



Report issued by the Network for the Human Rights of Children and Adolescents (REDHNNNA) and the Center of Education and Training for Life (CECAVID)

Report for the Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of Venezuela for the 40th Period of Sessions 2022, of the United Nations Human Rights Council

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Situation of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Venezuela against children and adolescents. 2017-2021 period

Authors of the report:

The Network for the Human Rights of Children and Adolescents (REDHNNNA) is a coalition of 14 social, academic and community organizations, research centers and institutes and defenders of the rights of children and adolescents (CHA), founded and operational since 2006 for the defense and enforceability of the rights of children and adolescents, based on democratic participation, aimed at promoting the Best Interest of the Child inclusively and with openness to dialogue with various actors. REDHNNNA and its members have a history of developing protection programs and activities of instruction on HHRR, promoting a civic culture of human rights of children and contributing with their protection in various regions of Venezuela. It has issued reports and raised complaints to competent authorities before both the Universal and Inter-American Human Rights Systems, regarding the threats and violations against human rights and guarantees suffered by CHA in the country and their families, based on the information collected while dealing directly with cases as well as on the research carried out to document the situations of the rights of the child regarding protection, health, education and participation.

The Center of Education and Training for Life (CECAVID) is a non-profit NGO created in 1997, whose goal is to offer support to the most vulnerable sectors; low-income communities, women, adolescents, families and community organizations; with regards to the recognition and defense of their human rights and particularly their integral health as the basis of a dignified life. Through the education and training of regular citizens, it offers tools for life and capacities to promote the construction of a more equal and democratic society. It is a member of the Venezuelan Observatory for the Human Rights of Women (OVDHM) since its inception in 2006.

The Institute of Judicial Investigation belongs to the Law School of the Andrés Bello Catholic University and, since 1975, it seeks to carry out judicial research with a scientific approach and rigor, that contribute to the knowledge and effective application of the Law, fostering interdisciplinary work and the strengthening of the Rule of Law, democracy and justice in Venezuela, promoting respect for Human Rights. These research topics stand out in its purview: Rights of CHA, Administration of Justice, Citizen Security and Crime Control.

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Executive Briefing

1. This report focuses on the right of CHA to protection against sexual abuse (SA), including any practice of sexual exploitation, restrictions to access and enjoyment of sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) and situations that may be encompassed under the category Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). With basis on the topics D28 and F31 to be studied by the Universal Periodic Review, it analyzes the omissions and violations against the right of CHA to protection, in order to prevent, mitigate or tend to the seriously harmful impact of their physical, psychological and moral integrity in contexts of abuse and sexual exploitation.
2. The Venezuelan State has the obligation to guarantee, respect and protect the human rights of CHA. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has been Law in the Republic since 1990. Its Optional Protocol regarding the smuggling of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the General Observation N° 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child about harmful practices, to prevent and eliminate them wherever and however they emerge.
3. Due to the combined effects of the global economic crisis and the pandemic, violations against girls have dramatically increased in frequency and severity in many places around the world. Venezuela also faces indicators of a complex humanitarian emergency (CHE) since 2015, which has affected the population in general and CHA in particular, and must be studied from a gender approach.
4. The intersectional combination of poverty and being female, expressed in: hunger and lack of access to healthcare, education, decent work and basic services, in addition to the global COVID-19 pandemic, creates zones of discrimination and violations where girls are more exposed than other populations to forced migration, sexual abuse, human smuggling, sexual and labor exploitation, recruitment into armed groups, disease, unwanted pregnancies and child marriage.
5. This document comprises 5 sections: Institutional and structural weaknesses which impact SGBV-CHA; Some measures and actions regarding SGBV-CHA. Statistics on SGBV; Specific statistics on Human Smuggling (HS) for sexual exploitation of CHA victims; Specific statistics on Adolescent Pregnancy and Recommendations.

