

UPR 20, October 28, 2014

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Recommendations by Canada

Bolivia

Question

In 2013, Bolivia passed Law 348 to protect women and guarantee them a life free from violence. Could the Delegation of Bolivia elaborate on what has been done to implement this important legislation, including identifying which institutions are responsible to oversee this implementation?

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Bolivia:

1. Provide sufficient resources to institutions responsible for implementing Law 348, the legislation that guarantees women a life free from violence, in order to improve access to justice and to ensure accountability in cases of violence against women.
2. Reduce delays in investigations and prosecutions by police, judges and prosecutors by creating mechanisms to fully implement legal and constitutional provisions guaranteeing access to justice for both victims of crime and offenders.
3. Amend Law 548 on child labour to meet Bolivia's international human rights obligations on minimum working age for children, to prohibit child labour in hazardous conditions, protect children from economic exploitation, protect children from any work that is likely to interfere with their education, and progressively raise the minimum age of employment.

Observations (if time allows):

We congratulate Bolivia for its efforts to increase the participation of women in politics and recognize that Bolivia will soon have the highest representation of female elected officials in its history and one of the highest percentages in the world.

We are concerned about the use of pre-trial detention in Bolivia which often extends beyond the limitations set out in Bolivian law. We stress the importance of timely and fair access to justice for all in Bolivia and the need to reduce delays in the prosecution of crimes and thus eliminate instances of lengthy pre-trial detention.