

HONDURAS

Government of the Republic

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF HONDURAS ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
MADE IN THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON THE ISSUE OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
WOMEN IN LAW AND IN PRACTICE ON
ITS VISIT TO HONDURAS IN NOVEMBER 2018**

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Tegucigalpa, Municipality of the Central District, January 2024

**Contributions of Honduras on the implementation status of
the recommendations made in the report of the Working Group
on the issue of discrimination against women in law
and in practice on its visit to Honduras in November 2018**

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Background.....	3
II. Implementation status of the Working Group’s recommendations.....	3
<i>Legal, institutional and public policy framework.....</i>	3
<i>Access to justice.....</i>	7
<i>Family and cultural life.....</i>	8
<i>Political and public life.....</i>	8
<i>Economic and social life.....</i>	10
<i>Access to health.....</i>	13
<i>Gender-based violence.....</i>	14
<i>Intersecting forms of discrimination.....</i>	17

I. Background

1. Honduras received the first official visit of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice from 1 to 14 November 2018. During the visit, the Working Group examined the situation in respect of women's rights and gender equality in the country and, on 8 May 2019, it published a report containing observations and recommendations to the State.¹

2. On 6 November 2023, the Ministry of Human Rights received, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, official letter No. 1119-DPM-SRECI-2023, dated 30 October 2023, transmitting the communication of the rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, in conformity with Human Rights Council resolutions 15/23 and 50/18.

3. In said communication, the rapporteur of the Working Group requested the State to provide information on the implementation status of the recommendations made by the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice in its report on its visit to Honduras.

4. In accordance with the institutional powers conferred upon it by Executive Decree No. PCM-055-2017, the Ministry of Human Rights drafted the present document, which contains information on the steps taken to give effect to the recommendations. It highlights the main progress achieved in the area of women's rights, gender equality and equity, in accordance with the Government Plan to Refound the Homeland and Construct a Socialist and Democratic State 2022–2026.

5. The report was prepared with information provided by the Ministry of Social Development, the Public Prosecution Service, the Ministry of Education and the Directorate for Education and the Culture of Peace of the Ministry of Human Rights. Information was also taken from the publications of the official government websites and from the internal reports of the Directorate for Research and Compliance with International Commitments.

II. Implementation status of the Working Group's recommendations

Legal, institutional and public policy framework

6. **Recommendation contained in paragraph 71.** Regarding the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation transmitted the legal required documents² in order to request the signature of the Office of the President. Currently all documentation is pending approval by Congress.

7. In 2022 and 2023, Congress enacted the following laws in favour of the rights of women and vulnerable groups:

(a) The Act for the Prevention of Internal Displacement and the Protection and Care of Internally Displaced Persons³ – a law that incorporates the gender perspective, non-discrimination and a differentiated approach, recognizes gender-based violence against women, girls and LGTBIQ+ persons as a cause of displacement and provides for their protection against harassment, rape, mutilation, torture, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation or any other form of gender-based violence;⁴

¹ A/HRC/41/33/Add.1, available at <https://n9.cl/6cvhwb>.

² Sent by official letter No. 241-DGAJTC-2022 of 25 August 2022.

³ Legislative Decree No. 154-2022, published in *La Gaceta* (the country's official gazette) No. 36,184 of 20 March 2023, available at <https://n9.cl/3bvul>.

⁴ *Ibid.*, art. 39 (2).

(b) The Act on the Protection of Women in the Context of Humanitarian Crises, Natural Disasters and Emergencies;⁵

(c) The Act for the Reconstruction of the Constitutional Rule of Law and the Non-Repetition of Events;⁶

(d) The Act on the National DNA Database System, which created the National DNA Database System⁷ in order to facilitate the establishment of the facts in cases under criminal, civil or humanitarian investigation and to identify disappeared persons and human remains;

(e) Amendments to the Comprehensive Act on Protection for Older Persons and Retirees, with the addition of the term *adulto mayor de la cuarta edad* (older persons in the fourth age) and the establishment of benefits.

8. With the issuance of Executive Decree No. PCM-05-2022,⁸ existing institutions were reformed to create a new institutional structure with the aim of administering resources more efficiently and achieving the goals and objectives of the Solidarity Government. Accordingly, the following public institutions were established:

(a) The Ministry of Transparency and the Fight against Corruption;⁹

(b) The Ministry of Strategic Planning, as the lead institution responsible for the National System of Social and Economic Development Planning;¹⁰

(c) The Ministry of Women's Affairs, which replaces the National Institute for Women and elevates it to the rank of ministry;¹¹

(d) The Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage of the Peoples of Honduras,¹² which is responsible for formulating policies consistent with the national identity and respectful of diversity, which promote and reproduce the roots of Hondurans and which promote, protect and ensure full access to culture, art and heritage;

(e) The Ministry of Social Development,¹³ which replaces the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion;

(f) The Solidarity Network,¹⁴ a decentralized programme of the Ministry of Social Development with technical, financial and administrative autonomy, whose aim is to reduce extreme poverty through programmes and projects for vulnerable communities, targeted by the social information systems and technical tools at the disposal of the State;

(g) The Solidarity Action Programme,¹⁵ a decentralized body of the Ministry of Social Development with technical, financial and administrative autonomy and a mandate to provide social assistance to people belonging to vulnerable groups through the implementation of programmes and projects, based on the principles of transparency, objectivity, inclusion and efficiency;

(h) The National Coordination Office for Indigenous Peoples and Hondurans of African Descent,¹⁶ which is attached to the Ministry of Social Development and studies and formulates public policies concerning the relationship between the State and Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples.

⁵ Legislative Decree No. 9-2023, published in *La Gaceta* No. 36,217 of 2 May 2023, available at <https://n9.cl/b0rly>.

⁶ Legislative Decree No. 4-2022, published in *La Gaceta* No. 35,840 of 4 February 2022.

⁷ Legislative Decree No. 57-2023, published in *La Gaceta* No. 36,322 of 31 August 2023.

⁸ Executive Decree No. PCM-05-2022, published in *La Gaceta* No. 35,892 of 6 April 2022.

⁹ *Ibid.*, art. 1.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, art. 2.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, art. 3.

¹² *Ibid.*, art. 4.

¹³ *Ibid.*, art. 11.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, art. 12.