Institutional and structural weaknesses which impact SGBV-CHA

6. The Framework Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (LOPNNA in Spanish) was reformed in June 2015 and no legal adjustment was made to demand greater public investment at any level of government for institutions, programs and services for the integral protection of CHA and the specialized attention of victims of SA and other crimes. Although the LOPNNA establishes the creation of the System of Integral Protection of CHA (SIPINNA in Spanish) since 2000, there are no public decisions aimed at strengthening its operation and specialization. There is no Plan for the Protection of CHA victims of sexual violence, nor a National Program of Integral Sexual Education and in the context of the CHE that the country is experiencing, no specific measures of protection have been adopted despite the degree of vulnerability especially for girls.
7. The assistance, protection, justice and reparation of CHA victims of SGBV is primarily the responsibility of the Protection Councils (CPNNA in Spanish) and the Prosecutor's Office, as institutions belonging to the SIPINNA, but unfortunately they lack the means, programs and resources to issue measures of protection and restitution of rights for CHA, there is no evidence that they are duly established in all municipalities in the country. Since 2015 institutionality has been progressively dismantled not only through the creation of parallel bodies in some areas, but also due to the forced migration of specialized technical staff. A report issued by the Association of Protection Councilors (ASONACOP in Spanish) about the

operation of the CPNNA nationwide (2018)¹, shows that that 70% of them lack programs to implement measures, more than half do not even have a service entity and 68% of Protection Councils perceive scarcely two minimum wages, in contrast with the 294 minimum wages required in the country for covering the basic food basket².

8. In their investigation about the SIPINNA in Caracas, CECODAP (2018)³ found that the system lacked the minimum number of Councilors required by law to be able to function, without substitutes or attention programs to issue protective measures, or with the multidisciplinary teams necessary to offer first assistance to CHA victims of rights violations. They found that 68.4% of the existing programs, insufficient for the demand, depend on civil society organizations (CSO) and on private financing; also, the high rotation and deprofessionalization of the institution has caused the temporary closure of these protection bodies.
9. The Prosecutor's Office is understaffed to provide assistance in cases of SA against CHA. Limitations cause impunity and increase the vulnerability of the victims who do not have access to immediate psychological attention, healthcare or other urgent measures that they might require. Delayed or belated attention promotes re-victimization and the loss of confidence in the SIPINNA and its institutions.
10. No actions are being taken for the constant and progressive training of staff specialized in assisting victims of SGBV in Protection Councils, Child Defense Offices, Healthcare Services and Security Bodies, which shows the continuation of the situation documented in the Ruling of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights⁴: *“Although the State reported on some training and actualization activities regarding the defense of women for agents of the Prosecutor's Office, it did not provide concrete information about the implementation and maintenance of specific training programs in areas of public health and justice.”*
11. Concerning SGBV, no sexual and reproductive health services (SPH) for adolescents are currently in existence or fully operational. The few that are operating and have been publicized in the media have the technical and financial support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) through the National Plan of Prevention and Reduction of Child and Adolescent Pregnancy (PRETA), implemented in 2018, which scarcely managed to activate 75 consultation centers for adolescents nationwide⁵, which represents only 21% of the reach. Published information does not indicate the number of adolescents that effectively received assistance.
12. In June 2017 the Prosecutor's Office initiated a criminal action against Carlos Ortiz Mora, a psychologist and Chief of the Division of Forensic Mental Evaluation and Diagnostics of the National Service of Medicine and Forensic Sciences (SENAMECF). The action was motivated by incidents of sexual violence against a 17-year old girl whom he was evaluating as a victim of sexual aggression by another adult. He was found guilty in December, 2020. This case shows the absence of prevention mechanisms in instances that offer public services for CHA, as well as the absence of entities dedicated exclusively to the care of CHA with duly trained personnel.

¹ Asonacop (2018). https://asonacop.com/files/pdf/Informe_situacional_CPNNA-2018.pdf

² Cendas. Basic Food Basket for Workers, April 2021.

http://cenda.org.ve/fotos_not/pdf/CENDA.%20RESUMEN%20EJECUTIVO.%20CAT%20ABRIL%202021WEB.pdf

³ Cecodap (2018). *Evaluación del Funcionamiento del Sistema de Protección de niños, niñas y adolescentes (NNA) en el Área Metropolitana de Caracas, a partir de la dinámica establecida entre los órganos administrativos del sistema de protección (CMDNNA y CPNNA) y los programas de atención que se desarrollan en cada municipio*. Disponible en:

https://www.cecodap.org.ve/descargables/derechosNNA/Evaluacion_del_Funcionamiento_del_Sistema_de_Proteccion_de_NNA.pdf

