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PARA LA MUJER
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11 October 2021

Information on Bolivia for Consideration by the Committee against Torture at its 72nd Session (8 Nov - 3 Dec 2021)

Introduction

1. Equality Now, CLADEM, The Legal Office of Women and The Human Rights Community respectfully submit this report in advance to the Committee against Torture (CAT) for **consideration of the third periodic State Party report in relation to Bolivia**. Our joint submission details our concerns with regard to laws related to rape and other forms of sexual violence and procedures and practices which effectively deny access to justice for survivors of sexual violence. Bolivia's legal system continues to provide a number of opportunities for perpetrators to escape criminal liability or punishment, namely through the way sexual violence crimes are defined and allowing for the direct release of a perpetrator from liability or punishment in certain circumstances, including with respect to adolescent girls.
2. **Equality Now** is an international human rights NGO with ECOSOC status with the mission to achieve legal and systemic change that addresses violence and discrimination against all women and girls around the world. Founded in 1992, Equality Now is a global organization with partners and supporters in every region. Ending sexual violence, ending sexual exploitation, ending harmful practices and achieving legal equality are the main areas of Equality Now's work.
3. **The Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights - CLADEM** is a network that links activists and non-governmental organizations in the region for the promotion, monitoring and defense of women's human rights from a

perspective feminist and socio-legal gender, in a dynamic that interconnects the local / national, regional and international levels. CLADEM Bolivia is a network of feminist activists that develops its actions at the national level, from different expertise, referring to legislative proposals, research, training, national and international litigation, internal monitoring of the State and government for compliance with regional and international rights instruments. human rights, education in academic fields related to the defense of women's rights. The National Coordinator of CLADEM Bolivia is Patricia Brañez Cortez, with CI 2047386 LP.

4. **The Legal Office of Women (La Oficina Jurídica de la Mujer)** is a non-governmental development organization based in Bolivia whose specialty is the defense of women's rights from a social and gender legal perspective. It is a pioneer in the reference, monitoring, education and promotion of human rights, and from a political-social perspective seeks to influence policies related to women.
5. **The Human Rights Community (Comunidad de Derechos Humanos)** is an articulation of civil society organizations based in Bolivia that works from a feminist vision for a democracy with social justice and gender equality that guarantees the full validity of human rights in particular of women, girls, boys, adolescents and the LGBTI population through the development of capacities in the guarantors and subjects of rights, construction of proposals, generation of information and promotion of the use of international mechanisms, as well as public accountability on the human rights situation.
6. The **Centro Una Brisa de Esperanza from Breeze of Hope (CUBE)** strives to prevent sexual violence against children, restore the lives of child survivors, and promote healthy childhood. CUBE runs Bolivia's first and most advanced center for child survivors in Cochabamba and engages in human rights advocacy and sexual violence prevention work.
7. The information in this report is largely derived from the report titled [*Failure to Protect: How Discriminatory Sexual Violence Laws and Practices are Hurting Women, Girls, and Adolescents in the Americas*](#), published by Equality Now in September 2021. Please refer to the report for further information on these laws as well as a full list of recommendations.¹

Recommendations of the Committee to Bolivia in the Concluding observations on the second periodic report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia as approved by the Committee at its fiftieth session (6–31 May 2013)

8. We reiterate the Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture on **the second periodic report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia**² and join in the Committee's concerns, in particular, by reports regarding the persistence of gender-based

¹ Available at <http://www.equalitynow.org/esvamericas>

² CAT/C/BOL/CO/2, 14 June 2013

violence in the State party, particularly domestic and sexual violence, which in many cases goes unreported.³

