



**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter CEDAW)
Alternative report for the evaluation of the United Mexican States at the 91st session
(June 16 to July 4, 2025)**

Joint submission presented by the organization Letra S, Sida, Cultura y Vida Cotidiana, AC¹ and the Red Regional SinViolenciaLGBTI² on the situation of lethal violence and access to justice for lesbian and trans women in Mexico

Authorization is granted for this document to be published on the OHCHR website related to CEDAW

¹ Letra S, Sida, Cultura y Vida Cotidiana, AC is a non-profit civil organization dedicated to the dissemination of information and the defense of human rights in Mexico. It focuses on issues of sexuality, health and society, particularly sexual diversity, gender, HIV, sexually transmitted infections and sexual and reproductive rights. Website: LetraEse – LetraEse

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² The Red Sin Violencia LGBTI was created in 2016 as an international and independent network, made up of LGBTI+ organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean, which come together to present the results of their research on homicides of LGBT+ people, with the aim of overcoming the statistical invisibility of these crimes and contribute to improving the response of the justice system and society to these cases. Their data serve governments and international organizations for the formulation and evaluation of actions for the prevention, investigation and punishment of violence motivated by prejudice based on sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity.

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Introduction

1. Letra S, Sida, Cultura y Vida Cotidiana, AC is an LGBT+ civil society organization based in Mexico City that focuses on disseminating information and defending human rights in Mexico. With the aim of transforming the social structures that generate oppression and exclusion, Letra S is dedicated to documenting and researching crimes committed against LGBTI+ people through monitoring digital media across the country. It also conducts advocacy work to achieve changes in public policies and legislation, with an equality and non-discrimination perspective that benefits LGBTI people.

2. The information we present for your consideration refers to the implementation by the Mexican State of Articles 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), particularly regarding the obligation to adopt appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination and gender-based violence and to guarantee proper access to justice in such cases. This report focuses on the situation of lethal violence against trans and lesbian women, the absence of disaggregated data production on these cases—which would allow for the identification of patterns of violence—and the guarantees of access to justice that lesbian and trans women (hereinafter LT) face in the country.

i. Protection from all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Articles 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7) and General Recommendation No. 35 of the CEDAW Committee

3. In the concluding observations on Mexico's ninth periodic report, the Committee noted that the Mexican State must address "the lack of protection measures for the dignity and integrity of lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women." However, the State has made no progress on this issue in recent years. Between 2021 and 2024 alone, Letra S and the Red Sin Violencia LGBTI³ recorded at least **217 femicides of lesbian and trans women in Mexico**. Trans women were the main victims (92% of all recorded cases). Although fewer, the 17 cases involving lesbian women also reflect a pattern of violence based on prejudice against their gender expression and sexual orientation.

4. 2024, in particular, was a violent year for sexually and gender-diverse people in Mexico. In the first three months of the year, there was an alarming series of multiple transfemicides in various states, prompting the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to urge the Mexican State to investigate the cases with due diligence to prevent impunity and to respect the gender identity of the victims⁴.

³ For more information, see: [The Regional LGBTI Information Network - Sin Violencia LGBTI](#)

⁴ For more information, see: [Mexico: Federal and local authorities in Mexico must step up efforts to prevent and punish acts of violence against trans people](#)

SOGIE	2021	2022	2023	2024	Totals
Trans woman	52	48	43	57	200
Lesbian	2	11	4	0	17
Totals	54	59	47	57	217

5. The recorded data shows the persistence and increase of these crimes over the years in Mexico. Lethal violence against trans women showed an alarming pattern: in 2024, homicides increased by 32% compared to the previous year, reaching 57 cases, the highest in the four-year period.

6. Regarding the murders of lesbian women, the highest number of murders occurred in 2022 with 11 cases (a 450% increase compared to 2021). Although numbers declined afterward, the lack of data does not indicate the absence of victims. Furthermore, the lack of official recognition of these cases as hate crimes, along with the limited availability of disaggregated information, contributes to their invisibility and hinders the implementation of effective public policies.

