bahamas Crisis Centre</p> <p>43. Funding of assistance services, free legal representation, and other services intended for girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who have suffered different forms of violence, either publicly managed or with state subsidies. R23, R30</p> <p>The Eugene Dupuch Legal Aide Clinic provides low-cost legal services to all accessing their services.</p>	<p>44. Policies to train judges, prosecutors, defence attorneys, lawyers, and justice operators, as well as in the law schools programs, on the topic of violence. Thematic coverage and scope R19</p> <p>The Pan-American Development Foundation has begun to implement the Women in Non-Violence and Development Initiative in Nassau and the Family Islands. The Department of Gender and Family is creating initiatives to engage the justice sector to address GBV in the context of the GBV Strategic Plan.</p> <p>45. Database records with relevant precedents from higher federal and state courts on violence against women, including documentation of emblematic cases. R28, R40</p>	<p>43. Number and percentage of Cases reported to the investigating agency, for violence against women in its various manifestations and violent deaths of women, according to the process status: R40</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Research ✓ Accusation ✓ Judicial decisions ✓ Dismissed ✓ Archived <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>44. Number and percentage of cases heard by the Criminal Courts (routine and specialized) for different crimes: violence against women, femicide, attempted femicide, in relation to the number and percentage of judgments (convictions and / or acquittals) issued by the courts (ordinary and specialized) R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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	<p>44. Existence of agencies for receiving complaints. If they exist, their number and locations. R22, R39</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Royal Bahamas Police Force • The Ministry of Health • The Department of Labour <p>45. Existence of administrative agencies for filing complaints regarding failing to abide by obligations related to the right to a life without violence. R22, R39</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>46. Existence of legal representation services, either public or state-supported, specializing in women affected by</p>	<p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>46. Publication of and access to information on judgments and rulings enacted. R40</p> <p>The public has access to this information in the Court's Registry.</p> <p>47. Periodic reports of accountability for the financial management of resources for access to justice for women victims of violence. R23, R33</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>48. Financial resources destined to fund free legal representation and judicial services, intended for indigenous girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women, afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of</p>	<p>45. Average time between the initial phase of a criminal trial for violence against women in its various manifestations and/or femicide and judgment (conviction or acquittal). R6, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>46. Number and percentage of cases known by the jurisdictional entities of the justice system for reparation of women affected by violence or collateral victims in case of violent death of women. R6</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>47. Average investment funds involving each of the stages of criminal proceedings according to the institution involved. R40</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
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	<p>violence. R23, R30</p> <p>The Eugene Dupuch Law School's Legal Aide clinic provides general services – including to women victims of violence.</p> <p>47. Existence of nationwide toll-free telephone lines for women victims of violence. R30</p> <p>As above:</p> <p>Ministry of Social Services National Hotline = 322-2763 = 422-2763</p> <p>The Bahamas Crisis Centre Hotline = 328-0922</p> <p>Royal Bahamas Police Forces = 919</p> <p>48. Existence of free and comprehensive legal services to protect the right to a life without violence. R23, R30</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>their freedom. R24, R40</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>49. Publication of and access to information on budget allocations and spending. R40</p> <p>Budgets are available online.</p> <p>50. Number of women lodging complaints for violence with the police. R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>48. The number of convictions for violence against women in proportion to the total number of reports. R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>49. The number of victims of femicide in the past twelve months, by age, marital status, cause of death, and geographic location. R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>50. Number of femicide prosecutions with sentences in the past twelve months in proportion to the total number of recorded cases. R40</p> <p>Police reports for 2013: 17 recorded cases of female victims of homicides 11 prosecutions</p>
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	<p>49. Existence of free and comprehensive legal services intended for indigenous, rural, girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women, taking care of inter-culturality, according to legislation in force. R24, R30</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>		
	<p>50. Number and characteristics of civil society organizations involved in monitoring and control initiatives, considering organizations particularly working with girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women of diverse ethnic origin, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual</p>		

preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom. **R20**

- Bahamas Crisis Centre
- Bahamas Women's Watch
- HollaBack (Bahamas)

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III.1. Information and Statistics
Art. 8 h)