9. We also reiterate and support the Committee's urging of the Government to:⁴
- Investigate, prosecute and punish the persons who commit [Violence against women];⁵
 - Adopt effective measures to assist victims to prepare and file complaints;
 - Ensure that victims receive effective protection by guaranteeing their access to shelters and health-care services;⁶
 - Expedite the creation of special investigative courts to deal with cases of gender violence, as provided for in Comprehensive Act No. 348;⁷
 - Strengthen efforts to raise awareness and educate public officials who work directly with victims and the general public about gender violence;⁸
 - Provide detailed information on the incidents of violence against women that have occurred during the reporting period, including disaggregated data on the number of complaints, investigations, trials, sentences and measures instituted to provide victims with redress;⁹
 - Ensure that rape victims who voluntarily decide to interrupt their pregnancy have access to safe abortions. To this end, the State party should do away with any unnecessary obstacles in that regard. The Committee refers the State party to the recommendations made to it by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/4, paras. 42 and 43). The Committee against Torture urges the State party to evaluate what effects the current highly restrictive laws on abortion have on women's health.¹⁰
10. With this submission, we urge the Committee to reiterate Bolivia's obligations under CAT, in particular with respect to ensuring access to justice for survivors of sexual violence and bringing perpetrators to justice. Specifically, CAT requires Bolivia to prevent acts of torture (Article 2) and cruel and inhuman treatment (Article 16); conduct a prompt and effective investigation (Article 12); ensure the right to a remedy (Article 13) and redress (Article 14).

Scale and Nature of Sexual Violence in Bolivia

11. Bolivia has the second highest rate of sexual violence in Latin America and the Caribbean (after Haiti) during a woman's lifetime, according to data from the

³ CAT/C/BOL/CO/2, 14 June 2013, para 15

⁴ *Id.* at para 15(a)

⁵ *Id.* at para 15(b)

⁶ *Id.* at para 15(c)

⁷ *Id.* at para 15(d)

⁸ *Id.* at para 15(e)

⁹ *Id.* at para 15(f)

¹⁰ *Id.* at para 23

Pan-American Health Organization.¹¹ In the first five months of 2020 alone, 352 cases of rape against children and adolescents were reported.¹² These numbers fail to capture the full extent of the abuse girls face as Bolivia has one of the lowest reporting rates for sexual violence in South America, a problem that has only been exacerbated during the lockdown as a result of COVID-19. This is in part due to the justice system's practice of granting perpetrators of sexual violence impunity for their crimes, especially when committed against underage girls. Those women and girls who do report their abuse often face significant obstacles to achieving justice, including re-victimization, delays in prosecution, and unwillingness by police to cooperate with the justice system. The latest data we found is from a report issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2007, revealing that 84% of complaints involving sexual violence were dropped during the preliminary phases of the investigation, generally "because the burden of proof lies with the victim," and, "94 percent of the few cases that make it beyond the preliminary stage are abandoned or lost before they reach the trial tribunal."¹³

Legal and other provisions which are discriminatory towards women and girls, allow for impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence, and enable rather than prevent violence and deny the right to remedy and redress

Force-Based Definition of Rape

12. Definitions of rape which are based on force or the threat of force, as opposed to lack of consent to the sexual intercourse, fail to meet international human rights standards¹⁴ and are problematic for a number of reasons. For instance, force-based definitions of rape risk leaving certain types of rape unpunished, contribute to rape myths and the perception that it is the responsibility of victims to protect themselves, significantly limit the extent to which crimes of rape can successfully be prosecuted, and leave room for significant impunity.
13. The definition of rape in the Penal Code of Bolivia is based on force, requiring intimidation, physical or psychological violence, taking advantage of a severe mental disease or insufficient intelligence of the victim, or any other disabling cause which

¹¹ Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, PAHO, 9 (2013). Available at <https://www.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2013/paho-vaw-exec-summm-eng.pdf>.

¹² Indagan 47 feminicidios y 352 violaciones a niños en 2020, Los Tiempos (06/06/2020), <https://www.lostiempos.com/actualidad/pais/20200606/indagan-47-feminicidios-352-violaciones-ninos-2020>.

¹³ Access to Justice and Social Inclusion: The Road Towards Strengthening Democracy in Bolivia, Inter-Am. C.H.R., para. 348 (2007).

¹⁴ See Inter-American Court of Human Rights, *Sentence in the Caso J. vs. Peru*, 27 November 2013, https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec_275_esp.pdf at para. 358; Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW/C/GC/35, General Recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, §5.

prevents the victim from resisting.¹⁵ Furthermore, the law does not define the term “consent” or provide presumptions against consent.

