

## Challenges to progress

Need to **strengthen political leadership** of the Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (MAW).

Insufficient **budgetary resources** for the formulation and implementation of policies and/or national plans.

Weakness in the **continuity of policies** and/or national plans and **fragmented institutional responses**.

Persistence of **patriarchal cultural patterns** that normalize violence against women

Emerging assessments of the **results of plans and public policies**.

Lack of reliable, systematic and periodic **measurement of prevalence and incidence of violence against women**.

## What do we propose?

- Social Pacts between government, private sector and civil society to generate commitment of all relevant actors to eradicate violence against women.
- Take National Plans to local level to ensure local authorities and other actors play a key role in addressing VAW closer to where women are Policies with a multidimensional approach and focus on strategic interventions that have a multiplier effect.
- Make commitments real: allocate sufficient resources to implement national plans.
- Strengthen the reparation actions for victims, especially those focus on economic empowerment, to help them move away from situations of violence.
- Work with men to change perceptions of masculinities: take the discussions to schools and work-place and make men, especially young men, partners in the struggle to end violence against women.
- Participation of women's organizations and social actors in the monitoring of policies and programs.



## From commitment to action



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## Policies to end violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean

**What advances have the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean made in relation to the enactment of legislation and development of policies and/or national plans to address violence against women between 2013 and 2016?** The findings of the study are a highly value political and technical tool for States to meet the goal of ending violence against women.

# Violence against women...

... is "any action or behaviour, based on gender, which causes death, harm or physical, sexual or psychological suffering to women, both in the public and private domain" (Article 1° of the Inter American Convention to Prevent, Punish and End Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará")?

... is the clearest evidence of discrimination and violation of women's human rights with devastating effects on their physical and/or mental health, including death (femicide/feminicide).

... affects families, friends, work or study colleagues of the victims/survivors and the society at large.

... is expressed in different forms such as physical, sexual, psychological and economic or patrimonial violence.

**38%**

of all female homicides (femicide or feminicide) are due to domestic violence (WHO, 2013).



**98%**

of cases of gender-based violence are perpetrated against women by men who are their family members, partners, or former partners.

In 2014 alone, in 15 Caribbean countries, 1678 women were murdered due to the fact that they were women (ECLAC, 2015).

Globally  
**35%**

of women have been victims of physical and/or sexual violence on the part of their partners, or sexual violence by third parties other than their partners (WHO, 2013).

In Central America 2 in every 3 women are killed because they are women and in half of these cases the murderer is their former partner.

(HDI Central America UNDP, 2009).

**In the Americas, 29.8% of women have been victims of violence from their partners; 10.7% have suffered sexual violence outside the couple.**

...sometimes occurs with other forms of discrimination and violence based on ethnicity, caste or class, migrant or refugee status, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, or HIV/AIDS condition.

## Progress made

### NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

#### 2013

24 of the 33 countries in the region (73%) implemented policies and/or plans to end gender-based violence, 9 of which focused specifically on ending violence against women.

28% of the region did not have a national action plan to end violence against women.

#### 2016

31 of the 33 countries in the region (94%) have plans to end gender-based violence, 15 of which focus specifically on ending violence against women. This is a 66% increase from 2013.

Only two countries (6%), both Anglophone Caribbean, do not yet have a national action plan to address violence against women, an 80% decrease since 2013.

As of 2016, the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and End Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) has been adopted and ratified by 32 of the 33 States of Latin America and the Caribbean, with the exception of Cuba.

### LEGAL FRAMEWORK

#### First generation laws family and domestic domain

Only protect the rights of victims of domestic and/or intrafamily violence.

24 of the 33 countries (73%) in the region rely on "first generation" laws, including all of the Caribbean countries.

#### Second generation laws private and public domain

Address diverse manifestations of violence against women, both in the private domain of the household and in public space (streets, transport, work, educational environment, recreational spaces, etc.).

9 of the 33 countries in the region (27%) have enacted comprehensive or "second generation" laws, representing more than a quarter of the regional total.

#### Femicide or feminicide laws femicide as a classified offence

- 16 countries have criminalized the act of femicide or feminicide, up from 12 countries in 2013.
- 15 countries in the region passed laws or reforms to the penal code to criminalize femicide or feminicide: Brazil Chile, Bolivia, Colombia Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic and Venezuela.
- 1 country has criminalized aggravated homicide on the basis of gender: Argentina