⁴ Inter American Court of Human Rights (2018). López Soto and Others vs. Venezuela. <https://cofavic.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Caso-Linda-L%C3%B3pez-Vs.-Venezuela.pdf>

⁵ <https://venezuela.unfpa.org/es/news/impulsado-plan-nacional-de-prevenci%C3%B3n-y-reducci%C3%B3n-del-embarazo-temprana-edad-y-en-la>

13. Due to the CHE, the availability, sufficient and efficient distribution of contraceptive methods, including those used for emergencies, has deteriorated in the country in violation of the SRR of women and adolescents. The Venezuelan Association for an Alternative Sexual Education (AVESA) reported that the general scarcity of contraceptive methods in drugstores ranged between 83.3% and 91.7% in the five cities surveyed in the last semester of 2018⁶. In practice, this indicator means the forced pregnancy of adolescents and a flagrant violation of SRR.
14. The constant lack of water supply in communities, as well as the impossibility of buying sanitary towels or other options for personal hygiene during menstruation due to their steep prices, force girls from low income areas to restrict their everyday activities during their menstruation, which affects them specifically and broadens the gaps of inequality at the various levels of development. AVESA⁷ identified that 7 out of every 10 women (including girls) must collect water from tankers and wells or buy it expensively due to the absence of running water. 40% cannot afford menstrual hygiene products. The same investigation revealed that 73.5% of women do not enjoy their full SRR and 44% of that total are girls; additionally, 80% of women cannot access specialized gynecological treatment. Civil society organizations have implemented projects to donate menstrual cups for low income women⁸.

Some measures and actions regarding SGBV-CHA. Statistics on SGBV:

15. The Specialized Technical Office for the Integral Attention of Women and CHA was created in 2017, to provide assistance to the Officials of the Prosecutor's Office with competence in the Protection of CHA and Defense of the Woman. In 2019, the Prosecutor's Office created the 95th National Office, specialized in the crime of smuggling of women and the 96th National Office, specialized in the crime of smuggling of CHA under the Office of Integral Protection of the Family, which emerged from the modification of the denomination of the 91st Office of the Metropolitan Area of Caracas. Unfortunately, the performance of these instances after their creation is unknown and there is no information to allow either victims or denouncers to receive support from these offices.
16. There is no unified program for integral sexual education as part of the basic education curriculum, the little that exists is dispersed and with a focus on genitalia and prevention of sexually transmitted infections. Also, there are no training programs or regular campaigns from the Ministry of People's Power for Education, and there is no known budget for integral education in sexuality. Education does not incorporate tools for the prevention of SA and the self-care of CHA.
17. The Report "We are in the News" issued by CECODAP (2017) recorded 341 CHA victims of SGBV⁹, 21 of whom died because of it. The only information available from official sources was revealed by the Prosecutor General during a press conference, indicating that, between 2017 and 2020, the offices charged with receiving complaints processed 8,966 cases of SA¹⁰ and 1,340 (15%) of them led to convictions; 4,335 (48%) of them produced indictments and 3,289 (36.7%) produced formal accusations¹¹. These figures speak of a high level of impunity, greater level of vulnerability for CHA and exposure to assailants.

⁶ <https://avesa.blog/2019/02/24/indice-de-escasez-de-metodos-anticonceptivos-en-farmacias-de-cinco-ciudades-de-venezuela/>

⁷ <https://avesa.blog/2020/08/19/higiene-menstrual-salud-sexual-y-demanda-de-anticoncepcion-situacion-diferenciada-de-las-mujeres-en-la-emergencia-humanitaria-en-venezuela/>

⁸ <https://cepaz.org/noticias/la-alianza-con-ellas-demuestra-que-a-pesar-de-la-adversidad-es-posible-dar-respuesta-a-las-necesidades-de-las-mujeres-en-venezuela/>

⁹ See: https://www.cecodap.org.ve/descargables/derechosNNA/Somos_Noticia_2017-2018.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.minci.gob.ve/mp-presento-avances-en-casos-de-abuso-sexual-a-ninos-ninas-y-adolescentes/>