Estupro

14. The crime of *estupro* usually describes cases in which an adult has sexual relations with a minor above the legal age of consent by means of seduction or deceit. The penalties for *estupro* are normally far lower than applicable penalties for rape. The existence of this discriminatory offense in relation to teenage girls contributes to impunity for rapists, as it ignores the unequal power dynamics between adults and adolescents, perpetuates harmful myths and stereotypes about adolescents, and allows adults who rape adolescents to avoid the full consequences of their crime. The existence of *estupro* provisions deny adolescent victims access to justice and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women has recommended that *estupro* provisions, where they exist, should be abolished.¹⁶ Repeal of discriminatory *estupro* provisions, however, must be accompanied by a complete overhaul of sexual violence laws including adopting consent-based definitions of rape, to ensure that adolescent girls are protected from sexual violence in all circumstances.
15. In addition, in the Bolivian justice system the lesser offense of *estupro* is often used to circumvent rape charges, thereby denying justice to adolescent victims of rape and weakening the overall statutory scheme against sexual violence. Bolivian courts have been using the *estupro* law to allow adults who rape adolescents to avoid the full consequence of their crime.
16. Specifically, the Penal Code of Bolivia contains an *estupro* provision, whereby having carnal access to a person between the ages of 14-18, through seduction or deceit, is considered as *estupro*.¹⁷ The offense of *estupro* is punishable with a lower penalty of imprisonment between 3-6 years, as compared to imprisonment of 15-20 years for rape. This approach suggests a notion of a hierarchy of rape where some perpetrators are deemed less guilty than others for effectively the same crime and some victims are implied to be less harmed by the experience and so less deserving of justice. Such a hierarchical approach to the same crime -- non-consensual sexual intercourse -- has a normative effect, which in turn has an impact on the way rape is regarded and treated within the criminal justice system generally. Non-consensual sexual intercourse should be treated universally as a serious crime and any aggravating circumstances, such as additional use of violence, should be accounted for with penalties applied for aggravating circumstances.

¹⁵ Article 308, Penal Code of Bolivia, https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/Codigo_Penal_Bolivia.pdf

¹⁶ Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Dubravka Šimonović, *Rape as a grave, systematic and widespread human rights violation, a crime and a manifestation of gender-based violence against women and girls, and its prevention*, A/HRC/47/26 , 19 April 2021, paras 84-85.

¹⁷ Article 309, Penal Code of Bolivia, https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/Codigo_Penal_Bolivia.pdf

Statute of Limitations

17. Short limitation periods during which rape cases may be brought forward impede access to justice for survivors, particularly given the various factors which cause delays in reporting. Additionally, the Inter-American Court in *Fernández Ortega et al. v. Mexico*¹⁸ and *Linda Loaiza López Soto v Venezuela*¹⁹ has held that rape is a form of torture in certain circumstances. Since this Committee has already noted that crimes against humanity such as torture should not have any statute of limitations,²⁰ and since international jurisprudence has drawn clear parallels between rape and torture, no limitation period should be imposed for rape.
18. Contrary to this, the Penal Code of Bolivia has a limited statute of limitations for all offenses, including rape. A rape victim is only afforded 8 years to come forward and report the crime before prosecution is no longer possible.²¹ The statute of limitations for crimes related to sexual violence for minor victims is extended and only starts to run four years after majority (which is 18).²² Therefore minor victims of rape have until they reach the age of 30 to file a case. Statutes of limitations place an overwhelming burden on victims and allow perpetrators to evade punishment. The trauma, stigma, damage, and sometimes continuing threat and fear experienced as a consequence of sexual violence can prevent the victim from reporting the crime or delay reporting. This might be particularly true in the context of childhood sexual violence when violations might not even be recognized as such by the victim until many years later, or in coercive domestic violence or intimate partner situations, or for example in the context of conflict, political violence or social disturbance.
19. In addition, the filing by a minor alone of a complaint of sexual violence is nearly impossible as it requires either parental authorization or the assistance of a service organization or ombudsman. This is problematic as often the perpetrators themselves are family or community members and other family members thus may not be willing to assist the survivor in reporting the incident. This contributes to a general lack of reporting of sexual violence against minors which in turn adds to the culture of impunity in such cases. For example, cases have been reported where an adolescent girl was sexually abused by her step-father and her mother refused to allow her to report the crime to the police.

¹⁸ IACHR, *Fernández Ortega et al. v. Mexico*, Judgment of August 30, 2010, https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec_215_ing.pdf

¹⁹ IACHR, Report No. 33/16, Case 12,797. Merits. *Linda Loaiza López Soto and relatives*. Venezuela. July 29, 2016, para 209.