¹⁵ Executive Decree No. PCM-22-2022, published in *La Gaceta* No. 35,999 of 11 August 2022.

¹⁶ Executive Decree No. PCM-19-2022, published in *La Gaceta* No. 35,999, art. 7.

9. Regarding the repeal of Decision No. 2744-2009, which prohibited access to the emergency contraceptive pill, in March 2023, President Xiomara Castro and the Minister of Health signed Executive Decision No. 75-2023 to protect access to the emergency contraceptive pill and its sale, purchase and use. This measure rendered null and void the prior decision prohibiting its sale and use.¹⁷

10. In August 2022, further to a request by the recently established Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Medical College of Honduras issued an opinion stating that emergency contraceptive pills do not induce abortions and that there are no medical contraindications to their use.

11. To guarantee safe and effective access to the emergency contraceptive pill, the Health Regulation Agency¹⁸ has approved the health registrations necessary for its sale and ensures strict compliance with manufacturing and labelling standards.¹⁹

12. **Recommendation contained in paragraph 72.** In accordance with the Government Plan to Refound Honduras 2022–2026, President Castro established the country's first Ministry of Women's Affairs.²⁰ It is the institution responsible for promoting gender justice, equal rights and full opportunities for women in the political, cultural, economic and social life and the sustainable development of Honduras, and for eliminating all forms of discrimination, exclusion and violence based on gender or otherwise detrimental to the human dignity of women.

13. Upon its establishment, the Ministry of Women's Affairs was allocated a budget of 53,388,673 lempiras (L) under the decree amending the general State budget for 2022.²¹ In the general State budget for the 2023 financial year,²² the Ministry was allocated L 100,985,735, an increase of 85.93 per cent.

14. In 2022 and 2023, the Ministry established 83 gender mechanisms in central and decentralized public institutions. They carry out advocacy and provide technical assistance and specialized advice for public institutions so that the gender perspective is mainstreamed in public policies.

15. Congress has adopted gender-sensitive budgeting as a democratic tool for affirmative action in the allocation of resources intended to stimulate action and close the discrimination gap between men and women by ensuring that funds are used in a gender-equitable manner.²³ A committee on gender-sensitive budgeting was established to facilitate gender mainstreaming throughout the public administration.

16. The budget amendment decree also instructs public institutions to validate their annual operating plans at the level of final and intermediate products in order to reduce gaps and address the causes of substantive inequality between men and women; to use disaggregated information to prioritize action at the national or local level; and to send quarterly reports to the Ministry of Women's Affairs on actions taken and the allocation and execution of resources. The Ministry must apply the Gender Equity Investment Index on an annual basis as a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating public management in the area of gender equity.

17. Methodological guidelines on gender mainstreaming in public planning and budgeting, issued in 2024 in coordination with the Ministry of Strategic Planning, provide technical and operational guidance on the planning and budgeting process. It is intended that different State agencies will incorporate and apply these guidelines in their 2024 planning and budgeting processes.

¹⁷ Decision No. 75-2023, *La Gaceta* No. 36,174.

¹⁸ Established by Executive Decree No. PCM-032-2017, ratified by Legislative Decree No. 7-2021.

¹⁹ Poder Popular, "La ARSA autoriza nuevos registros sanitarios para la comercialización de la PAE", 2022, available at <https://n9.cl/sh398>.

²⁰ Executive Decree No. PCM-05-2022.

²¹ Legislative Decree No. 30-2022, published in *La Gaceta* No. 35,894 of 8 April 2022.

²² Legislative Decree No. 157-2022, published in *La Gaceta* No. 36,127 of 12 January 2023.

²³ Executive Decision No. 355-2022, published in *La Gaceta* No. 35,998.

18. Since its establishment, the Ministry of Women's Affairs has been working on various public policy instruments to progressively advance gender mainstreaming in State institutions. These include the third Gender Equality and Justice Plan of Honduras 2023–2033, which incorporates intercultural and intersectional approaches in all of its components, together with policy actions and measures in favour of gender equality and justice for Indigenous and Afro-Honduran women; and the National Plan to Combat Violence against Women and Girls 2023–2033.

19. As part of the restructuring of public institutions, the Women's City (Ciudad Mujer) Programme has been attached to the Ministry of Women's Affairs. The budget allocated to the National Directorate of the Women's City Programme for the 2021 financial year was L 83,150,047. In 2022, it was allocated L 117,688,346, an increase of 41.53 per cent compared with 2021. In 2023, the allocated budget stood at L 149,892,382.00, an increase of 27.36 per cent compared with 2022.

20. Under this Programme, six Women's City Centres operating at the national level, each with six support units, provide comprehensive care for women. From the Programme's inception to December 2021, these centres provided 682,148 consultations and 1,641,836 services.²⁴ The Programme benefited 5,529 women in 2022 and 2,282 women in 2023.

21. The Women's City Programme has been at the forefront of action to reduce gender inequality in access to credit through agreements made with several partners to develop gender-focused financial products. In addition, training is provided to expand employment options in different fields of work.

22. Regarding the budget of the Ministry of Human Rights, the amended general State budget for 2022 provided for an allocation of L 143,814,630, which represents an increase of 61.95 per cent on the L 88,797,925 allocated in 2021.

23. Upon taking office, the Solidarity Government assumed responsibility for re-establishing the national mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials. In July 2022, it carried out an initial assessment of the conditions in which the mechanism found itself and identified a lack of funding, which was immediately addressed by the Ministry of Finance, so that the mechanism's budget doubled to L 20,000,000 in 2023.

24. The budget increase allowed the mechanism to comprehensively restructure its units and hire, from organizations working in the human rights field, professionals with experience in different disciplines who can respond to the reality of beneficiaries. As a result of this work, which incorporated multiple perspectives, the mechanism was able to restore its credibility and communication with all beneficiaries of protection measures, thus improving the quality of the service provided.

25. The Solidarity Government is also committed to reactivating the Inter-Agency Commission to Monitor Investigations into Violent Deaths of Women and Femicide.

26. The budget of the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial and Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons was also increased, from L 7,131,063 in 2022 to L 30,307,772 in 2023 – an increase of L 23,176,709, or 325 per cent.