¹¹ The percentages are extracted from the report "Paper Rights: Heinous Damage" <https://www.redhnaa.org/noticias/dano-atroz>

18. In a monitoring through Venezuelan media outlets during 2020, published in the series “Paper Promises”¹², REDHNNA detected a gradual increment of cases during the quarantine for the pandemic, identifying 317 CHA victims of sexual violence. Out of this total, 74.7% are women, showing the greater vulnerability of girls before this kind of violence. This does not exclude the percentage corresponding to boys (25.3%), which is also important due to its greater invisibility. Between January and March 2021, the monitoring detected 176 cases of sexual violence; in 123 of them the victims were identified and 66.7% of them were female.
19. The report issued by Utopix in 2020¹³ shows that femicides in the country have increased by 53%. 167 femicides were reported in 2019¹⁴, 24 victims were girls between 0 and 15 years old and 13 between 16 and 20 years old. This report also cites a study by CEPAL indicating that there were 126 reported femicides in Venezuela in 2016, a figure that reveals how prevalent this crime has become. In 2020, the reports involved 27 girls between 0 and 15 years old and 28 between 16 and 20 years old.
20. A report by CECODAP about mental health indicates that 3.8% of the 26 CHA who committed suicide between 2019 and 2020 in Venezuela¹⁵ had previously suffered SA. The latest situation reported by the media as a suicide was an 11-year old girl, although forensic investigations determined that she was asphyxiated to death and the suicide was simulated. She was sexually abused by her father after both her mother and grandmother had died¹⁶.
21. Starting in April 2021, there have been many news reports in the country of women who have taken to social media platforms to denounce incidents of sexual abuse that they experienced in their adolescence and even their childhood. The most relevant cases have involved abusers in intellectual, cultural and entertainment fields. Out of all the cases monitored by REDHNNA between January 2020 and March 2021, 33.4% involved sexual violence committed by parents, grandparents and other relatives, revealing the level of helplessness of victims even at home.
22. It is important to highlight the responsibility of the State in these matters, as there is no official response to deal with the vulnerability of CHA in their homes, schools and instruction centers including high-profile institutions such as the National System of Orchestras¹⁷.
23. Despite their limited resources, CSO have taken up the task of raising awareness and offering education directly in schools, through social networks, forums and media outlets on strategies to assist families and prevent SA situations¹⁸.
24. SGBV has also been present in the context of the public protests that have taken place in Venezuela in 2014, 2017, 2018 and 2019. 39 CHA were arbitrarily arrested by the State in 2018¹⁹ and 137 in the first quarter of 2019²⁰; SGBV was part of the repressive practices of State security forces. Some detainees revealed that they were raped by the officers interrogating or guarding them.
25. The report jointly issued by Foro Penal and Human Rights Watch (2017) documented 88 cases involving 314 victims of severe human rights violations between April and September 2017, 53 of which were subjected to physical and psychological abuse, which constitute torture and include SA and rape.

¹² See: <https://www.redhnna.org/dano-atroz-acto-i>

¹³ <https://utopix.cc/pix/informe-anual-enero-diciembre-2020-256-femicidios-en-venezuela/>

¹⁴ <https://utopix.cc/producto/informe-del-monitor-de-femicidios-2019/>

¹⁵ <https://cecodap.org/informe-visibiliza-la-cara-oculta-de-la-pandemia-el-sufrimiento-emocional/>

¹⁶ <https://www.laprensalarra.com.ve/nota/31515/2021/05/abusos-sexuales-a-menores-se-incrementaron-en-pandemia>

¹⁷ <https://efectococuyo.com/la-humanidad/senalamientos-abuso-sexual-el-sistema-orquestas/>

¹⁸ <https://cecodap.org/violencia-en-los-noviazgos-adolescentes-romantizacion-del-maltrato-y-crianza/>; <https://eldiario.com/2021/05/12/grooming-y-otros-delitos-contraninos-y-adolescentes/>; <https://eldiario.com/2021/04/30/educacion-preventiva-abuso-sexual-vulnerables-victimas-en-venezuela/>

