



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS  
TREATY BODIES**

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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*Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Honduras/92

25 February 2026

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up on concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the ninth periodic report of Honduras, at the Committee's eighty-third session, held in October 2022. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/HND/CO/9](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 54 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Honduras to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15 (d), 25 (d), 39 (b) and 39 (c) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/HND/FCO/9](#)) received on 22 April 2025, six months after the two-year reporting period. Due to the postponement of the Committee's 92<sup>nd</sup> session as a result of the liquidity crisis, the report was examined with some delay under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its ninety-second session, held in February 2026, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 15 (d)** of the concluding observations that the State party "**ensure that women and girls have access to victim and witness assistance and protection programmes and promote the expansion and institutionalization of the comprehensive victim care model**":

The Committee notes the State party's continued implementation of the Specialized Integral Attention Module (MAIE) under the Public Prosecutor's Office, providing specialized attention to victims of gender-based violence using non-revictimizing techniques including Gesell chambers. It notes the approval of Agreement FGR-002-2024, which approved the MAIE Action Protocol to optimize its work, and the dedicated budget allocations for MAIE and the Special Women's Prosecutor Office in 2024.

The Committee notes with appreciation the training provided to prosecutors, judges and police officers on human rights and gender-based violence, including ten editions of the Specialized Course on Gender-Based Violence reaching 330 participants between 2022-2023. It welcomes the adoption of the Shelter Houses Law for Women Victims-Survivors of Violence in Honduras in 2024, which creates the National Shelter Houses Programme and establishes institutional frameworks for comprehensive victim care.

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The Committee regrets, however, that the expansion and institutionalization of the comprehensive victim care model remains limited, with MAIE operating only in select major cities, leaving large areas of the country without coverage and particularly affecting rural and indigenous women who lack access to specialized services. It expresses concern that only 10 Gesell chambers exist nationwide, severely limiting access to non-revictimizing techniques. The Committee notes with concern reports of inadequate conditions in the Witness Protection Programme, including placement of women in precarious housing without ensuring dignified living conditions or proper reintegration support. It is particularly concerned about reports of sexual abuse by officials within the MAIE system, indicating serious failures in internal controls and due diligence that compromise the safety of women seeking protection.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken steps to implement the recommendation, particularly through establishing institutional frameworks and protocols, but that the expansion and institutionalization of the comprehensive victim care model remains insufficient with significant geographical gaps. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough but lacks details on geographical distribution and effectiveness of protection measures. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 15 (d)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Ensure that women and girls have access to victim and witness assistance and protection programmes and promote the expansion and institutionalization of the comprehensive victim care model.**

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 25 (d)** of the concluding observations that the State party "**ensure the availability of a dedicated hotline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for victims of domestic and sexual violence and expand the network of specialized, inclusive and accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence, taking into account their specific needs, and provide women who cannot safely return to their homes with psychosocial counselling, financial support, professional training, income-generating activities, shelter or affordable housing and, if necessary to ensure their safety, a changed identity**":

The Committee notes with appreciation the reopening of the 1-1-4 WOMAN "Living Without Fear" hotline on 25 January 2024, providing 24/7 service for victims of domestic and sexual violence with comprehensive care including legal guidance, social support, crisis containment and emergency response.

The Committee notes the establishment of specialized units within the Ministry of Security (SEDS), including the Gender Equity Division and the Gender-Based Violence Response Unit, as well as the adoption of various protocols including the Manual for the care of victims of human trafficking (2022) and the Protocol for comprehensive care for victims of sexual violence (2022). It welcomes the adoption of the Shelter Houses Law creating the National Shelter Houses Programme and the Special Commission on Shelter Houses led by the Ministry of Women's Affairs (SEMUJER).



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The Committee regrets, however, that despite these institutional developments, significant challenges remain in ensuring effective access to services. It expresses concern about the hotline operating with only five trained operators handling 160-250 daily calls, indicating structural saturation and risks of delayed responses. The Committee further regrets that while the Shelter Houses Law was adopted over a year ago, implementation remains limited, with only 10 shelter houses operating nationally and significant delays in constructing planned facilities in key municipalities. It notes with concern that these limitations persist despite persistently high levels of gender-based violence and concerning impunity rates, highlighting the inadequacy of current service capacity relative to the scale of need.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken steps to establish institutional frameworks and legal instruments but that significant gaps remain in ensuring effective service delivery and expanding access to specialized shelters. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive and relates directly to the recommendation, but lacks detail on implementation challenges and geographic coverage. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 25 (d)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Ensure the availability of a dedicated hotline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for victims of domestic and sexual violence and expand the network of specialized, inclusive and accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence, taking into account their specific needs, and provide women who cannot safely return to their homes with psychosocial counselling, financial support, professional training, income-generating activities, shelter or affordable housing and, if necessary to ensure their safety, a changed identity.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 39 (b)** of the concluding observations to “**ensure the free distribution and commercialization of emergency contraception, in particular for women and girls who are victims of sexual violence, and ensure that women have access to adequate sexual and reproductive health services and information, including family planning, to prevent early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections**”:

The Committee welcomes the signing of Agreement 75-2023 in March 2023, which legalized the use, access, purchase and sale of emergency contraceptive pills (ECP), thereby revoking the previous prohibition. It notes that the Health Regulation Agency (ARSA) authorized health registrations for ECP commercialization and conducts pharmacy inspections to verify compliance with quality standards.

The Committee notes the implementation of projects by the Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL) in partnership with UNFPA to reduce adolescent pregnancy, particularly among indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, and follow-up actions by the Ministry of Education to evaluate adolescent pregnancy prevention strategies. It further notes that



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a dialogue was held in June 2023 to develop regulations for the Comprehensive Education Law for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy, during which data showing 139,343 adolescent pregnancies between 2018-2022 were presented.

The Committee regrets, however, that despite the legalization of emergency contraception, significant barriers to access persist. It expresses concern about reports indicating that ECP distribution faces logistical challenges, with inadequate transport systems to deliver pills to health centers and insufficient training of health personnel, as well as reports of ECP access often restricted to cases of sexual violence, contradicting the legal framework and fostering stigma and misinformation, all of which significantly limit effective access. It further regrets that the Comprehensive Education Law for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy was vetoed by the President in July 2023, leaving a critical gap in comprehensive sexual education, and that adolescent pregnancy rates remain persistently high, with UNFPA reporting that Honduras has the second-highest adolescent pregnancy rate in Latin America.

The Committee considers that while the State party has taken important legal steps by legalizing emergency contraception, significant barriers remain in ensuring effective access and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is extensive and relates directly to the recommendation, but lacks detail on addressing access barriers and implementation challenges. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 39 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Ensure the free distribution and commercialization of emergency contraception, in particular for women and girls who are victims of sexual violence, and ensure that women have access to adequate sexual and reproductive health services and information, including family planning, to prevent early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.**

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 39 (c)** of the concluding observations to “**Adopt a strategy to prevent and address cervical cancer, including by disseminating information on the linkages between human papillomavirus and cervical cancer, increasing education and awareness-raising for both men and women on prevention methods and ensuring that all women and girls have access to regular screening and the full vaccination schedule, especially in rural and remote areas**”:

The Committee notes that the State party has implemented various strategies to prevent and treat cervical cancer through SESAL, including cervical cancer screening and HPV detection testing using Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (IVAA) in primary care settings, along with training for health personnel on elimination strategies and new screening methods. It notes the implementation of IVAA screening and palliative treatment in four regions with UNFPA support, and the expansion of screening to 40 municipalities through the Eurosán project, reaching a total of 91 municipalities in 15 departments. It further notes awareness-raising activities conducted by SESAL, including campaigns during the International Day for Cervical Cancer Prevention and



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HPV testing initiatives, as well as sexual and reproductive health services through Ciudad Mujer Centers. It welcomes the approval in March 2024 of the updated Protocol for screening and treatment of premalignant lesions for cervical cancer prevention, and the presentation in July 2024 of the second draft of the Comprehensive Plan to Prevent Cervical Cancer, which includes an expansion of HPV vaccination coverage for girls and women.

The Committee regrets, however, that despite these initiatives, significant gaps remain in ensuring comprehensive access to cervical cancer prevention services. It expresses concern that screening services reach only 91 of the country's 298 municipalities, leaving large areas without coverage, particularly affecting women in rural and remote areas. The Committee notes with concern that while cervical cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer mortality among women in Honduras, with an estimated 800 new cases and 480 deaths annually, the prevention and early detection strategy appears to have limited geographic coverage and lacks sufficient integration of comprehensive information campaigns targeting both men and women on HPV prevention methods.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken steps to implement the recommendation through establishing screening protocols and conducting awareness campaigns, but that significant gaps remain in ensuring comprehensive coverage and access, particularly in rural and remote areas. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and relates directly to the recommendation but lacks sufficient detail on geographic coverage and strategies to reach rural and remote populations. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 39 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Expand cervical cancer prevention services to ensure nationwide coverage, particularly in rural and remote areas, implement comprehensive information campaigns targeting both men and women on HPV prevention methods, and ensure universal access to HPV vaccination and regular screening for all women and girls.**

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jelena Pia-Cornella', written over a horizontal line.

Jelena Pia-Cornella

Rapporteur on follow-up

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women