27. In order that the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights – the national human rights institution established under the Constitution – may continue its work in strict compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and may implement the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, in 2019 the Office received notice of its international accreditation and elevation to A status by the Global Alliance.

Access to justice

28. **Recommendation contained in paragraph 73.** Regarding access to justice for women victims of gender-based violence, the six Women's City Centres have women's rights

²⁴ Women's City Programme, newsletter, January 2022, year IV, issue 27.

support and protection units offering psychological and social support services that encompass the development of life and safety plans, the processing of complaints, timely legal advice and representation, police assistance and investigation and forensic medical evaluations.

29. Regarding reporting protocols and due protection and legal assistance for women, the Ministry of Security established a dedicated unit to handle cases of violent deaths of women. It also signed an agreement with the Ministry of Women's Affairs to operate the 114-MUJER hotline for receiving, immediately acting upon and investigating complaints of gender-based violence. The hotline was launched in December 2023 during the "Living Without Fear" information fair held in Tegucigalpa.²⁵

30. To ensure that the justice system incorporates a gender focus and a human rights approach, training in international standards and human rights was provided to judges, prosecutors, lawyers and justice officials. During 2023, the Salomón Jiménez Castro Judicial Training School carried out 23 training activities on human rights for judicial and State officials and the general public.

31. In October 2021, the Judicial Training School, in cooperation with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, taught the third edition of a course on the rights of Indigenous and tribal peoples, environmental rights and human rights defenders. The training was provided to 50 public servants, including judges, prosecutors and staff of the Counsel General's Office and the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights.²⁶

32. In 2022, the Public Prosecution Service, through Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Ethnic Groups and Cultural Heritage and the Orlan Arturo Chávez Prosecutor Training School and with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, provided training for prosecutors assigned to Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Tela, Olancho, Yoro, La Paz, Santa Barbara, Comayagua, Marcala and La Esperanza. This training strengthened their capacity to represent and defend the rights of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran persons in criminal proceedings.²⁷

33. In 2023, a new Supreme Court was elected to lead the judiciary pursuant to peaceful agreements between the political parties. The Court is gender-balanced, since it is composed of eight female and seven male justices, and a woman, the lawyer Rebeca Ráquel Obando, was elected its President.

34. The legislature elected the new Supreme Court on the basis of a list of 15 judges that was agreed upon by the three majority political parties. The list was accepted with 117 votes in favour, 10 against and one abstention.

Family and cultural life

35. **Recommendation contained in paragraph 74.** In terms of educational strategies and awareness-raising campaigns aimed at addressing gender stereotypes, in 2023 the Directorate for Education and the Culture of Peace of the Ministry of Human Rights trained 11,190 people – 2,811 public servants, 7,160 law enforcement officials and 1,219 members of the public – through various courses and workshops. Educational strategies, campaigns, courses, training sessions, conferences and other activities were organized to combat gender stereotypes.

36. The themes covered by the human rights education and training programmes of the Ministry of Human Rights include the prevention of discrimination; the human rights of vulnerable persons and groups; the national and international legal framework for the protection of human rights; education for gender equality and equity; intersectionality; the human rights of women; the prevention of domestic violence and sexual harassment; and

²⁵ Ministry of Security, 5 December 2023, available at <https://n9.cl/rc29u>.

²⁶ Inter-American Court of Human Rights, "Corte Interamericana inauguró en Honduras la tercera edición del curso sobre derechos de los pueblos indígenas y tribales, derechos al medio ambiente y personas defensoras de los derechos humanos", 2021, available at <https://n9.cl/0evybd>.

²⁷ Public Prosecution Service, "Fiscales de nueve departamentos son capacitados para representar y defender los derechos de los pueblos indígenas", 2022, available at <https://n9.cl/zmo08>.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights judgments against Honduras. Educational processes promote the elimination of practices of gender-based discrimination that can violate human rights.

37. To ensure that the media do not promote stereotypes or gender-based violence or violence against women, the Ministry of Human Rights provided training for public servants working in the communications departments of State institutions and representatives of corporate and independent media, civil society organizations and LGBTIQ+ organizations. The training focused on stigma-free media coverage and a human rights-based approach to communication. Activities included the organization of a forum on stigma-free media coverage, the teaching of a course on human rights with a focus on communication; and the dissemination of guidelines and recommendations on a human rights-based approach to media coverage.

Political and public life

38. **Recommendation contained in paragraph 75.** To ensure and promote the effective participation of women in political life, the Ministry of Social Development and the United Nations Development Programme implemented, from August to December 2022, the “Women Leaders Promoting Social Development and Political Participation” initiative. The main objective is to provide a forum for women who hold elected office and women leaders of community organizations to develop a national mechanism for strengthening women’s political participation in the formulation of gender-sensitive public policies on social development.

39. This process of consultation with women highlighted, among many aspects, the vulnerabilities faced by women in Honduras. It also strengthened their analytical capacity to propose courses of action to address different problems, based on their own gender identity, through an intersectional approach and with a regional perspective, thanks to the establishment of regional round tables. One hundred and thirty-one women of all ethnicities and ages, from 63 municipalities, participated in the process. The participating institutions were the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, the Women’s City Programme, the National Electoral Council, the Electoral Court, the National Institute for Youth, the Office of Vice-President Doris Gutiérrez, the Gender Commission of Congress, municipal offices for women, women’s and feminist organizations such as Plataforma 25 de Noviembre and the Foro de Mujeres Políticas Unidas por Honduras.

40. Regarding awareness-raising campaigns to prevent and combat the various forms of violence against women, including political violence, and the effective investigation of such cases, the Public Prosecution Service has conducted campaigns and activities to publicize fundamental rights in accordance with objective 1.6 of its strategic plan.

41. The Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Women reported that, in 2019, an information campaign was conducted to promote the services of specialized comprehensive support units, with the slogan “Speak up and report it: justice is on your side”. This campaign addressed aspects related to the reporting of violence against women, children and adolescents and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons; and the care mechanisms of the specialized comprehensive support units. It received funding from the Eurojusticia Programme of the European Union.

42. In 2021, a human rights-focused campaign was organized to raise awareness of the rights of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples. This campaign included the distribution of audiovisual materials, leaflets and posters, with a slogan calling on Indigenous and Afro-descendant persons to demand, defend and protect their rights and denounce violations. A total of 365,000 leaflets related to the prevention of violence with a gender perspective were handed out.