7. Among the 217 recorded homicides of lesbian and trans women (hereinafter LT), a small number of federal entities present greater risks for them, associated with contexts marked by organized crime, structural impunity, or widespread violence. The states with the highest numbers of cases are: Mexico City (23), Chihuahua (18), State of Mexico (17), Guanajuato (17), Veracruz (17), and Jalisco (16). These six states together account for 108 out of 217 cases (50% of the national total).

State	Quantity
Ciudad de México	23
Chihuahua	18
Estado de México	17
Guanajuato	17
Veracruz	17
Jalisco	16
Colima	13
Morelos	11
Guerrero	10

Oaxaca	9
Quintana Roo	8
Tabasco	7
Baja California Norte	5
Nuevo León	5
Puebla	5
San Luis Potosí	5
Tamaulipas	5
Baja California	4
Chiapas	3
Coahuila	3
Michoacán	3
Zacatecas	3
Durango	2
Sinaloa	2
Yucatán	2
Baja California Sur	1
Hidalgo	1
Nayarit	1
Tlaxcala	1
Total	217

8. When analyzing the cases in the States of **Jalisco, Guerrero and Tamaulipas, which are territories where this Committee has urged the State to urgently prevent violent deaths of women, it is observed that together they concentrate 31 homicides of trans women**, which represents **15% of the national total** registered between 2021 and 2024. Jalisco registers the highest number with 16 cases, followed by Guerrero with 10 and Tamaulipas with 5.

9. Among the 16 homicides registered in **Jalisco** against trans women between 2021 and 2024, a diversity is observed both in the methods used and in the places where the crimes occurred. In terms of the means used, 5 were committed with firearms, 3 with sharp objects,

3 by unspecified means, and 5 with other methods. This variety is evidence of different levels of planning, access to weapons and brutality.

10. The crime scenes show a notable presence of violence in private residences (6 cases) and open spaces (5 cases), followed by vacant lots (2), hotels (1), and other environments (2). One of the victims was identified as a sex worker.

A crime committed on January 13, 2024, illustrates the brutality and impunity with which these murders occur in Jalisco. The lifeless body of a trans woman was found inside a trench approximately three meters deep in the Hacienda del Vidrio neighborhood, in San Pedro Tlaquepaque. According to the preliminary report, she had a gunshot wound in the back, suggesting a targeted attack.⁵

11. In **Guerrero**, all 10 homicides of trans women occurred in public spaces, highlighting a pattern of violence that is symbolic and intimidating. Six of the murders were committed with firearms, two with sharp objects, and two by other means, reflecting the use of especially lethal and visible methods. One of the victims was a sex worker, in a context marked by criminalization and structural vulnerability faced by many trans women in this line of work.

A representative case underscores the cruelty of these crimes: a trans woman was shot to death in a taxi near El Tomatal in the municipality of Iguala, in October 2023. According to witnesses, two armed men fired at least seven shots at her while she was riding in the vehicle, suggesting a premeditated and direct attack.⁶

12. In **Tamaulipas**, five trans women were murdered, most through methods other than firearms, which sets this state apart from others. None of the crimes involved firearms: two were committed with sharp objects, while others involved varied methods, including bodily force. The crimes occurred: two in open spaces, one in a field or vacant lot, one in a private residence, and one in a public business or establishment. These cases reflect how trans

⁵ For more information, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1RbJfoRDXM>

⁶ For more information, see: <https://guerrero.quadratin.com.mx/asesinan-a-balazos-a-una-mujer-trans-en-un-taxi-en-iguala/>; <https://www.enfoqueinformativo.mx/asesinan-a-mujer-trans-dentro-de-un-taxi-en-iguala/>; <https://ahoraguerrero.mx/matan-a-mujer-trans-dentro-de-un-taxi-en-iguala/>; <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php>

women face lethal violence even in everyday or work-related environments. Among the victims were two hairstylists and one sex worker.