	STRUCTURAL	PROCESS	RESULTS
RECEPTION OF THE RIGHT			
Indicator	<p>51. Regulations covering the State's obligation to conduct regular surveys on different manifestations of violence against girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women. Consider both the private and the public as a scenario where violence happens. R1, R38</p> <p>Article 29 of the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act, assigns responsibility to the Ministry with responsibility for social services to study, investigate and publish "statistics and</p>	<p>51. Number of women victims of sex crimes, by age, racial or ethnic origin, and socio-economic status. R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>52. Number of users served by the telephone lines. R40</p> <p>Number of persons served.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>51. Number of trained personnel in the justice system with a gender perspective and taking care of inter-culturality. R19</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>52. Number of cases solved involving indigenous, rural, girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women as victims of violence. R24, R40</p>

	<p>other relevant reports on the domestic violence problem in The Bahamas, its causes, manifestations and scope; the consequences and the options for confronting and eradicating it, in conjunction with The Bahamas Police Force.”</p> <p>52. Regulations covering the State’s obligation to keep administrative records (police, judicial, prosecution service, defence offices, social services, health, etc.) on the different cases of violence against girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women in its various manifestations. R1, R39</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>53. Regulations appointing the competent authority for coordinating efforts to ensure complete administrative records. R1, R39</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>54. Regulations covering the State’s obligation to conduct</p>	<p>53. Number of complaints involving violence received, investigation, and resolved by competent national human rights institutions in the country. R23, R40</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>54. Number of users of free legal representation services, be they public or private, with or without state subsidies. R23, R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>55. Training programs for justice operators from a gender perspective and inter-culturality. R19</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>53. Number of indigenous, rural, women holding decision-making positions for conflict resolution in indigenous, rural, communities.</p> <p>5 of 25 Family Island administrators are female.</p> <p>54. Number of women in positions of decision on prosecution, courts and other administrative bodies of justice.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>55. Number of civil servants and public officials who have accessed training processes, awareness and training on the issue of violence against women. R19</p> <p>Although trainings have been held, number of civil servants</p>
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	<p>regular research and studies to monitor and assess policies, plans, programs, strategies, and actions. R1, R37</p> <p>Based on the reporting obligations under CEDAW, the Bahamas conducts this research periodically.</p> <p>55. Regulations that provides free access to information of statistical nature generated by public sector institutions. R1, R37</p> <p>Information generated by the Department of Statistics is available to the public free of charge.</p> <p>56. Number and characteristics of public sector institutions producing or generating statistical information on violence against women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Health • The Ministry of Social Services • The Royal Bahamas Police Force 	<p>56. Publication of and access to information of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women victims of violence served, in the different languages that are spoken in the country. R24, R40</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>57. Number of reports presented by the country to international oversight agencies in connection with the right to a life without violence, using official information, studies, and statistics. R24</p> <p>(1) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms</p>	<p>and public officials who have accessed these trainings remain unknown.</p> <p>56. Number of public servants who work in positions that have direct interaction with women affected by violence against women in all its manifestations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number and percentage of female officers (not found) in relation to the number of cases reported to the institution. ✓ Number and percentage of women psychologists and psychiatrists in relation to the number of cases reported to the institutions responsible for dispensing justice. ✓ Number and percentage of social workers in relation to the number of cases reported to the institutions responsible for dispensing justice. ✓ Number and percentage of women lawyers in relation to the number of cases reported to institutions responsible for counseling women in criminal proceedings (as aggrieved or accused of crimes). Number of interpreters with knowledge of the rights of women. <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>57. Legislation covering public access to the</p>
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	<p>57. Number and characteristics of civil society organizations requesting access to public information considering organizations particularly working with girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women of diverse ethnic origin, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Report (6th periodic report submitted in 2017)</p> <p>(2) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Initial Report submitted in 2003)</p> <p>(3) Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination Report (CERD) (Combined 5th – 14th Periodic Report submitted in 2003)</p> <p>(4) Universal Periodic Review (2nd National Report submitted in 2012)</p>	<p>information gathered (through surveys and administrative records). R38</p> <p>Currently there is none.</p> <p>58. Regular publication of statistics prepared and studies carried out. R37</p> <p>The Department of Statistics produces a population census and Labour Force Survey (every 6 months)</p> <p>59. Number of surveys on violence against women. R38</p> <p>No national survey on violence against women has been conducted.</p> <p>60. Percentage of the execution of the budget allocated for programs, plans,</p>
	<p>58. Specific laws including budgetary allocations for meeting information production obligations. R1, R34</p>	<p>58. Number of reports presented by the country to international oversight agencies in connection with the access to justice for all women, especially on organs and procedures available, the</p>	

