



# **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

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## **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

### **Information received from Uruguay on follow-up to the concluding observations on its tenth periodic report\***

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. The Government of Uruguay hereby submits updated information regarding the observations contained in paragraphs 18 (a), 22 (c), 28 (a) and 36 (b) of the Committee's concluding observations on its tenth periodic report.<sup>1</sup>

## **Observation 18 (a)**

### **National gender plan for the period 2025–2030**

2. The National Gender Council was reestablished in July of the current year, within the framework of Act No. 19.846 on non-discrimination and equality between men and women. The national gender plan for the period 2025–2030, which is part of the National Gender Equality Strategy for 2030, is currently being prepared. The 90 measures pledged by the ministries of the new Government will be inputs for that plan.

### **Agro-gender policy and action plan for the period 2025–2029**

3. The agro-gender policy and action plan for the period 2025–2029 was adopted. Its aim is to strengthen gender mainstreaming in agricultural policy and its elements include providing 1,000 women with productive support and access to land, training more than 3,000 women in agrarian and environmental issues, raising awareness of gender issues among more than 5,000 people and training more than 700 extension agents and officials in gender issues.

### **“I study and work” programme**

4. The “I study and work” programme is an employment policy aimed at strengthening the link between education and work for young people aged between 16 and 20 who are studying and have no formal work experience. Working hours are limited to 20 per week for those with dependent children under 4 years of age or young pregnant women. The programme provides for affirmative action through quotas of 50 per cent for young women, 2 per cent for trans persons and 1 per cent for young victims of gender-based violence.

### **Support programme for teenage and young mothers**

5. This programme seeks to support educational projects for teenage and young mothers who are interested in continuing their education, with the aim of facilitating their entry into the formal and specialized labour market and promoting the acquisition of social skills and competencies that will increase their economic and physical autonomy and decision-making. It is aimed at women under 23 years of age who receive other benefits as persons in vulnerable situations.

### **“Uruguay advances: work and training” programme**

6. In this edition of the programme, 5,202 people will have access to work experience that combines temporary employment and vocational training with the aim of improving their chances of future labour-market entry. Affirmative action in the form of a quota of 63 per cent for women and 3 per cent for women in situations of gender-based violence was applied.

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<sup>1</sup> CEDAW/C/URY/10.

## Observation 22 (c)

7. The purpose of the Uruguayan Institute for Children and Adolescents is to guarantee and promote the effective exercise of citizenship by all children and adolescents in Uruguay, as befits their status as full subjects of rights. It does so by coordinating a national children's system within the framework of the comprehensive protection policy.

8. Local reception committees are inter-agency bodies, within the comprehensive system for the protection of children and adolescents from violence, that receive cases involving child abuse and child sexual abuse. Experts from the member institutions of the comprehensive system participate in the committees and a total of 36 such committees operate in the country.

9. In addition, three reparations mechanisms have been established through the inter-agency agreements under the comprehensive system: Maldonado, Artigas and Treinta y Tres.

10. There are 20 violence response projects under the Institute's specialized action programme, which address different support needs. There are also six 24-hour shelters specifically for children who live with their mothers and are victims of gender-based and intergenerational violence.

11. Centres for guidance, referral, services and shelter are comprehensive care centres for children and adolescents whose rights have been violated. They offer full-time socio-educational care to foster young people's comprehensive development and social integration, in cooperation with the Institute and the Ministry of Social Development.

12. Article 378 of Act No. 20.075 (2022) on accountability and budget execution provides for the creation of a scheme to support young people who are leaving the protection system. It establishes a scheme within the Institute that will support those young people through subsidies or grants, which may be one-time or regular payments.

13. Act No. 20.212 of 6 November 2023 provided for the establishment of the Childhood Fund, a non-State legal entity under public law designed to improve the living conditions of children and adolescents in vulnerable situations in Uruguay. The Fund's structure, functioning and powers are detailed in its regulations, which were established by Decree No. 72/024 of 11 March 2024.

14. The Institute has drafted a document on tools for access to justice<sup>2</sup> for the expert teams that are part of the comprehensive system for the protection of children and adolescents from violence. The aim of the document is to promote the rights of access to justice, due process and a life free of violence for children and adolescents who must go through the judicial system because they are victims of violence.<sup>3</sup>

15. A victims unit was established within the Attorney-General's Office by means of Decision 83/016. Its authority falls within the scope of the implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code (Act No. 19.293 and amendments) and it fulfils the obligations of the Attorney-General's Office established by that law in relation to protecting and supporting victims in adversarial criminal proceedings. Services may be provided to victims of crimes of any nature, including girls, adolescents and adult

<sup>2</sup> <https://inau.gub.uy/sipiaiv/download/9120/978/16>.  
<https://inau.gub.uy/sipiaiv/download/9120/978/16>

<sup>3</sup> The document presents the relevant conceptual and regulatory framework for understanding violence against children and adolescents, access to justice and due process.

women victims of any kind of gender-based violence. The unit works with the victims themselves and with their families and relatives, as well as with possible witnesses.<sup>4</sup>

16. In 2024, in addition to the guides and protocols already available, booklets were published on treatment with dignity, non-discrimination and access to justice, with an emphasis on the migrant population, LGTBI+ persons and children and adolescents, to strengthen the work of the Attorney-General's Office and the justice system as a whole.