43. The “Justice for All” radio programme, produced by the public relations division, explores topics related to the prevention of all forms of violence against women (including older women) and children and adolescents. Contributors to the programme have included prosecutors, psychologists, social workers, forensic experts and investigators.

44. Between 2018 and 2022, the Public Prosecution Service, in coordination with the various prosecutors' offices, organized more than 48 advocacy events nationwide with the participation of prosecutors, psychologists, social workers and police officers. These events included information and awareness-raising workshops on gender-based violence, trafficking in persons and discrimination against women and children for communities, grass-roots and trade organizations, State and private schools and universities.

45. The Office of the Special Prosecutor for Offences against Life of the Public Prosecution Service has organized campaigns against violence, such as the "Overcoming Fear" (Vencer el Miedo) campaign conducted in 2020 in partnership with the country's main television stations with the aim of encouraging victims to report violence. This campaign was particularly important in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, amid increased reports of domestic violence against women as a result of lockdown measures and complaints of sexual violence against children and adolescents.

46. Under the auspices of the Spotlight Initiative, a television campaign entitled "The Other Pandemic" was run in 2021 to draw attention to all forms of violence against women and girls.

47. The run-up to the November 2021 general election saw an increase in levels of violence and political polarization, manifested in offences against life and physical integrity and in hate speech emanating from various sectors and directed mainly against women and their sexual and reproductive rights, the LGBTIQ+ community and political opponents. These issues were also addressed within the framework of the Spotlight Initiative.

48. According to the National Observatory of Violence attached to the University Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security of the National Autonomous University of Honduras, between the announcement of the 2021 election by the National Electoral Council on 23 December 2020 and the date on which the new President assumed office, 27 January 2022, there were 114 recorded incidents of political violence (42 homicides, 37 cases of coercion, 22 attacks, 11 threats, 1 case of coercion and 1 kidnapping).²⁸

49. In 21 of these 114 incidents (21.4 per cent) the victims were women. In one case, the victim was an LGBTIQ+ person. Three of the homicide victims were women and one was an LGBTIQ+ person. Three of the reported attacks were committed against women, two of whom were standing as candidates for Congress. Two women were subjected to threats and one to coercion.

50. To ensure the effective investigation of cases of political violence against women and offences committed against women leaders and human rights defenders, the Public Prosecution Service has introduced the Harmonized Criminal Investigation Manual containing basic guiding principles for investigations in criminal proceedings.

51. Training on criminal investigation with a gender and a human rights perspective has been provided to prosecutors, officers of the Specialist Criminal Investigation Agency and forensic physicians in the framework of an agreement signed with the Justice Education Society. In addition, prosecutors, officers of the Specialist Criminal Investigation Agency and the Police Investigation Directorate and administrative officials have been trained in dealing with offences with a victim-centred approach and a gender perspective. Training provided during the period from 2020 to 2022 included:

(a) A refresher course on the case law of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, taught in 2020 and 2021;

(b) A course on the investigation of serious human rights violations (delivered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), two editions);

(c) A course on serious human rights violations (Supreme Court/Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, one edition);

²⁸ *Informe de violencia política – Honduras, elecciones 2021.*

- (d) Training on a protocol for the criminal analysis and context analysis of offences against human rights;
- (e) A specialized course on the effective prosecution of gender-based violence cases (National Center for State Courts, 11 editions);
- (f) A course on managing investigations in human rights cases (Association for a Fairer Society, three editions);
- (g) A course on litigation techniques in human rights cases (Association for a Fairer Society, three editions);
- (h) Awareness-raising of a context analysis protocol for the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights (Association for a Fairer Society, one edition).

52. Regarding measures to put an end to violence against women human rights defenders, since 2020 the Public Prosecution Service has filed two applications for prosecution for offences against the lives of three women human rights defenders. In the case of the murder of the environmentalist Berta Cáceres, charges were brought against additional defendants, Roberto David Castillo and Daniel Eduardo Atala. An application for prosecution was also filed in connection with the murder of three trans women human rights defenders.

53. In July 2021, the first chamber of the Sentencing Court with National Territorial Jurisdiction in Criminal Matters convicted Roberto David Castillo of being the co-perpetrator of the murder of Berta Cáceres. The defence filed an appeal in cassation, which is currently pending.

Economic and social life

54. **Recommendation contained in paragraph 76.** The Solidarity Network seeks to empower rural women, focusing on female heads of household in rural areas, who are key agents in the economic, environmental and social changes necessary for the refoundation of Honduras. The strategy is to enhance the quality of life of women and girls through equal opportunities, equity and their inclusion in projects and programmes intended to strengthen development and assistance in the areas of education, health, housing and environmental protection, coordinated by the Solidarity Network and with the participation of civil society organizations.

55. Achievements under the programme include the formation of more than 1,900 savings and loan cooperatives and the establishment of 1,221 fully constituted solidarity committees, led by female entrepreneurs and family guides, to benefit the country's children. In addition, 138,267 conditional cash transfers were made to female heads of household living in poverty and extreme poverty, financially empowering them with a view to generating a self-sustaining economy.²⁹

56. Furthermore, it is planned that 500,000 rural women will benefit from technical assistance and funding under the Women's Entrepreneurship Programme and through the financial autonomy units of the Women's City Centres, the National Entrepreneurship and Small Business Service and the National Solidarity Loan Programme for Rural Women.³⁰

57. The following additional measures have been taken by the Solidarity Government led by President Xiomara Castro to effectively empower women in rural areas:

- (a) The Ministry of Women's Affairs and the National Entrepreneurship and Small Business Service have signed an inter-institutional cooperation and technical assistance agreement with the goals of strengthening the gender perspective, fostering women's economic empowerment and access to resources, effectively operationalizing the

²⁹ Solidarity Network, "Red Solidaria promueve la igualdad de oportunidades y derechos para las hondureñas", 2023, available at <https://n9.cl/yyd2g>.

³⁰ Solidarity Network, "CREDIMUJER asistirá a más de 500 mil mujeres en el sector rural", 2023, available at <https://n9.cl/7ng2y>.