One case was the murder of Angie, a 28-year-old trans hairstylist, on the night of February 23, 2024. According to authorities, she was attacked with a 20 cm knife while returning home in the Fernando San Pedro neighborhood. The alleged assailant was arrested, and the weapon was found near the crime scene. The circumstances suggest Angie had no chance to defend herself, indicating a direct and extremely violent attack likely motivated by prejudice.⁷

13. The **data on the homicides of lesbian and trans women in Mexico reveals that lethal violence primarily affects young people**. Of the 217 homicides recorded, 31% (68 cases) involved women **between 16 and 30 years old**: 10 were lesbian women and 58 were trans women. There are **71 cases (33%)** where the age of the victim is unknown—all of them trans women. According to General Recommendation No. 28 of this Committee, States parties must have sufficient measures to eliminate discrimination based on evidence, including through the design and implementation of disaggregated databases. The lack of age data reinforces the need to improve official records and ensure disaggregated information to enable a deeper understanding of the issue.

14. Data on the means used in the homicides of lesbian and trans women in Mexico reveals not only the extent of these crimes but also the cruelty and intent with which they are committed. **Firearms were used** in 94 of the 217 cases (43%), showing a clear intent to kill. This method was used in over half of the murders of lesbian women (53%) and in 43% of those of trans women.

15. On the other hand, **Murders committed with sharp objects** (18%) and **bodily force** (7%) reveal high levels of brutality and physical proximity, indicating direct, often prolonged and sadistic violence. The use of punches, kicks, and sharp objects not only reveals an intent to kill but to inflict pain and suffering. **Other cruel methods**—such as strangulation, suffocation, deliberate vehicular assaults, or even drowning—were used in 40 cases, nearly all involving trans women.

⁷ For more information, see: <https://www.nmas.com.mx/nmas-local/programas/las-noticias-tamaulipas/videos/asesinan-chico-trans-tampico/>

Method used	Lesbian	Trans woman	LT women
Firearm	9	85	94
Sharp object	3	36	39
Assault by unspecified means	2	8	10
Other	1	39	40
Bodily force	1	14	15
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	1	9	10
Blunt or dull object	0	4	4
Other object used as a weapon (including deliberate collision or hit-and-run with a motor vehicle)	0	3	3
Drowning or submersion	0	1	1
Pushing or placing the victim in front of a moving object	0	1	1
Totals	17	200	217

16. The location of the crime or discovery of the body also reveals patterns. In **111 of the 217 cases (51%)**, the homicides occurred in **open spaces, streets, or public transportation**. This shows how many of these deaths occur in full public view, underscoring a context of extreme vulnerability, impunity, and societal normalization of violence against these women.

17. Private homes were the second most frequent location, **with 54 cases (25%)**. This shows that a significant portion of these crimes occurs in places that should offer safety.

One such case was that of Adriana Judith Rodríguez⁸, a lesbian woman murdered on January 29, 2023, in her home. According to the public prosecutor, she was attacked by Edgar Daniel J. L., “El Capi,” who, after being rejected by her, warned that “if she wasn’t his, she wouldn’t be anyone’s.” He then shot her eight times in front of her 4-year-old daughter and minor niece. This crime illustrates how some men, driven by rejection and prejudice against women’s sexual orientation, enact lethal violence as a form of punishment or control.

⁸ For more information, see: <https://diario.mx/juarez/2023/feb/10/si-no-eres-mia-no-seras-de-nadie-928946.html>

18. From an intersectional perspective, it is clear that violence does not act in isolation but intersects and reinforces itself, disproportionately affecting trans women who face multiple forms of exclusion in Mexico. An alarming fact is that at least **29 of the 200 trans women murdered between 2021 and 2024 (14.5%) were engaged in sex work.**

19. The public space is the most dangerous environment for them: **14 transgender sex workers were murdered on public roads**, which reveals how the exercise of sex work in these spaces **entails a high exposure to extreme forms of violence**, which could be perpetrated by various actors such as clients, organized crime or even security forces. These crimes occur in contexts marked by impunity, criminalization and stigmatization of both sex work and transgender women's identities, which deepen the vulnerability of the victims.

An example of the structural violence faced by trans women in Mexico is the case of Devanny García⁹, who died on February 27, 2024 after remaining in a coma due to a brutal beating suffered days earlier, on February 23, near her home in the Tlalpan district of Mexico City. Devanny was attacked by a couple -a man and a woman- in a context that, according to organizations' reports, is linked to the "cobro de piso" (a kind of "floor fee") demanded from trans sex workers who work on the Tlalpan road. It is estimated that around 1,200 trans women work intermittently in this area, many of whom must pay extortionate fees of between 3,000 and 4,000 pesos (approximately 150 to 200 USD).