²⁰ See, for example, CAT, Concluding Observations on Turkey, UN Doc. CAT/C/CR/30/5, 2003, §7(c); CAT, Concluding Observations on Chile, UN Doc. CAT/C/CR/32/5, 2004, §7(f).

²¹ Article 29, Code of Criminal Procedure.

²² Article 30, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Lack of Effective Implementation of Existing Laws and Barriers to Survivors Accessing Justice and Protection

20. In addition to gaps in legal protection, there is also failure to effectively implement laws on sexual violence and a systemic practice of enabling impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence, especially when committed against underage girls. Those women and girls who do report their abuse often face significant obstacles to achieving justice, including re-victimization, delays in prosecution, and unwillingness by police to believe survivors and take effective action to investigate sexual violence crimes. Further, prosecutors and judges are not commonly sensitized to structural sex inequality and are influenced by harmful rape myths and gender stereotypes. For instance, many judges still look exclusively for evidence of physical injuries and believe that rape cannot have taken place in the absence of such physical injuries.²³
21. Another barrier to accessing justice for adolescent girls who have experienced sexual violence occurs through the lack of procedures or enforcement of procedures to ensure the recapture of perpetrators of sexual violence. Although Bolivia has a procedure in place for the initial arrest of the perpetrators, once they have posted bail or accessed alternative measures, in addition to economic bail such as for personal, work, or other reasons and been released, there is no procedure for their recapture. This can lead to situations where the perpetrator is able to escape justice by fleeing the country. Furthermore, this often leaves the victim responsible for searching for and finding their aggressors and often requires them to pay private investigators if they want their assailants to be subjected to judicial procedures and serve their sentences. Laws and policies such as these must be amended to allow survivors of rape the means to access justice.
22. The State does not comply with its obligation to guarantee access to justice for victims of sexual violence by not carrying out investigations that comply with the national and international protocols. The State has not fully complied with the provisions of paragraph III of Article 15 of the Political Constitution of the State nor has it complied with the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court regarding the guarantees of due diligence that must be extended to the investigation acts prior to the judicial processes.²⁴ Furthermore, the State, through the Public Ministry which is responsible for the investigation of crimes of gender-based violence, has not complied with number 2 of Article 61 of Law No. 348, referring to the collection of the necessary evidence in order to find out the truth or Article 64 referring to the specialty required for forensic doctors.
23. The Political Constitution of the State provides for free access to justice, but those who do not have the economic resources may still not receive justice. In addition to direct costs such as expert reports, parties must also assume the responsibility of tracking the progress of the case in order to ensure it advances through the judicial process. Although

²³ See Zulema Alanes Bravo, *Sexual Violence against Girls and Adolescents: The Pending Idea of (In)justice*, Fides Agency, 10 December 2017.

²⁴ The Ombudsman Report, *On the principle of due diligence during the investigation stage in cases of sexual violence*, Bolivia 2020.

the State has taken measures to ensure that victims have access to a professional lawyer through the creation of programs such as the Comprehensive Plurinational Justice Service (SIJPLU),²⁵ the Defenders of Children and Adolescents, Specialized Centers for Prevention and Therapeutic Care dependent on Departmental Services of Social Management (SEDEGES), and that low-income victims have access to justice through the Plurinational Victim Assistance Service, such services are not widely available due to a lack of service providers and proper funding by the State. Such lack of availability, coupled with the fact that very few legal organizations offer pro bono services, forces many survivors to turn to private lawyers whose high fees are prohibitive to many.

