From law to practice

Sexual violence against girls in LAC

Care for girls that are victims of sexual violence in the States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) has recommended that the States Party to the Convention:

Adopt and implement care protocols for girls that are victims of violence, in indigenous languages and sign language when needed, within the police or other institutions that receive complaints, district attorney’s offices and health services.

According to the information compiled by the MESECVI through 2016, the situation is:

Punish sexual acts with girls 14 or younger

Antigua & Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Kitts & Nevis
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
Saint Lucia
Suriname
Trinidad & Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

Total: 32

Provide information to the MESECVI 2013-2016

Argentina
Barbados
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Honduras
Mexico
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Suriname
Trinidad & Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

Total: 21

Have some kind of care protocol in cases of sexual violence

Argentina
Colombia
Costa Rica
Ecuador
Guatemala
Honduras
Mexico
Panama
Peru
Republica Dominicana
Trinidad y Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

Total: 13

1 During the follow-up phase of the Second Multi-lateral Evaluation Round (2013-2014), information was provided by: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. During the evaluation phase of the Third Multi-lateral Evaluation Round (2016 to-date), information was provided by: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

2 See over for information provided by each country on the types of protocols (Health and/or judicial care in cases of sexual violence, Legal interruption of pregnancy, Provision of emergency contraception, Sexual and reproductive rights, Specialized care for girls that are victims of sexual violence).
In this context, the Committee of Experts recommends:

- Training agents of the State from the justice and health sectors in the comprehensive care that should be provided to girls that are victims of sexual violence, from a gender and human rights perspective;
- Ensuring that all protocols guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services for all girls, regardless of their age, and include confidentiality (comprising the parents when they are the alleged abusers) and counselling; and
- Adopting care protocols that determine the steps to follow for treatment and care of girls that are users of emergency contraception and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV and other STIs in public health services, particularly in cases of sexual violence.