20. In addition, **8 transgender sex workers were murdered in private homes**: 2 with firearms, 3 with sharp objects and 3 by other methods. These facts reflect the structural insecurity they face, even in their most intimate spaces. **Hotels and motels are also scenarios of risk.** In 4 cases, the victims were murdered inside these establishments: 2 by means of sharp objects and 2 by hanging, strangulation or suffocation. These facts reflect a particularly cruel pattern of violence, perpetrated in places where **the chain of complicity, the actions or omissions of employees and authorities, and the lack of application of guidelines for the attention and investigation of these cases** generate conditions conducive to impunity.

⁹ For more information, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6Ahgqn7rxs>

An example of this reality is the case of Natalia González Santiago¹⁰, a 29-year-old trans woman, mother and sex worker, murdered on June 5, 2023 at the Hotel Condesa, located on Tlalpan Avenue, in the Benito Juárez district of Mexico City. Her companions reported that the alleged assailant tried to bribe the police to avoid his arrest, and that the hotel staff prevented them from assisting Natalia while she was still alive, denying her help at a critical moment. This case evidences not only the brutality of the attack, but also the institutional negligence and social abandonment faced by many trans women in sex work contexts.

21. On the other hand, **24 trans women (12% of the total) were identified as hairdressers, another common occupation among trans women due to the lack of access to formal employment.** Of these, 8 were murdered in private homes, 5 of them with sharp objects. These elements refer to forms of violence that require direct physical contact with the victim, which evidences an intentional closeness and a high degree of cruelty in the commission of the crime. Likewise, 6 cases occurred in public spaces: 2 with firearms, 2 with bodily force and 2 with sharp objects. In addition, 4 homicides were perpetrated in other non-residential commercial or public establishments, using firearms (2), bodily force (1) and other means (1). These data not only show systematic violence against transgender women, but also reveal how their working, economic and social conditions directly affect their exposure to risk.

22. In addition, **16 of the trans women victims of lethal violence between 2021 and 2024 were human rights defenders.** Of the total number of cases, 5 were killed in open or public spaces, 4 in their private homes, 3 in their workplace and 3 in other settings. These murders not only constitute an irreparable loss for their communities, but also have a profound political and social impact. The violence perpetrated against these leaders seeks to silence their voices, curb their activism and send an intimidating message to the entire trans and LGBTI+ community. These types of crimes have an exemplary character: they punish visibility and political participation.

¹⁰ For more information, see: <https://agenciapresentes.org/2023/07/07/transfemicidio-en-cdmx-natalia-gonzalez-tenia-29-anos-era-trabajadora-sexual-y-madre/>

A representation of this violence is the case of Ivanna Divina Jhons¹¹, leader of the LGBTQ+ community, who was executed inside her clothing store on the night of June 20, 2023. Just three days earlier, she had led and supported the second Pride march in Moreleon (Mexico), in addition to denouncing on social networks that, in 2021, her business was set on fire in a hate attack. Around 8:00 pm, armed men burst into his premises and shot him.

Another case is that of Samantha Gomes Fonseca¹², a trans activist murdered in Xochimilco. The defender of the rights of the LGBT community and people deprived of their freedom had run as a Morena pre-candidate for the Senate. Samantha, an activist and politician of the trans community, was shot dead on Sunday afternoon, January 14, in the vicinity of the Reclusorio Preventivo Varonil Sur, in the Xochimilco district of Mexico City. Initial reports indicate that the trans activist had gone to the Reclusorio Sur for a visit and when she left the facility, on board her vehicle, she was shot several times.

23. These murders should be recognized not only as crimes motivated by prejudice, but also as **acts of gender-based political violence** that seek to **dismantle transgender leadership and its growing participation in the public sphere**, directly violating democratic principles and human rights.