24. Further, the State's initiatives to prevent gender-based violence and to protect and support survivors of gender-based violence have had little support from the government institutions charged with overseeing these efforts and also suffer from a lack of financial resources.
25. The State has implemented several services specifically for the protection of women, children and adolescents who suffer from violence, such as the Municipal Integral Legal Service (SLIM)²⁶, the municipal support organization for addressing violence in the family, and the Defenders of Children and Adolescents (DNA), which is a free municipal service for the promotion, protection and defense of the rights of children and adolescents. These two institutions, however, are limited in their effectiveness due to budgetary limitations and the high-rate of turnover since employees are hired as short-term consultants.
26. Despite all these efforts, the State's initiatives have had no support from the government institutions charged with overseeing these efforts and suffer from a lack of financial resources. We urge the Committee to recommend to the State to give priority to these mechanisms created by the Law; to implement them; to allocate an appropriate budget for their running; and to ensure that they are extended to the largest possible number of towns and cities.
27. In Bolivia the lack of gender sensitivity among law enforcement and judicial and health officials has been identified as a serious barrier to the full enforcement of the laws to prevent and punish violence against adolescent girls. Under the Belém do Pará Convention, Bolivia is also obligated to undertake programs to educate and train police, judicial administrators, and others involved in the law enforcement process.²⁷ Reports from adolescent girls who have undergone forensic medical examinations following complaints of sexual assault are that they are re-traumatizing. Training for judges and prosecutors may be uneven and not institutionalized, and do not feature the accountability mechanisms needed to effect permanent change or take into account the particular needs

²⁵ Creado mediante Resolución Ministerial Nro. 092 del 30 de mayo de 2012, *available at*: <https://vjdf.justicia.gob.bo/index.php?r=pagina/view&id=31>

²⁶<http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2010/CIM02724T-B.pdf> and Supreme Decree 25087 of July 1998, *available at*: https://oig.cepal.org/sites/default/files/1998_bol_ds25087.pdf. Created in the framework of Law 1674, Against Domestic or Family Violence, *available at*:

²⁷ Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), art. 8.

of adolescent girls who have been victims of sexual violence.

28. Lastly, there is, in general, a lack of clear rules or training for health operators and forensic doctors on appropriate interventions for survivors of sexual violence and other elements that delay justice and can lead to misdiagnosing the abuse. There is no prior explanation on the meaning and importance of the required gynecological examination, and it is limited to the verification of whether or not there was sexual intercourse. Forensic doctors who care for victims do not inform them of the possibility of pregnancy, the morning-after pill, or much less prescribe medications to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs), since it is believed that those tasks should be carried out by a private doctor that the victim must see on their own. This can condemn the victim to unwanted pregnancy and motherhood or to dying from an STI.

Forced pregnancy and lack of abortion access for survivors of sexual violence

29. Other alarming situations for adolescent girls who experience sexual violence include forced pregnancies and forced marriages. In 2016, CLADEM issued a report on forced pregnancy and child maternity within 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Bolivia. Under the Bolivian Penal Code, an abortion is permitted for the following reasons: pregnancy as a result of rape, *estupro* or incest; and to avoid danger to the life or health of the mother if this danger could not be avoided by other means. In Bolivia, according to data from the Health Information System - SNIS (Ministry of Health) in 2016 there were 13,332 girls under 15 years of age who became mothers, and the National Maternal Mortality Study indicates that of this number, 2% of these are girls under the age of 14.
30. Girls and adolescents who become pregnant as a result of sexual violence may not be able to access an abortion and be forced to carry a pregnancy to term due to the lack of implementation and obstacles in the application of the existing provisions in the Penal Code, and the lack of implementation of Constitutional Ruling 0206/2014 for performing the legal interruption of a pregnancy due to the above-named causes. Lack of knowledge of these regulations, the failure by the State to provide guidance on access to abortion, prejudice, moral and cultural objectors, coupled with the lack of comprehensive sex education leads to girls being forced to continue with the pregnancy. This generates new and serious violations of their rights to life, health, bodily and emotional integrity and, if kept institutionalized in a hospital in order to carry the pregnancy to term, as in Bolivia, could constitute an act of torture. According to Birgit Gerstenberg of the Office for South America for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in a 2019 case in Tucumán, Argentina, “the non-provision of certain services to women and girls in legal conditions is discriminatory and absolute restrictions of prohibitions on access to legal interruption of pregnancy may constitute torture and ill-treatment”.
31. Many girls and adolescents are forced into marriage and early unions as a result of pregnancy, which violates the rights of the girl that are seen to be “transferred” between the family of the victim of rape and statutory rape and the aggressor. The data from the

Population Census of 2011 of Bolivia shows that there are unofficial unions or marriages of girls as young as seven, which in effect sanctions the rape of young girls. There is also sometimes extreme pressure from religious institutions to avoid a legal abortion at all costs, even in cases of sexual violence, which often leaves the girl or the family with no choice but to force her to marry the perpetrator.