¹⁹ <https://foropenal.com/reporte-sobre-la-represion-en-venezuela-noviembre-2018/>

²⁰ <https://foropenal.com/2019/04/24/reporte-sobre-la-represion-en-venezuela-marzo-2019/>

26. The report on Venezuela issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2019 says that “The OHCHR documented cases of sexual and gender violence against women and girls during their detention, committed particularly by SEBIN and DGCIM agents as well as GNB officers.”
27. Due to the intense forced migration, many CHA have been left under the care of relatives, mainly grandmothers, who are unable to adequately look after them, while their mothers and/or fathers emigrate. This places CHA in a situation of greater vulnerability of suffering SGBV and the State has not developed policies of protection for families in this situation.

Human Smuggling (HS) for sexual exploitation with CHA victims:

28. The situations of vulnerability in Venezuela are aggravated by the process of forced migration and the closure of borders due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Migrants must face limitations in transit and in their hosting countries, mainly because they lack legal status as regular migrants. This leaves them exposed to discrimination, growing xenophobia and various forms of exploitation²¹.
29. An investigation carried out by the Institute of Judicial Investigations of the Andrés Bello Catholic University (IIJ-UCAB) in 2019²² reports that according to official sources, between 2014 and September 2017, there were 69 cases of HS which included 7 boys and girls who were sold and 55 victims of sexual exploitation without specifying how many of them were girls. These figures are debatable when compared with data collected by other international institutions²³. This is due to the general difficulties to produce and handle figures about this crime, since other linked offences may obscure or distort the detection of human smuggling cases.
30. The same report shows that, between January and June 2019, there were 11 cases of human smuggling and 14 cases of human smuggling in Venezuela. These cases involved 69 victims, 48 of them minors. Between January and August 2019, 84 people were reported victims of sexual and labor exploitation, all of the minors. There were 32 victims of smuggling in Venezuela, 17 of them were exploited in Maturín, Monagas State, a city where the smuggling of minors is now frequent. 12 of them were sexually exploited in Carabobo State. The investigation of the IIJ-UCAB (2019) indicates that the chosen destination for most smugglers is Trinidad and Tobago.
31. Between 2019, 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, there have been reports of several boats wrecked in transit between the city of Güiria in Sucre state and Trinidad and Tobago, and most of them involved the disappearance or death by immersion of adolescents that were presumed to be aboard those boats as victims of smuggling networks. One of the most iconic cases is that of a 16-year old girl who boarded a boat that sank near the coast and while other people drowned, she managed to survive by swimming back to her town in Venezuela and filed the complaint about the scam and kidnapping that she experienced. Neither the Prosecutor’s Office nor the institutions of the Protection System offered her the protection she required and the members of the criminal organization kidnapped her at her home in 2020. At the time of the creation of this report, she remains missing and is presumably being sexually exploited in Trinidad y Tobago. The authorities of either country have made no effort to locate her²⁴.

²¹ Reports on GBV in the context of human mobility by UNFPA 2020 (Apure, Bolívar and Táchira)

²² <http://saber.ucab.edu.ve/handle/123456789/19613>

²³ According to The Global Slavery Index (2018), issued by Walk Free Foundation with the assistance of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migrations (IOM), estimates point to 174,000 Venezuelan victims but not only of human smuggling but also the other various forms of exploitation known as modern slavery.

²⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/es/2019/07/11/espanol/america-latina/migrantes-naufragio-venezuela-maduro.html> and <https://elpitazo.net/oriente/naufragio-en-guiria-madre-denuncia-nuevo-secuestro-de-su-hija/>

32. The report on Contemporary Forms of Modern Slavery of the Human Rights Center of the Andrés Bello Catholic University, Guayana branch (CDH UCAB)²⁵, indicated that over 3,500 women and girls are victims of various forms of SV in the context of mining activities promoted by the Venezuela State, which have attracted illegal miners, armed groups and a growing internal migration of populations controlled by criminal mafias. The investigation points out that “... There are women who are captured in HS networks for sexual exploitation, and other women who see mining as a viable option to sidestep the economic crisis and provide for their homes.”
33. The OHCHR has reported that forced prostitution in mining areas has been increasing since 2016 and as this criminal economy expands, so does gender violence. Many women are forced into prostitution in deplorable conditions and, even when they’re hired to perform this kind of work, they do not receive the agreed payment. Most victims of smuggling networks are women (74%) and 25% of them are girls. Due to the alarming lack of information, the number of girls could be higher. With the rise of illegal mining in Bolívar state, it has become not only a point of origin and transit but also a destination for human smuggling, especially in the municipalities of El Callao, Roscio and Sifontes, where mining is predominant, according to the report²⁶.