24. Finally, the following characteristics and reflections on lethal violence against lesbian and trans women have been identified through case analysis by the Regional Observatory of the Red Sin Violencia LGBTI and Letra S. These insights help to understand how lethal violence is shaped by gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, as well as by the social and structural contexts that enable and perpetuate it.

a. Lesbian women:

¹¹ For more information, see: <https://www.hidrocalidodigital.com/asesinan-activista-de-la-comunidad-lgbtq-en-moroleon-guanajuato/>

¹² For more information, see: <https://www.infobae.com/mexico/2024/01/15/quien-es-samantha-gomes-fonseca-activista-trans-que-fue-asesinada-al-salir-de-una-visita-en-el-reclusorio-sur/>

25. Lesbian women are frequently victimized in situations where their sexual orientation is made visible, such as when they are with their partners or within environments where their identity is a source of rejection or conflict.

*An emblematic case is that of journalists **Yesenia Mollinedo and Johana García**¹³, who were murdered on May 9, 2022 in Mexico. Two men on motorcycles opened fire on them through the window of their car while they were parked, leaving them lifeless in a final embrace.*

26. On the other hand, there are cases in which lesbian women have been **victims of lethal violence at the hands of other women, whether in the context of intimate partner or ex-partner relationships, domestic violence, personal conflicts or even within the dynamics of organized crime**. Likewise, some have been murdered by men who are their ex-partners who, motivated by prejudice and rejection of their sexual orientation, exercise lethal violence against them as a form of punishment or control.

b. Trans women:

27. Trans women are the majority of victims of homicides in public spaces, such as streets, vacant lots and other exposed places. This exposure is directly related to the multiple forms of exclusion they face, particularly those who engage in sex work. In these cases, the risks are intensified due to the **criminalization of their work**, the violence exercised by clients or alleged clients, as well as the presence of organized crime networks and territorial disputes. This is compounded by **structural impunity and lack of institutional protection**.

On January 11, 2024, Grecia 'N', a trans woman and sex worker, was shot and killed in the municipality of Colima. The attack occurred during the early morning hours, on Rodolfo Chávez Carrillo Boulevard, outside the Central de los Rojos. Unofficial sources confirmed her identity and occupation. Grecia received multiple gunshot wounds to the body and head, causing her death almost immediately. Her murder, like that of many other trans women in sex work contexts, reflects a pattern of lethal violence that is exercised with extreme brutality

¹³ For more information, see: https://elpais.com/mexico/2022-05-12/yesenia-y-johana-la-pareja-de-periodistas-asesinadas-en-veracruz-que-pone-cara-al-terror-de-todo-un-gremio.html?event_log=oklogin&event=go&event_log=go&prod=REGCRARTMEX&o=cermex

and in total impunity, in public spaces where exposure and stigmatization increase their vulnerability.

ii. Access to justice in cases of violence and discrimination against lesbian and trans women (Articles 2, 3 and 15) and General Recommendation No. 33 of the CEDAW Committee

28. In its concluding observations on Mexico's ninth periodic report, this Committee urged the State to "*acknowledge the influence of the normalization of prejudice and stereotypes on the lack of attention to cases involving LBT women.*" Similarly, in the List of Issues issued in 2023, the Committee explicitly requested that the Mexican State report on the measures adopted to prevent and punish violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and to provide data on progress in access to justice for LGBTI women.

29. However, in its tenth periodic report to the CEDAW Committee in 2024, the State limited its response to referencing general legislative advances, without offering information or disaggregated statistical data on access to justice for lesbian, bisexual, or trans women, nor did it acknowledge the existence of structural obstacles such as impunity or revictimization.

30. Institutional responses to the problem of lethal violence have not been consistent across the various justice institutions in the country. On the one hand, some prosecutors' offices have made efforts to incorporate gender and sexual diversity perspectives in criminal investigations. In the case of trans victims, there has been a tendency to investigate these cases as femicides and/or under protocols that include gender and diversity perspectives. These small steps should be recognized as achievements resulting from the denunciations and mobilization of LGBT+ activism, particularly the trans movement, against discrimination and biased treatment by justice institutions.

