

THE 2014-2018 INTEGRAL PROGRAM FOR THE PREVENTION, ATTENTION, PUNISHMENT AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS PUBLISHED

In accordance with the National Development Plan, the decree approving the 2014-2018 Integral Program for the Prevention, Attention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women was published on April 30th.

The Program was made in line with Mexico's commitment towards the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and of the obstacles that lead to the reproduction situations of inequality and marginalization. It is expected that the Program will strengthen existing legal and administrative mechanisms to guarantee women's human rights, harmonize national legislation in the matter and establish the necessary strategies for the promotion of a cultural transformation, in order to eradicate violence against women.

The evaluation included in the Program identified that 62.7% of women ages 15 and older in Mexico have been victims of violence at least once in their lives. It was found that some of the main reasons for this incidence of violence were: the insufficient legal harmonization; the lack of a culture of non-violence; gender discrimination; the lack of specialized attention for women and girls who are victims of violence; the limited access to judicial remedies for women; and an overall lack of coordination between institutions regarding violence against women.

In order to tackle the challenges regarding violence and discrimination against women in our country, the Program outlines the following objectives:

- 1) To promote legislative harmonization and a cultural transformation in order to contribute to the elimination of violence against women;
- 2) To guarantee an integral prevention to reduce risk factors of violence against women and girls;
- 3) To guarantee the access to specialized and integral attention to women and girls who are victims of violence;
- 4) To ensure access to effective judicial remedies through proper investigation, punishment and reparation for the victim;
- 5) To strengthen institutional coordination for the prevention, attention, punishment and eradication of violence against women.

Each objective entails different strategies and action lines for their implementation, turning them into activities that can be measured through the indicators contained in the Program itself.

The Program also includes an annex where the distribution of responsibilities for the accomplishment of these objectives is clearly defined. The entities in charge of implementing the Program are the Ministry of the Interior, the National Institute for Women, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labor and Social Prevision, the National System for the Integral Development of the Family, and the National System for the Prevention, Attention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women.

The legal framework underlying the Program includes the Mexican Constitution, all national legislation and relevant national programs, as well as all international treaties to which Mexico is a party and the relevant recommendations and judgments of international organs concerning women's human rights. The judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the cases of *González y otras*, *Fernández Ortega* and *Rosendo Cantú* are particularly relevant in this regard.

The Program is part of the different actions undertaken by the government of President Enrique Peña Nieto to guarantee equality and to eradicate violence against women, thus ensuring an inclusive, democratic and peaceful Mexico.

References:

Integral Program for the Prevention, Attention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women 2014-2018:
http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5343064&fecha=30/04/2014