National Solidarity Loan Programme for Rural Women and establishing a gender unit in the National Bank for Agricultural Development;³¹

(b) The National Entrepreneurship and Small Business Service and the Asociación de Mujeres Intibucanas Renovadas (Association of Renewed Intibucan Women) have signed a cooperation agreement to promote the employment and entrepreneurship of rural women through training workshops and programmes that support women’s empowerment and inclusion in the productive sector;³²

(c) The National Agrarian Institute and the Foundation for Rural Business Development signed an agreement to promote a fish-farming project of families belonging to the Empresa Asociativa Campesina de Producción “24 de Julio”, affiliated to the Honduran Association of Rural Women and the Honduran Confederation of Rural Women, located in the community of Benque, in the Jamastrán Valley, municipality of Danlí.³³

58. The National Agrarian Institute participates in such initiatives to promote business development in different communities, fulfilling the commitment given by President Xiomara Castro to ensure food security for Honduran families.

59. To ensure full access to quality education for all girls, the Ministry of Education will implement a proposal for in-service teacher training within the framework of the curriculum update for the period 2024–2028 and will make improvements in the areas of school infrastructure, furniture and technology, books and teaching materials, school lunches, free enrolment, and monitoring and follow-up of educational oversight, with an emphasis on supporting teachers.

60. Regarding measures to ensure that human rights education, covering women’s rights and gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence, is taught in all State schools, the Ministry of Education is redesigning the national curriculum so that it includes human rights themes, including women’s rights and gender equality, with special attention paid to the prevention of gender-based violence. The human rights focal point of the Ministry of Education is the teaching supervision and support unit, which coordinates with the Ministry of Human Rights on measures related to human rights.

61. The Directorate for Education and the Culture of Peace of the Ministry of Human Rights has provided human rights training, covering the themes of women’s rights and gender equality, and including a basic course on human rights, intersectionality and gender, for public servants from the Ministry of Education. Training activities were carried out for students and parents in various schools.

62. The Ministry of Human Rights sits on the human rights education committee that is responsible for updating the public policy and plan of action on human rights education, with the aim of mainstreaming and consolidating human rights education through public policy.

63. Regarding the teaching of comprehensive and science-based sexuality education in all State schools, the Ministry of Education has organized consultations to develop the implementing regulations of the Act on Comprehensive Education for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy.³⁴

64. To reduce malnutrition and school dropout rates among children and adolescents, thus ensuring access to quality education, Ministry of Social Development has implemented the National School Nutrition Programme, under which a meal is provided to children enrolled in States schools on every day of the school year. As at 2023, the programme had a budget of L 1.022 billion, providing meals for 1,317,027 children in more than 21,000 schools.³⁵ The

³¹ Poder Popular, “SEMÚJER trabaja para lograr el empoderamiento económico”, 2023, available at <https://n9.cl/5jn5o>.

³² Poder Popular, “SENPRENDE y la Asociación de Mujeres Intibucanas Renovadas (AMIR) suscriben convenio de cooperación”, 2023, available at <https://n9.cl/ybm9q>.

³³ Poder Popular, “INA impulsa proyecto de piscicultura con mujeres emprendedoras en Danlí”, 2023, available at <https://n9.cl/2xy0wk>.

³⁴ Ministry of Education, “Conversatorio sobre la Ley de Educación Integral de Prevención de Embarazos en Adolescentes”, available at <https://n9.cl/odnad>.

³⁵ Poder Popular, “Presidenta Castro y PMA aprueban Merienda Escolar”, 2022, available at

programme's impact has been positive, as in 2023 the number of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran children directly enrolled in school increased by 93,996.

65. In addition, the Solidarity Government has developed the Solidarity Scholarship Programme for 100,000 low-income students.³⁶ The aim of this programme, implemented by the Cabinet Council on Social Affairs through the Ministry of Social Development, the Solidarity Network, the Solidarity Action Programme and the Ministry of Education, is to promote access to quality education.

66. Under the programme, the Government will invest L 800 million in the award of 100,000 scholarships at the primary, secondary and tertiary (undergraduate and graduate) levels, prioritizing persons with disabilities, children of persons with disabilities, returned migrants, adolescent mothers, single mothers, Indigenous and Afro-Honduran persons and the inhabitants of the 2,007 villages in a situation of extreme poverty that are targeted by the Solidarity Network.

67. Solidarity scholarships for university students have two components: on the one hand, a stipend, and on the other, access to benefits such as accommodation, language school, remedial classes, tutoring, payment of graduation expenses, digital training spaces and academic kits for students who may be held back by a lack of these resources.

68. The following types of scholarship are available:

(a) **Technical university scholarships** for applicants who wish to study a technical programme at one of the country's public or private universities;

(b) **Departmental scholarships** for applicants who wish to study at university and who will commute daily from their municipality to a city in the same department;

(c) **Academic performance scholarships** for high-achieving applicants (with an overall grade of 85 per cent or higher) from any department;

(d) **Equity scholarships** for applicants who wish to study at university and who need to move to Tegucigalpa or San Pedro Sula;

(e) **Félix Vásquez scholarships** for persons belonging to Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples;

(f) **Vicky Hernández scholarships**, which are awarded pursuant to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights judgment in the case of *Vicky Hernández et al. v. Honduras*;

(g) **Local master's scholarships** for applicants who wish to study for a master's degree at a Honduran university in person or online.

Access to health

69. **Recommendation contained in paragraph 77.** Regarding the action taken by the Solidarity Government to ensure full and appropriate access to health (sexual and reproductive health) services for all women, including in remote areas and with particular attention to the needs of women experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination, the Ministry of Social Development and the United Nations Population Fund carried out the following projects:

(a) **The "Leave No One Behind" (No Dejar a Nadie Atrás) project to reduce adolescent pregnancies.** Carried out in 2023 in Creole, Garifuna and Miskito communities in selected municipalities on the Caribbean coast, specifically those of La Ceiba, José Santos Guardiola, Santa Fe, Santa Rosa de Aguán, Limón, Irióna and Puerto Lempira, this project involved Garifuna and English-speaking young people and women in various activities, taking into account the social reality and the prevailing world-view in the seven selected municipalities. Activities included improving comprehensive sexuality education and sexual

<https://n9.cl/8bxtpt>.