31. Access to justice for LT women in Mexico is profoundly unequal. According to Letra S it has been documented that crimes committed against this population, especially trans women, are rarely investigated with due diligence¹⁴, biased motives for lethal violence are not

¹⁴ Letra S. Los rastros de la violencia por prejuicio: Violencia letal y no letal contra personas LGBT+ en México, 2022. For more information, see: <https://letraese.org.mx/crimenes-de-odio-archivos/>

recognized, and victims are often re-victimized or rendered invisible during judicial proceedings.

32. In 2022, of the 87 recorded murders of LGBT+ people, only in 20 cases were alleged perpetrators identified and 11 were linked to criminal proceedings¹⁵. This was similar to 2021: of the 78 documented cases, only 15 people were arrested or prosecuted¹⁶. In many cases, the investigations did not take into account the gender identity of the victims or consider the context of structural violence they face.

33. In the face of this situation, some isolated advances stand out. In 2024, the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation resolved that in cases of trans women the criminal definition of femicide can be applied, when ruling on the Action of Unconstitutionality 129/2022 in Michoacán¹⁷. This resolution helps to ensure that authorities at all levels and in all states apply the protocols on femicide to the murder of any woman, including trans women. That same year, Mexico City created the Specialized Unit for the Investigation of the Crime of Transfeminicide, a unique instance in the country whose mandate is to address the murders of trans women with a gender, identity and expression perspective. However, this measure has not been replicated in other entities, which demonstrates the absence of a homogeneous policy¹⁸.

34. Subsequently, in July of the same year, in Mexico City, a series of reforms to the local Penal Code were approved, which included the addition of a new chapter to the Penal Code of the entity, entitled “Transfeminicide”, which establishes in *Article 148 Ter* that, transfeminicide is a crime committed by whoever “by reason of gender identity or gender expressions, deprives of life a trans woman or a person whose gender identity or expression, real or self-perceived, is within the female gender spectrum”. This law, known as the Paola Buenrostro Law, named after a victim of transfeminicide, has been celebrated as a fundamental step towards raising awareness and understanding that there is a problem of structural violence that puts at risk the life and personal integrity of a large number of trans women, who are exposed to violence simply because of their identity.

iii. Production of official data on violence against women of diverse sexual and gender identities (Article 2):

¹⁵ Letra S. Los rastros de la violencia por prejuicio: Violencia letal y no letal contra personas LGBT+ en México, 2022. For more information, see: <https://letraese.org.mx/crimenes-de-odio-archivos/>

¹⁶ Letra S. Muertes violentas de personas LGBT+ en México: informe 2021. For more information, see: <https://letraese.org.mx/crimenes-de-odio-archivos/>

¹⁷ Letra S. Las dinámicas de la violencia por prejuicio: Homicidios de personas LGBT+ en México, 2024. For more information, see: <https://letraese.org.mx/crimenes-de-odio-archivo/>

¹⁸ Ibid.

35. The statistical invisibility of violence against LGBTI women violates several substantive provisions of the CEDAW Convention, particularly Article 2, which obligates States Parties to adopt effective measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all its forms. It also contravenes *General Recommendations No. 28 and No. 35* of the Committee, which urge States to establish mechanisms for collecting disaggregated data on LGBTI women in order to identify intersectional discrimination and produce statistics that explicitly include violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity, with the goal of identifying, preventing, and combating the violence they face.

36. The lack of systematic production of disaggregated data on violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity has been a repeated concern of the CEDAW Committee. In its 2018 concluding observations, the Committee recommended that the Mexican State collect reliable, disaggregated statistical data on the different forms of violence faced by lesbian, bisexual, and trans women. This demand was reiterated in the 2023 List of Issues, which requested specific information on data collection, its use in public policy design, and the way in which the State ensures the inclusion of LGBTI women in institutional information systems.