Specific statistics on Adolescent Pregnancy:

34. The violation of the SRR of adolescents deepens the gender gaps that keep them in situations of poverty and exposure to various forms of violence, including SGBV and HS. In this regard, a report issued by Amnesty International (2019)²⁷ showed that the rate of adolescent pregnancies has increased by 65% since 2015. By 2018 the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), reported that Venezuela ranked 95th in adolescent pregnancy, after Ecuador and Honduras. In a study carried out by Equivalencias en Acción in 2019²⁸ indicated that in three maternity hospitals in the country the percentage of childbirths in adolescents was 27%. Out of 1015 childbirths recorded between August 15th and 30th in three maternity hospitals, 268 mothers were adolescents according to AVESA²⁹.
35. In Venezuela, the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy is illegal. It is only possible when the life of the mother is at risk, it requires the opening of a judicial proceeding and a judge must authorize it. Therefore, abortion is criminalized but in their study, AVESA (2019) reported that out of 340 abortions carried out in three healthcare centers, only 4 people said that it was induced and was not notified to the authorities, which might imply that medical staff have a certain flexibility in this regard. 40% of all reported abortions were performed on adolescent.

Recommendations:

36. The National Institute of Statistics and the System of Integral Protection of CHA must create and publicize a National System of Information about Sexual Violence against children and adolescents that records and publishes national and municipal figures, with information collected by the institutions charged with receiving complaints and institutions of the System of Protection of CHA, as well as scientific studies and other reliable sources of knowledge and analysis of situations of SA against CHA, with statistics disaggregated by incident, characteristics of the victims and perpetrators, place of occurrence, among others. This information must be made available to the general population and the institutions charged with

²⁵ <https://www.redhnaa.org/noticias/ucab-solo-en-el-callao-mas-de-3-500-mujeres-y-ninas-son-explotadas-sexualmente>

²⁶ Insight Crime: <https://es.insightcrime.org/noticias/trata-personas-arco-minero-venezuela/>

²⁷ Amnesty International (2020). Annual Report 2019, available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AMR0113532020SPANISH.PDF>

²⁸ https://avesawordpress.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/mujeres_limite_a4web.pdf

²⁹ <https://avesawordpress.files.wordpress.com/2019/02/salud-sexual-y-reproductiva.-agosto-2018-1.pdf>

receiving complaints and institutions of the Protection System must be obligated to provide their data.

37. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports must design, develop and periodically evaluate an integral sexual education program with a rights and gender approach, at all levels and modalities of the education system and expanded to all other formal and informal methods of education.
38. The System of Integral Protection of CHA must design and implement a national public policy for the prevention, training and specialized attention of SGBC against CHA, including crimes of Human Smuggling and Trafficking. It must also include as a fundamental element the training of healthcare, education, justice and protection workers, as well as mass public awareness campaigns.
39. The State must provide the resources to assist victims of SGBV and HS, in order to strengthen the protection system and the development of capabilities for the adequate performance of specific programs of prevention, mitigation of risks, integral protection and reparation of victims.
40. The State must adopt, implement and regulate national protocols for the investigation and integral assistance of cases of SGBV against CHA, in compliance with international standards and focused on the authorities responsible for the administration of justice as well as public and private healthcare and education staff, regarding the specialized actions to provide service for CHA. These protocols must be known publicly and their mass promotion must be guaranteed.
41. The State must design and implement protocols of preventive action that allow the identification of risk situations, the early detection of possible cases and the appropriate channels to favor the proximity between people and instances that provide attention, psychological support and orientation to reduce the situation of vulnerability generated by isolation and silence, and also spread clear messages for potential abusers stating that the adolescents in the area are not alone, that they are being looked after by entities willing to defend them.