Recommendation:

Force-Based Definition of Rape

- Ensure that the definition of rape is amended so that it is not based on a requirement to prove force, but rather covers all forms of penetration with a body part or object committed without the victim's voluntary, genuine, and willing consent, and in a wide range of coercive circumstances.
- Ensure that the law recognizes there are circumstances where it is not possible to give voluntary, genuine, and willing consent and that it must look more broadly at the issue of exploitation, including sexual violence in the context of family or other relationship where there is particular dependency and inequality of power relationships.

Estupro

- Repeal the *estupro* provision contained in Article 309 of the Penal Code. Repeal of discriminatory *estupro* provisions must be accompanied by a complete overhaul of sexual violence laws including adopting a consent-based definition of rape (as discussed above), to ensure that adolescent girls are protected from sexual violence in all circumstances. This is again because the current law has a requirement to prove additional violence and resistance which is not always possible and does not take into account the many different reactions to being raped, such as freezing rather than fighting back or feeling confused in situations of exploitation of power relationships for example with respect to incest or rape by teachers.
- While existing *estupro* provisions remain in the statute books, prosecutors and judges should ensure that acts of sexual violence against adolescent girls which meet the threshold of the rape definition should always be prosecuted/charged as rape and not *estupro*.

Statute of Limitations

- Ensure that the prosecution of rape, in cases of both adult and minor victims, is not subject to any period of limitation in any circumstances, whether carried out in times of peace or conflict.
- Eliminate harmful legislation and policies that limit adolescent girls' ability to access justice following sexual violence, including the requirement for a parent to consent to a minor filing the criminal complaint.

Lack of Effective Implementation of Existing Laws and Barriers to Survivors Accessing Justice and Protection

- Ensure that all forms of sexual violence offenses are treated as matters of public interest, which have to be investigated and prosecuted as a priority.
- Carry out investigations that comply with the provisions of paragraph III of Article 15 of the Political Constitution of the State, number 2 of Article 61 of Law No. 348, referring to the collection of the necessary evidence in order to find out the truth, and Article 64, referring to the specialty required for forensic doctors.
- Effectively implement laws on sexual violence, including by training justice system officials, including police, prosecutors and judges, to specifically deal with cases of sexual violence in a victim-centered and trauma-informed way and implement investigation and prosecution protocols to guide implementation of sexual violence legislation and processing of such cases in the judicial system. Ensure that such protocols also specifically address the needs of marginalized communities.
- Consider in its criminal policy the implementation of a policy of capture and recapture of perpetrators and allocate the necessary resources for this. In addition, the State must monitor and control perpetrators of crimes of sexual violence against girls, boys, and adolescents when they obtain their freedom or are released into alternative measures to detention in such a way as to ensure their submission to the judicial process and that their victims are protected.
- Implement and allocate sufficient resources for a protection program for victims and witnesses, as well as a program for comprehensive care²⁸ for victims and their non-offending family members in cases of sexual violence.

Forced pregnancy and lack of abortion access for survivors of sexual violence

- Take all efforts to ensure women and girls can access safe and timely abortion services, including and especially those who were made pregnant by rape or incest.
- Incorporate clear policies for the prevention of unwanted pregnancies as a result of the crimes of rape, incest and *estupro*, as well as for the health and the risk of the mother's life, particularly for girls under 15 years old.
- Register the pregnancies of minor girls as a result of rape, incest and *estupro*, as well as monitor compliance with the constitutional Judgment 0206/2014 and the Pregnancy Care Protocol for Girls under 15 years of age in the Public Ministry and the health system, in order to ensure access to the termination of pregnancy when girls require it.

Additional recommendations to support survivors of sexual violence

- Budget sufficient resources for programs and support services to prevent and address sexual violence, actively and integrally including civil society, women and girls, and survivors of sexual violence in policy planning and budgetary processes, and taking a survivor-centered, holistic approach with an additional special focus on the needs of girls and adolescents.

²⁸ As defined by Article 12 of the Bolivian Code of Girls, Boys, and Adolescents.

- Implement age-appropriate sex and relationship education programs in schools, and public information and awareness campaigns aimed at promoting equality, dismantling negative stereotypes, and ending violence against women and girls.
- Develop and fund awareness-raising campaigns to inform the public, particularly women and girls, to understand their rights, and improve knowledge of laws related to sexual violence, available remedies and methods to preserve evidence prior to reporting.