³⁶ Ministry of Social Development, "Comisión Interamericana Derechos Humanos (CIDH) realiza visita *in loco* a Honduras", 2023, available at <https://n9.cl/8toux>.

and reproductive health services, strengthening leadership, visiting local stakeholders and health facilities to identify the challenges they face in developing strategies to reduce adolescent pregnancies and carrying out a community diagnosis by means of focus groups with young persons from the selected municipalities.

(b) **The “Promoting the Sexual and Reproductive Rights of Adolescents” project.** Workshops were organized to plan adolescent pregnancy prevention campaigns with local teams from the prioritized municipalities. An action plan for promoting the sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents and young persons in the selected communities and preventing adolescent pregnancies and gender-based violence, especially sexual violence, was developed. In addition, coordination between partners and allies at the municipal level was strengthened as part of the multisectoral response to the issues addressed by the project, which is funded by Canada (mayors’ offices, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development, the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights, the Public Prosecution Service and other relevant actors).

70. Regarding access to health services and the achievement of universal coverage, the Ministry of Health has established policies and mechanisms to guarantee continuous services for the entire population, with an emphasis on priority groups. Measures are taken by Integrated Health Services Networks in keeping with the primary health-care approach.

71. The Solidarity Government has signed a US\$ 150 million credit agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank for the construction of two specialist hospitals to ensure the provision of quality health services.

72. To ensure comprehensive and appropriate care for women and girls who are victims of sexual violence, on 6 December 2022 the Ministry of Health issued a protocol for the comprehensive care of victims of sexual violence. Its purpose is to provide expert guidance to public and private health service providers on the delivery of comprehensive and timely care to these persons. In addition, workshops have been held to train physicians, psychologists and sexologists on the application of the protocol.³⁷

73. The sexual and reproductive health units of the Women’s City Centres provide comprehensive health care with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health, which contributes to the safe, healthy and satisfactory exercise of sexuality. Centres provide services to reduce maternal mortality and women’s mortality due to cervical and breast cancer and chronic non-communicable diseases; they are equipped with laboratories and provide ultrasound, mammography, colposcopy, radiography, electrocardiogram, fetal monitoring, cytology, nursing and pharmacy services.

74. As part of the “Chest Out, You Are Powerful” (Saca pecho, sos poderosa) campaign conducted in October 2022, Women’s City Centres performed 2,199 free mammograms, of a total of 5,939 for the whole year.³⁸

Gender-based violence

75. **Recommendation contained in paragraph 78.** Regarding the necessary steps to address the high levels of impunity and ensure that cases of gender-based violence are investigated and prosecuted, the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Offences against Life of the Public Prosecution Service has investigation teams in both the Specialist Criminal Investigation Agency and the Police Investigation Directorate. They are responsible for investigations into violent deaths of women. Since 2018, the Public Prosecution Service has filed 417 applications for prosecution for various offences against the lives of women.

76. The Public Prosecution Service has had a mobile unit since 2022. By Decision No. FGR-005-2022, it adopted a protocol on the use of the mobile unit to provide comprehensive assistance to vulnerable groups. The aim of the protocol is to regulate and standardize the services provided by the mobile unit in areas with the highest incidence of offences, thus

³⁷ Poder Popular, “Salud capacita a médicos, psicólogos y sexólogos sobre protocolo de Atención Integral a personas víctimas y sobrevivientes de violencia sexual”, 2024, available at <https://n9.cl/pri4t>.

³⁸ Women’s City Programme, *Memoria Institucional 2022. Ciudad Mujer para todas*, p. 24.

facilitating access to justice and strengthening investigation and response. The mobile unit offers an immediate solution to the needs of vulnerable groups and provides in situ health, legal, clinical forensic and psychology services; it also initiates investigative proceedings in relation to the complaint and makes the appropriate referrals.

77. The Public Prosecution Service, through the Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Women, the prosecutor on duty, the mental evaluation department, the witness protection programme and the national forensic clinic, provides direct services to women by receiving complaints and dealing with cases of domestic violence and gender-based offences. The Public Prosecution Service has provided the following statistics on violence against women and gender-based violence:

Public Prosecution Service, response to violence against women and gender-based violence, 2019–2022

Description	2019	2020	2021	2022
Direct services provided to women	26 315	29 861	39 567	35 767
Complaints received by the Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Women	7 650	13 276	18 664	15 335
Complaints of domestic violence	4 737	6 715	7 400	6 311
Complaints of gender-based offences and contempt	2 913	6 561	11 076	9 379
Expert opinions issued after psychological evaluation	1 079	346	926	1 295
Medical evaluations by the Forensic Medicine Directorate	11 808	6 043	8 553	8 120
Counselling, consultation and referral services provided by the Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Women	4 992	3 422	5 322	5 322
Services related to domestic violence	3 444	2 630	4 149	3 324
Services related to other offences	1 548	792	1 173	1 400
Detentions and arrests ordered	1 304	2 921	3 512	3 127
Security measures imposed	1 391	4 001	5 816	5 366
Total number of judgments	1 328	1 513	3 213	2 838
Convictions for domestic violence	1 104	1 107	1 723	1 567
Domestic violence cases dismissed	137	141	426	366
Convictions for other offences	77	208	768	645
Awards of reparation	995	657	892	-
Applications for prosecution filed with the criminal courts for domestic abuse, sexual offences and contempt of security or other measures	1 451	2 643	4 383	3 857

Source: Public Prosecution Service, official letter No. DGF-008-2024 of 9 January 2024.

78. In 2019, 56 women, including 10 girls, were admitted to the witness protection programme; 53 women (3 girls) were admitted in 2021 and 49 women (6 girls) in 2022.

79. In recent years, the Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Women of the Public Prosecution Service has coordinated Operation Débora, a special operation with a gender and intersectional approach and perspective. The results of the operations Débora IV and Débora V, implemented in 2019 and 2020, are reported below:

Public Prosecution Service, results of Operation Débora, 2019 and 2020

Operation	Débora IV	Débora V
Date of implementation	2019	March 2020
Arrests	146	109

Preventive measures	484	125
Persons trained	3 903	4 361
Applications for prosecution (persons)	248	251

Source: Public Prosecution Service, official letter No. DGF-008-2024 of 9 January 2024.