	<p>Not applicable.</p> <p>59. National budget law with earmarks for meeting information production obligations. R1, R34</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>60. Number and characteristics of civil society organizations involved in budget oversight initiatives and budget execution.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>61. Agreements and/or cooperative ties between the national women’s mechanism / the competent authorities in the area of violence (at different public agencies) and the national agency responsible for the official statistics used to produce quality information on different forms of violence</p>	<p>advantages and obstacles that present and the both national and customary standards used to administer justice.</p> <p>See response to item 57 above.</p> <p>59. Periodic statistical reports on violence against women. R40</p> <p>The Bahamas Crisis Centre produces reports.</p> <p>The Royal Bahamas Police Force collects sex disaggregated data annually</p> <p>60. Qualitative reports that interpret and contextualize the statistics of violence against women. R40</p> <p>Several reports have been conducted by the University of the Bahamas including: “Domestic Violence in the Lives of College Students, New Providence, The Bahamas” and “Homicides in The Bahamas”</p> <p>61. Number of parallel reports presented by civil society to international oversight agencies in connection with the right to a life without violence, using official information, studies, and statistics. R40</p>	<p>and institutions related to different forms of violence against women. R35, R36, R37.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>61. Publication of final reports on the budget and its execution. R37</p> <p>Reports are available online.</p> <p>62. Existence and availability of regular databases or other sources of information on different forms of violence. R40</p> <p>The Royal Bahamas Police Forces maintains a database outlining various forms of violence.</p>
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	<p>against girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women. R18, R42</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Statistics serve on workings groups to prepare periodic reports.</p> <p>62. Existence of offices, secretariats, or specialized state mechanisms for producing information, studies, and statistics. Coverage by jurisdictions (national, state, provincial, local). R39, R41</p> <p>Department of Statistics</p> <p>63. Existence of studies on sentences and opinions that contains stereotypes, prejudices, myths and customs in the cases of women victims of violence, and the use of the personal history of the victim and / or her sexual experience to deny justice to her. R29</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>64. Production reports, specialized studies from various disciplines on violence against women and femicide with statistical bases. R40</p>	<p>Bahamas Women’s Watch</p> <p>62. Publication of reports on budget allocations and execution. R35, R36, R37</p> <p>Reports are available online.</p> <p>63. Percentage of public spending assigned to the development of databases with information on different forms of violence.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>64. Transparency and public information on the budget and its execution. R35, R37</p> <p>The budget is available online.</p> <p>65. Processes for negotiating agreements and/or cooperative technical ties between the national women’s mechanism / the competent authorities for violence (at different public agencies). R42</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>63. Number of the public sector institutions that have specific units on generation of statistical information. R40</p> <p>The budget is available online.</p> <p>64. Periodic reports of social perception on the issue of violence against women. R38</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>65. Violence rate among salaried women, by type of violence, age, ethnic origin, country of origin, and socioeconomic level.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>66. Violence rate among women who work exclusively in the home (reproductive work), by type of violence, age, ethnic origin, country of origin, and socioeconomic level.</p>
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	<p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>65. Periodic reports about studies on sentences and opinions that contains stereotypes, prejudices, myths and customs in the cases of women victims of violence, and the use of the personal history of the victim and / or her sexual experience to deny justice to her. R29</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>66. Law or national policy on the guarantees of a life without violence that addresses ethnic diversity (indigenous, aboriginal peoples, campesinos) rural and Afro-descendants.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>67. Law addressing / including the right of gender identity , sexual identity and sexual diversity.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>66. Existence of mechanisms for access to updated statistical information (accessible and timely) R40</p> <p>The Department of Statistics produces statistical information.</p> <p>67. Existence of mechanisms for mass dissemination of national statistics on violence against women. R40</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>67. Violence rate by level of schooling, race, ethnic origin, country of origin, and socioeconomic level.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>68. Violence rate among pregnant women, by age.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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	<p>68. Law or national policy guaranteeing a life without violence for girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women with physical or psychosocial disabilities.</p> <p>The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities) Act, 2014</p> <p>69. Law or national policy on mental health that specifically addresses the right to a life without violence.</p> <p>The Mental Health Act, 2010 does not address the right to a life free from violence.</p> <p>70. Law or national policy to guarantee a life without violence for girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are migrants, displaced persons, or deprived of their freedom.</p> <p>The Sexual Offences Act covers all persons.</p>	<p>68. Processes for preparing laws or national policies guaranteeing a life without violence that take into account ethnic diversity (indigenous, aboriginal peoples, campesinos), rural and Afro-descendants, girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women with disabilities, migrants, refugees, displaced persons, deprived of their freedom or diverse sexual preferences and diverse sex-gender identities.</p> <p>The Processes for preparing laws or national policies include: advocacy, drafts by Attorney General's Office, Cabinet review and approval, public consultations and parliamentary debates.</p> <p>69. Legislative bills and national plans.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>70. Number of reports presented by the country to international oversight agencies on the right to a life without violence with detailed information of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, situation of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women</p>	<p>69. Violence rate among elderly women.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>70. Violence rate among girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women with disabilities.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>71. Violence rate in girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are lesbians and/or against women with diverse gender identity.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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	<p>71. Regulatory recognition and incorporation of principles and processes of indigenous justice, in ways that respect human rights and are compatible with the Convention of Belém do Pará.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, socio-economically disadvantaged, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom.</p> <p>(1) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Report (6th periodic report submitted in 2017)</p> <p>(2) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Initial Report submitted in 2003)</p> <p>(3) Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination Report (CERD) (Combined 5th – 14th Periodic Report submitted in 2003)</p> <p>(4) Universal Periodic Review (2nd National Report submitted in 2012)</p>	<p>72. Violence rate among women married to their assailants.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>73. Violence rate among women in a relationship with their assailants.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
	<p>72. Acknowledgment of intercultural citizenship in domestic legislation, considering the indigenous, rural, communities' rights to their practices and knowledge.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>71. Number of parallel reports presented by civil society to international oversight agencies on the right to a life without violence with detailed information of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, socio-economically disadvantaged, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom.</p>	
	<p>73. Existence of legislation / regulations imposing sanctions for public officials and</p>	<p>CEDAW shadow report produced</p>	