17. The judiciary has 12 specialized family courts of first instance in Montevideo, which work in two shifts, 365 days of the year, and have jurisdiction to hear the protection proceedings provided for under Act No. 17.514 (domestic violence), Act No. 19.580 (gender-based violence) and articles 66 and 117 of Act No. 17.823 (Code on Children and Adolescents).

18. There are currently eight courts of first instance specialized in gender-based violence, domestic violence and sexual violence in key locations in the interior of the country.<sup>5</sup>

19. As part of its training programmes, the Supreme Court of Justice has implemented various human rights-related courses and workshops, which have been delivered by its training entities to officials, clerks, defence attorneys, prosecutors and judges.

20. Several courses were run at the Centre for Judicial Studies of Uruguay that provided both initial and ongoing training to judges and public defenders on the gender perspective and on human rights, in particular on violence, domestic violence, gender-based violence, violence against children and adolescents and child sexual abuse.

21. In the area of initial training of future judges, the following modules on gender and human rights are taught:

- Gender-based violence and children and adolescents;
- Domestic violence, the violation of the rights of children and adolescents and gender-based violence;
- Discrimination and gender-based violence;
- Human rights: implementation of international and constitutional protection instruments.

22. The Centre for Judicial Studies of Uruguay also has a standing committee, composed of judges with jurisdiction in this area of law, which considers case studies and the handling of these matters on a monthly basis.

<sup>4</sup> Normative and jurisprudential compendium on access to justice for sexually exploited children and adolescents: <https://www.gub.uy/fiscalia-general-nacion/sites/fiscalia-general-nacion/files/documentos/publicaciones/Compendio%20normativo%20acceso%20a%20justicia%20victimas%20explotacion%20sexual.pdf>. <https://www.gub.uy/fiscalia-general-nacion/sites/fiscalia-general-nacion/files/documentos/publicaciones/Compendio%20normativo%20acceso%20a%20justicia%20victimas%20explotacion%20sexual.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> As of October 2023, the following specialized gender-based violence centres have been established: first and second courts of first instance specialized in gender-based, domestic and sexual violence in Salto, as of 23 October 2023; third and fourth courts of first instance specialized in gender-based, domestic and sexual violence in San Carlos, as of 27 November 2023; and first and second courts of first instance specialized in gender-based, domestic and sexual violence in Rivera, as of 24 June 2024.

23. In addition, the Centre has standing discussion workshops for judges, court assistants, public defenders and prosecutors from all over the country, which also meet monthly to address this issue.

24. On 19 July 2024, the Supreme Court of Justice adopted regulations on the oversight of placements of children and adolescents in programmes run by the Uruguayan Institute for Children and Adolescents, when ordered by judges as a protection measure, in order to ensure strict compliance with the best interests of the child or adolescent, taking into account the principle of protection.<sup>6</sup>

25. It was also established that all courts with jurisdiction in specialized family matters and gender-based, domestic and sexual violence in Uruguay must prepare reports on the visits. These reports must be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Office of the Deputy Legal Secretary of the Supreme Court of Justice, which is responsible for receiving and checking the reports and following up on them.

26. The Decision sets forth a protocol of action in the event that an unauthorized departure or absence of a child or adolescent is noted during a visit. The acting judge, in addition to taking the relevant measures in the case, must ensure that the corresponding Prosecutor's Office and the defence attorney of the child or adolescent are duly informed.

27. The Supreme Court of Justice also adopted a guide for the implementation of Decision 8.208 on the monitoring of the special protection system (24 hour). The guide was prepared jointly by the judiciary and the United Nations Children's Fund in Uruguay.

28. The Supreme Court of Justice adopted, by means of Decision No. 8.240 of 4 April 2025, a protocol on best practices relating to the procedures for testimony in court by children and adolescents and persons in vulnerable situations, prepared by a committee composed of the judiciary and the Attorney General's Office for that purpose.

29. On 4 September 2025, the judiciary signed an agreement with the National Food Institute for the issuance of a large number of meal vouchers for women, children and adolescents appearing in the specialized family courts of first instance of Montevideo, in order to help to uphold the right to adequate food for people in vulnerable situations.<sup>7</sup>

30. Within the judiciary, through 317 public defenders around the country, free, good-quality legal assistance is provided in all areas of law to those who do not have access to a private attorney, and in criminal matters to all persons with no conditions whatsoever.

31. In order to improve and ensure access to justice, several working meetings have been held in 2025 with all public defenders in the interior of the country. The aim is to raise the main difficulties and barriers to access to justice that defendants may encounter and plan strategic action so that everyone has effective access to justice.