80. Between 2019 and 2022, the Public Prosecution Service carried out various national operations, in which it organized consultations, lectures, campaigns and training on the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence, including:

(a) In 2019, the training of 14,050 people as part of the operations Amanecer (3,524 persons trained), Amanecer II (3,650), Abeona (2,973) and Débora IV (3,903);

(b) In 2020, the training of 5,561 people as part of the operations Júpiter II and Débora V;

(c) In 2021, the training of 4,659 people under Operation Omega;

(d) In 2022, the training of 17,060 people under the operations Némesis (6,281 persons trained), Amanecer III (3,324), Abeona II (1,926) and Débora VI (5,529).

81. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government developed and broadcast publicity spots on social networks and in the media, including the campaign “Nada justifica la violencia” (Nothing justifies violence), to encourage reporting in the context of lockdown. The authorities also published information on hotlines to call or places to go in case of an emergency and on what to do in a situation of domestic violence.

82. Violence prevention campaigns were included in daily broadcasts on national television channels and radio stations to inform the population about COVID-19. These campaigns were coordinated by the now defunct National Institute for Women.

83. In 2020, the Public Prosecution Service conducted inspections of the temporary shelters that were built after tropical storms Eta and Iota struck the country in late 2020. Talks were organized to provide counselling and guidance on the prevention of gender-based violence to 1,200 people living in shelters – 650 in Tegucigalpa, 400 in San Pedro Sula and 150 in La Ceiba.

84. In respect of having sufficient shelters for victims of violence, the Government has submitted a bill on shelters, which is pending adoption by Congress. The general State budget for 2023 provides that the Ministry of Finance will allocate L 30 million to Ministry of Women’s Affairs for the construction, fitting out and maintenance of shelters and L 20 million for violence prevention activities.³⁹ The Ministry of Women’s Affairs signed an inter-institutional cooperation agreement with the Mayor’s Office of the Central District to support these activities.

85. Cases of disappearances of women that are unrelated to possible crimes are investigated by the office of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). Thanks to the joint efforts of communities and the National Police, several women and girls who had been reported missing have been identified in recent years.

86. To address the issue of systematic disappearances of women, in 2022 the Government requested the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to become an observer of the Inter-Agency Commission to Monitor Investigations into Violent Deaths of Women and Femicide. It also requested technical assistance from the Spotlight Initiative in drafting the bill on purple alerts for the immediate search for missing women, conceived as a comprehensive mechanism to locate and protect missing women, reduce their vulnerability and prevent possible fatal outcomes.

87. In August 2022, in the framework of the “Justice for Victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence” project, the Inter-Agency Commission to Monitor Investigations into Violent Deaths of Women and Femicide met with the Public Prosecution Service of

³⁹ Legislative Decree No. 157-2022, published in *La Gaceta* No. 36,127, art. 17.

Guatemala. At this meeting, crucial information was exchanged on the “Isabel Claudina” alert system, and key elements were provided for the development of the aforementioned bill.

88. The Inter-Agency Commission also conducted a fact-finding mission to Mexico to learn first hand about the experiences of the search commission of the State of Mexico, which contributed to enriching the bill and to identifying key institutional actors.

89. To strengthen investigative capacities, from 1 to 3 August 2023, the INTERPOL Unit of the Police Investigation Directorate ran a training workshop on disappearance and the search for missing persons for 45 police officers. The aim was to build knowledge of the individualization of missing persons, context analysis and hypothesis, deployment of police operations and other topics.⁴⁰

90. Regarding statistics and data collection, the Public Prosecution Service has a strategic unit for criminal prosecution, which is responsible for compiling statistics on prosecutions, while the complaints reception unit and the Strategic Planning and Quality Management Division compile information on complaints. All prosecutors’ offices have their own databases. Additional statistics from the Forensic Medicine Directorate, the National Police and the National Observatory on Violence are consolidated by the Technical Unit for Inter-Institutional Coordination, which validates the data collected.

Intersecting forms of discrimination

91. **Recommendation contained in paragraph 79.** Regarding measures taken to establish a system for collecting disaggregated data on women facing intersecting discrimination, the National Coordination Office for Indigenous Peoples and Hondurans of African Descent is introducing a system for the collection of disaggregated data on Indigenous, Garifuna and Afro-Honduran women who experience intersectional discrimination, with the aim of identifying the problems these women face in order to design culturally appropriate public policies.

92. The National Coordination Office is formulating a new comprehensive public policy to combat racism and discrimination against Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples.⁴¹ Advances include a review of the Public Policy against Racism and Racial Discrimination for the Comprehensive Development of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples and the establishment of forums for consultation with State institutions, civil society organizations working in the area of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples’ rights, and academia. The National Coordination Office also follows up on judgments handed down by inter-American human rights system. For example, on 30 March 2023, a public apology was issued in relation to the *Miskito Divers (Lemoth Morris et al.) v. Honduras* case⁴² in which the State acknowledged its obligation to protect and ensure the rights of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples and its commitment to make full reparation to the victims and their families.⁴³

93. In 2022, the Government created the Honduran Centre for the Study of State Policies for the Social Sector⁴⁴ to carry out research and devise public policies for the social sector with input from civil society.⁴⁵ The Centre gives priority to vulnerable population groups and persons at risk owing to natural, economic and health-related emergencies, among other factors, and to social development and protection measures in partnership with academia and

⁴⁰ Poder Popular, “Autoridades de la DPI son capacitados por INTERPOL en temas de desaparecidos y búsqueda de personas”, 2023, available at <https://n9.cl/8ebqo>.

⁴¹ Ministry of Social Development/Honduran Centre for the Study of State Policies for the Social Sector/National Coordination Office for Indigenous Peoples and Hondurans of African Descent, July 2023. Available at <https://n9.cl/bkxlo>.

⁴² Act of acknowledgement of international responsibility and apology and commitment to non-repetition, <https://n9.cl/wapd6>.

⁴³ Ministry of Social Development, “Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH) realiza visita *in loco* a Honduras”, available at <https://n9.cl/8toux>.

⁴⁴ Executive Decree No. PCM-019-2022.