	<p>educators in cases of sexual violence against indigenous, rural, female students.</p> <p>The Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act makes sexual harassment an offence in The Bahamas and specifically prohibits the solicitation of sexual favors in return for admission into any institution which would include education institutions.</p> <p>74. Number and characteristics of civil society organizations with specific knowledge on each of the areas involved in the design, enforcement, and monitoring agencies.</p> <p>BASIC FINANCIAL CONTEXT AND BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>75 Specific laws that include budgetary allocations for meeting</p>	<p>by the Bahamas Crisis Centre.</p> <p>72. Number of legal instruments, programs and projects guaranteeing intercultural citizenship of indigenous, rural, women.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>73. Characteristics and frequency of perception studies among the general population in connection with different forms of violence.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>74. Full exercise of cultural rights by women and indigenous, rural, communities, in a context of intercultural citizenship.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>75. Percentage of indigenous, rural, women keeping the knowledge and culture within their communities.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>76. Percentage of indigenous, rural, girls and boys attending intercultural schools.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>
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	<p>the obligation of ensuring the adoption of the measures enshrined in the Convention of Belém do Pará and national law, free of discrimination.</p> <p>Unavailable.</p> <p>76. National budget law with earmarked allocations for meeting the obligations of ensuring the adoption of the measures enshrined in the Convention of Belém do Pará and national law, free of discrimination.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>77. Number and characteristics of civil society organizations with specific knowledge of each of the areas involved in the allocation, monitoring, and oversight of budget execution. STATE CAPACITIES</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>78. Existence of protocols for the comprehensive attention of cases of violence against women (in its different forms), prepared in languages</p>	<p>74. Public policy, plans and programs to eradicate violence, proposed by indigenous, rural, women's movement, considering organizations particularly working with girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women of diverse ethnic origin, Afro-descendants, rural, with disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>75. Number of reports prepared and published with information on effective budget execution.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>76. Number of interpreters for indigenous, rural, girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women or those who do not speak the official language.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	
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	<p>and in a format accessible for people with visual disabilities, that set specific criteria for data collection and for sensitive, quality attention for victims of violence, to be used by the police, the justice system, the healthcare system, and other state agencies.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>79. Design and implementation of mechanisms for the incorporation of principles and processes of indigenous justice, in ways that respect human rights and are compatible with the Convention of Belém do Pará.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>80. Number and characteristics of civil society organizations with specific knowledge on each of the areas involved in the design, enforcement, and monitoring agencies.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	<p>77. Number of interpreters for migrant and refugee girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women or for those who not speak the official language.</p> <p>Data unavailable. Interpreters are made available as needed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration and the Royal Bahamas Police Force.</p> <p>78. Number of officials in different agencies trained to provide / facilitate the necessary support mechanisms for girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women with disabilities.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p> <p>79. Percentage of the population that uses indigenous or alternative systems for health care and/or access to justice.</p>	
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Data unavailable.