32. In this regard, the judiciary reaffirms its goal of fulfilling the principles set forth in the Brasilia Regulations Regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable People,

<sup>6</sup> Judges must therefore oversee and monitor the conditions of placements and the actions taken by the protection centres. To that end, in addition to taking whatever legal measures they deem appropriate, judges must visit the placement centres in person at least every 90 days to assess the general condition of the centre and the specific condition of the child or adolescent under their authority. Priority must be given to visiting as many children and adolescents as possible.

<sup>7</sup> The specialized family courts of first instance in the capital will provide food vouchers to economically vulnerable women. The vouchers will be assigned for the purchase of goods, which must cover the different dietary restrictions and meet the criteria for proper nutrition.

adopted at the fourteenth Ibero-American Judicial Summit (Brasilia, 2008), by guaranteeing access to those who, due to their age, gender, physical or mental state or social, economic, ethnic and/or cultural circumstances, find it especially difficult to fully exercise their rights as recognized by law.<sup>8</sup>

33. Lastly, among the measures related to improving the quality of the service, public defenders and prosecutors are receiving ongoing training at the Centre for Judicial Studies of Uruguay in the form of continuing education courses and workshop activities, which are mandatory and have a minimum annual workload.<sup>9</sup>

34. In 2023, public defenders with competence in this area of law provided legal representation at 14,883 hearings before the specialized family courts in Montevideo and a total of 50,690 hearings nationwide, while in 2024, those numbers rose to 18,174 hearings in Montevideo and 56,440 hearings nationwide.

35. Between 2023 and 2025, there was an 8.3 per cent increase in the number of places available in 24-hour shelters for women in situations of gender-based violence perpetrated by a partner or ex-partner and for their children and adolescents.

36. In August 2025, the executive branch submitted to parliament the budget bill for the five-year period 2025–2030, which provided for an 8 per cent budget increase to fund the National Institute for Women’s gender-based violence response system, to be used for its expansion and strengthening. The budget bill is currently being discussed by parliament.

37. To improve the National Institute for Women’s quality of care for women in situations of gender-based violence, training was organized in 2024 on responding to gender-based violence using a trauma-informed approach for the expert teams of the Institute’s gender-based violence response system.

38. Similarly, in 2025, work began on updating in methodological and conceptual terms the protocol for the care of women in situations of gender-based violence. It is focused in particular on improving coordination between the National Institute for Women’s gender-based violence response system and the other agencies that make up the inter-agency gender-based violence response system. There are also plans to strengthen the teams that deal with male aggressors through specific and specialized training. These services work in coordination with the teams that provide care to women in situations of gender-based violence to strengthen the protection of women and their children and adolescents.

## Observation 28 (a)

39. In May 2024, a parity bill was discussed for the first time in the Senate, which would establish equal participation in elected positions at the national, departmental and municipal levels, in the governing bodies of political parties and in the Parliament of the Southern Common Market. It failed because it did not reach the two-thirds majority required for electoral laws. A new parity bill is expected to be introduced in the 2025–2030 legislative period.

40. In 2025, the National Institute for Women submitted a request for information to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, within the framework of implementation of Act No. 20.292 on the financing of political parties, which

<sup>8</sup> The strategic actions it has outlined to that end include reducing the barriers to access to justice and promoting the role of justices of the peace in their jurisdiction, in order to provide solutions to conflicts and social issues.

<sup>9</sup> Courses have been taught that are related to the areas in which they work.

authorizes the Ministry to make differential payments in the case of lists headed by women who actually hold the positions for which they were elected.

### **Observation 36 (b)**

41. The right of healthcare personnel to conscientious objection is protected by Act No. 18.987.

42. The Procedures Manual for the Clinical Management of Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy and the Technical Guide for the Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy establish that, when a professional who has a conscientious objection is consulted about an abortion, they must provide an immediate referral to an expert team to carry out the procedure.<sup>10</sup>

43. Healthcare providers of the national integrated health system keep a registry of professionals with a conscientious objection so that services can be organized in such a way as to guarantee access to abortion for their patient population.

44. All providers in the national integrated health system have sexual and reproductive health services for abortion, to which professionals who have a conscientious objection can refer patients.

45. On an annual basis, all healthcare providers in the system submit to the Ministry of Health a sworn statement on sexual and reproductive health and abortion services that includes information on the frequency of conscientious objection among the entity's gynaecologists.

46. The Ministry of Health's sexual and reproductive health programme has not received any complaints from patients that conscientious objection on the part of any professional has prevented them from having access to safe abortion services.

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<sup>10</sup> [www.gub.uy/ministerio-salud-publica/sites/ministerio-salud-publica/files/2018-08/Resoluci%C3%B3n%20N%C2%BA%20469.pdf](http://www.gub.uy/ministerio-salud-publica/sites/ministerio-salud-publica/files/2018-08/Resoluci%C3%B3n%20N%C2%BA%20469.pdf).