⁴⁵ Honduran Centre for the Study of State Policies in the Social Sector, <https://n9.cl/ulxxm>.

international organizations, focusing on lessons learned in the local, national and international spheres.⁴⁶

94. In 2023, the Centre began to raise awareness of the comprehensive public policy to combat racism and discrimination, in conjunction with 54 strategic stakeholders from organizations of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples, government ministries, cooperation agencies and academia. A document setting out the bases for the construction of the new comprehensive policy has been published.

95. The Our Roots Programme, launched by President Xiomara Castro in August 2022 and implemented by the Ministry of Social Development through the Solidarity Action Programme, promotes the engagement of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples with a platform for services and projects developed by the State and international cooperation agencies to ensure the political, economic, social and cultural development of their communities, with respect for territorial and ancestral rights, and thus build an inclusive, multi-ethnic and multicultural Honduras.

96. The Programme has six components: citizen participation and governance of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples; advocacy and legal instruments and mechanisms; intercultural education and ancestral knowledge; basic infrastructure and access to public services; strengthening productive structures and food security; and culture and socioeconomic development – entrepreneurship and businesses with community relevance.⁴⁷ Under the first component, three projects have been designed with the aims of: (i) ensuring the effective participation of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples in the design and social oversight of the programme; (ii) establishing forums for dialogue, work and ongoing consultation with Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples; and (iii) strengthening ancestral and communal structures.⁴⁸

97. This programme was launched in August 2022. At the first meeting, held at the presidential palace, more than 400 leaders of the Lenca, Chortí, Tolupán, Pech and Nahua Indigenous Peoples from the Departments of Copán, Ocotepeque, Lempira, La Paz, La Esperanza, Yoro, Olancho and Francisco Morazán established a broad multicultural dialogue, laying the foundations for the sustainable and resilient development of their communities.

98. To eliminate violence, discrimination and stigmatization against LGBTIQ+ women, women with disabilities, sex workers and women living with HIV and other diseases, and to guarantee their rights, the Directorate for Education and the Culture of Peace of the Ministry of Human Rights has organized campaigns and courses to reduce and eliminate violence, discrimination and stigmatization against women. These activities were aimed at public servants of the Honduran Social Security Institute, the University Teaching Hospital and the Mario Mendoza Psychiatric Hospital. The training covered the themes of dignified treatment in the provision of health care, the prevention of discrimination, the human rights of vulnerable groups and gender equality and equity, with a view to ensuring women's access to quality health services.

99. Members of the public participated in the following training activities:

- (a) A course on the prevention of discrimination;
- (b) A human rights defenders' training course for representatives of non-governmental organizations; and

⁴⁶ “La SEDESOL lanza el innovador Centro Hondureño Para el Estudio de las Políticas Públicas de Estado en el Sector Social”, available at <https://n9.cl/slrex>.

⁴⁷ “Gobierno de la República lanza el programa ‘Nuestras Raíces’”, available at <https://n9.cl/8or3i>.

⁴⁸ Ministry of Social Development/Solidarity Action Programme, Our Roots Programme newsletter, “Estudio de Línea Base para cada pueblo PIAH”, available at <https://n9.cl/u2af13>.

(c) A training course for young human rights defenders, aimed at representatives of the National Association of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in Honduras, the Fundación Peniel Manos Extendidas, the organization Alternativas y Oportunidades, the Women's Committee, Formando Líderes en Ingeniería Química Industrial y Carreras Afines and young students from the National Autonomous University of Honduras. The aim of this course was to encourage the effective participation of women in political, civil, economic and social life and thus to reduce discriminatory practices. Themes included the prevention of discrimination, the human rights of vulnerable groups and gender equality and equity.

100. The Directorate for Education and the Culture of Peace has also delivered the following courses:

(a) A course for law enforcement officials. The subject of human rights was taught to military police cadets.

(b) A human rights class for army cadets.

(c) A human rights class for trainee prison officers.

(d) A human rights seminar for the presidential honour guard.

(e) A basic human rights course for members of the National Police.

101. Course content included knowledge of subjects such as gender equality and equity, women's rights, the prevention of discrimination, women in vulnerable situations and the protocol for the search and arrest of LGBTIQ+ persons, notably the search procedure for lesbian, transsexual, bisexual and queer women.

102. These training activities also address judgments in which the Honduran State was held responsible for human rights violations (including the *Vicky Hernández* and *Jeanette Kawas* cases and other judgments that directly or indirectly affect the lives of women in Honduras) and the national and international legal framework for the protection of human rights, which contributes to the more effective protection of women by the State and the public, for example, in cases where they experience domestic violence, sexual harassment or offences against honour.

103. Regarding measures to ensure the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons and eliminate violence and discrimination against them, on 9 May 2022, President Xiomara Castro acknowledged the State's international responsibility and issued a public apology in relation to the *Vicky Hernández v. Honduras* case. This ceremony was held in compliance with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights judgment of 26 March 2021, in which the Court found Honduras responsible for the violation of the rights to life and personal integrity of Vicky Hernández, a transgender woman sex worker and defender of trans women's rights who was murdered during the 2009 coup d'état.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Ministry of Social Development, "Acto Público de Reconocimiento de Responsabilidad Internacional por el caso Vicky Hernández" (accessed on 24 August 2023), available at: <https://n9.cl/f59ci>.

104. In accordance with paragraph 204 (13) of the *Vicky Hernández et al. v. Honduras* judgment, which provides that the State must create a programme of study grants named after Vicky Hernández for trans women,⁵⁰ the Ministry of Social Development and the Counsel General's Office announced the creation of said study grant as a measure of reparation for the murder.⁵¹ In fact, the Ministry of Social Development, in coordination with the Cattrachas Lesbian Network in its capacity as petitioner and representative of the victims in the case, created two scholarship programmes for trans persons with an annual value of L 100,000, as well as providing a scholarship for Vicky Hernández's niece.⁵²

[Signed]

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⁵⁰ Inter-American Court of Human Rights, *Vicky Hernández et al. v. Honduras*. Judgment of 26 March 2021 (Merits, reparations and costs), para. 204 (13).

⁵¹ "SEDIS y PGR darán cumplimiento a la solicitud de la Corte IDH sobre medidas de reparación por el asesinato de Vicky Hernández durante el Golpe de Estado de 2009", available at <https://n9.cl/vra3w>.

⁵² Ministry of Social Development, "Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH) realiza visita *in loco* a Honduras", available at <https://n9.cl/8toux>.