80. Percentage of older women who regularly receive medical attention / monitoring and measures to attend to or prevent violence.

Data unavailable.

Percentage of girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, who regularly receive medical attention / monitoring and measures to attend to or prevent violence.

Data unavailable.

81. Training actions and plans for pertinent decision-makers and authorities (including technical staff at ministries, lawmakers, justice operators, health practitioners, security and police forces, and personnel at centers providing specialized attention for violence against women, among others) with particular emphasis on girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women who are ethnically diverse, Afro-descendants, rural, with

		<p>disabilities, with different sexual preferences, by their sexual identity, migrants, refugees, displaced persons or deprived of their freedom.</p> <p>Data unavailable.</p>	
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III.1. Diversity ³

Art. 9

With respect to the adoption of the measures in this Chapter, the States Parties shall take special account of the vulnerability of women to violence by reason of among others, their race or ethnic background or their status as migrants, refugees or displaced persons. Similar consideration shall be given to women subjected to violence while pregnant or who are disabled, of minor age, elderly, socio-economically disadvantaged, affected by armed conflict or deprived of their freedom

Source: Own work based on *Indicators for Follow-up to the Committee of Experts' (CEVI) Recommendations*, adopted at the Fourth Meeting of CEVI, held on August 15, 2008 (OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10 (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.86/08 rev. 3); *Follow-up Report on the Recommendations made by the CEVI in the Evaluation Stage of the First Multilateral Evaluation Round*, Third Conference of States Parties, Antigua, Guatemala, March 24 to 25, 2011 (OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10, MESECVI-III/doc.57/11). (CEVI) (2012) *Draft Indicators of the Second Multilateral Evaluation Round to follow-up of Committee of Experts' (CEVI) Recommendations*, OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10, MESECVI/CEVI/doc.176/12, June 27, 2012, MESECVI (2012) *Second Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of Belém do Pará*, OAS; April 2012; MESEVI (2012) *Responses to questionnaires / Country reports*, and on the proposed progress indicators; Foro Internacional de Mujeres indígenas (FIMI) *Resumen sobre el proceso de construcción de indicadores para monitoreo de violencia contra mujeres indígenas, 2009 a 2010*.

¹ Matrix approved by the Committee of Experts-CEVI, the May 21, 2013

² For the purpose of these indicators we take as concept of "femicide" as follows: "the violent death of women based on gender, whether it occurs within the family, a domestic partnership, or any other interpersonal relationship; in the community, by any person, or when it is perpetrated or tolerated by the state or its agents, by action or omission." According with the Declaration on Femicide adopted at the Fourth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Mechanism to Follow-up on the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (CEVI). Document MESECVI/CEVI/DEC. 1/08, on 15 August 2008.

For those countries that have regulated this form of violence against women in any legal instrument, it is requested to record the differences regarding the operational definition used by MESECVI.

³ Adicionalmente se desarrollaron estos indicadores específicos en Diversidad. Estos indicadores serán utilizados en la siguiente ronda.