37. However, in the tenth report submitted by the State in 2024, the State limited itself to refer to the National Survey on Sexual and Gender Diversity (ENDISEG) of 2021, without mentioning any permanent or systematic mechanism for the generation of statistics on violence, discrimination or access to justice for LGBTI women. In contrast, reports from civil society organizations, such as Letra S, show that this absence of official information systems has led to chronic underreporting, where trans women are often misregistered on death certificates according to their gender identity or ignored in criminal investigations¹⁹. Similarly, lesbian women are rarely recognized as such in institutional reports²⁰. The work of civil society, which has taken on the documentation of these crimes, has shown that the State does not have an official system for collecting and analyzing data on bias-motivated crimes, and that there are no mandatory protocols for prosecutors' offices, forensic medical services or other institutions to record the sexual orientation or gender identity of victims.

38. It is important to consider that one of the most persistent obstacles to the prevention, attention and punishment of violence against lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBTI) women in Mexico is the absence of disaggregated and official data that incorporates variables of

¹⁹ Letra S. Las dinámicas de la violencia por prejuicio: Homicidios de personas LGBTQ+ en México, 2024. For more information, see: <https://letraese.org.mx/crimenes-de-odio-archivo/>

²⁰ Letra S. Los rastros de la violencia por prejuicio: Violencia letal y no letal contra personas lgbt+ en México, 2022. En: <https://letraese.org.mx/crimenes-de-odio-archivos/>

sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. This lack of information is not simply a technical omission, but an institutional manifestation of discrimination, which makes the magnitude of violence invisible and prevents the design of adequate and effective public policies. This also contributes to perpetuate structural exclusion, violating the principle of equality and non-discrimination that underlies the international commitments assumed by Mexico with the CEDAW.

39. To illustrate this structural deficiency, Letra S estimates that the real number of homicides of lesbian and trans women could be at least double the number of cases registered in these years, according to methodologies that compare institutional sources with journalistic reports²¹. In the specific case of lesbian women, the invisibility is even more acute. For example, Letra S reports recorded 17 murders of lesbian women, between 2021 and 2024. However, this figure should be interpreted with caution, as the sexual orientation of the victims is rarely documented in official or journalistic sources, and is only recognized when the victims were in a visible relationship with another woman²².

Recommendations:

40. In light of the information presented, we respectfully recommend that this Committee urge the institutions of the Mexican State, at federal and state levels and across all branches of government, to implement effective actions that address the complexity of lethal violence against women of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, through the following measures:

1. **Recognize and address homicidal violence against LBTI women as a specific and aggravated form of gender violence**, promoting its investigation as possible cases of femicide or through specific criminal figures such as transfeminicide, which recognize the gender identity of the victims, according to the highest standards of due diligence and application of the gender approach.
2. **Adopt a mandatory national protocol or modify existing protocols on femicide, to ensure the investigation of violent deaths of women, motivated by prejudice towards their sexual orientation or gender identity, with an intersectional approach and gender perspective**, which guarantees respect for the identity of the

²¹ Letra S. Los rastros de la violencia por prejuicio: Violencia letal y no letal contra personas lgbt+ en México, 2022. For more information, see: <https://letraese.org.mx/crimenes-de-odio-archivos/>

²² Ibid.

victims, preserves adequate evidence and ensures the diligent follow-up of all relevant lines of investigation, in accordance with international human rights standards.

3. **Establish specialized units within all state and federal prosecutors' offices to investigate crimes motivated by prejudice.** These units should be equipped with adequate budgets, trained personnel, technical resources, and mechanisms for coordination with civil society organizations that monitor anti-lesbian, anti-trans, anti-bisexual, and anti-intersex violence.
4. **Design and implement a national data registration and statistical system on violence, discrimination, and access to justice for LGBTI women.** This system should include specific variables for sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in order to understand patterns and dynamics of lethal violence. It should involve collaboration among institutions such as INEGI, CONAVIM, prosecutors' offices, courts, and forensic medical services.
5. **Ensure continuous training and capacity building** to guarantee that prosecutorial and judicial personnel act free from prejudice and discrimination, and that justice is accessible to victims and their families, both biological and chosen families of LGBTI women.
6. **Develop and implement special protection measures** for trans women human rights defenders working to combat violence against their communities, as well as for trans women engaged in sex work and those operating in areas identified as hotspots for these types of violence.
7. **Design and promote large-scale awareness and education campaigns** to eradicate stereotypes related to women's sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. These efforts should aim to dismantle the social imaginaries that justify violence against them.

