

JOINT REPORT
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - ARGENTINA
FOURTH CYCLE EVALUATION
WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN ARGENTINA

This report was jointly prepared by the civil society organisations established in Argentina ELA - Latin American Team on Justice and Gender (ELA), the Argentinian Commission for Refugees and Migrants (CAREF), the Women in Equality Foundation (MEI), the Fundación Siglo 21 (21st Century Foundation), the Foundation for Studies and Research on Women (FEIM),¹ for the purpose of contributing to and providing information about different gender-based violence expressions, as well as the measures taken by the State to address them.

The report provides information on the National Plan of Action, a public policy effort led by the National State to address gender-based violence, the effects of COVID-19 in the economic empowerment of women, and the effects of gender-based violence in certain particularly vulnerable groups.

I. “National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Assistance and Eradication of Violence Against Women 2020-2022” (PNA)

1. In June 2020, the Ministry of Women, Gender Identities and Diversity (MMGyD) presented the goals, actions and measures taken in the National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence for a two-year period. The MMGyD is in charge of implementing the PNA, although the actions undertaken involve different agencies of State.

1.1. Execution of the committed budget as part of the PNA

2. For four years, the National State has included in the national budget labelled item lines to clearly distinguish public policies aimed at bridging gender gaps. These item lines labelled “PPG” (gender-sensitive budget), include those incorporated into the PNA as well as others that, despite not being referred to as measures against gender-based violence in the Plan, still contribute to the broader goal of bridging gender inequalities.
3. In the proposed budget for 2022, which was sent by the National Executive Power (PEN) to Congress, gender equality was highlighted among the budgetary priorities as a cross-cutting policy in every governmental sector. Despite the economic crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the proposed budget for 2022 showed some progress regarding the percentage of such labels in the total expenditure, proving a commitment towards labelling and some progress in the importance given to the measures taken to bridge gender gaps.²

¹ This report was written as part of the *Closing Gaps II: Denaturalising hidden violences to eradicate gender-based violence and promote equality project*, financially supported by the European Union Delegation in Argentina. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ELA, CAREF, FEIM, MEIN, and Fundación Siglo 21, and are by no means to be considered a reflection of the European Union’s opinions.

² Civil Association for Equality and Justice (ACIJ), and ELA (2021). *Género y Presupuesto: Un análisis de las partidas etiquetadas para 2022*, (Gender and Budget: An Analysis of Labelled Item Lines for 2022). See (in Spanish): <https://bit.ly/AnalisisPres2022>.

4. However, having periodically analysed the budgetary execution corresponding to the gender-sensitive budget item lines and the drafting of the proposed budget for 2022, there are some concerns.
5. Firstly, in 2021, the execution of the gender-sensitive budget changed significantly regarding physical as well as budgetary goals.³ This situation particularly arose in the *Acompañar* initiative⁴ — the main MMGyD programme destined to comprehensively support women subject to gender-based violence —, which accounts for 50% of the Ministry budget. The programme's physical goals initially decreased, then increased throughout the year, and finally tripled its allocated budget in the second semester of 2021.⁵ These variations hinder monitoring activities, decrease transparency around implementation and progress level of programmes, and blur the roadmap nature of the budget in implementing the PNA.
6. Secondly, when analysing the proposed budget for 2022, some inconsistencies and distortions between the projected physical goals and the allocated budget were detected. Despite registering a slight progress in the share of gender-sensitive budget item lines, when analysing the amounts that were adjusted for inflation, a reduction in the budgetary allocation was determined in comparison with the one in force during 2021. In some programmes, this situation is linked to decreases in physical goals but, in some others, it accounted for increases in physical goals as well as actual cuts in the amounts allocated. This is the case with the *Acompañar* initiative, which projected an actual 20.83% budgetary reduction in comparison with the current credit when presenting the proposed budget (September 2021), while it estimated to benefit an extra 1,000 women vis-à-vis the set number at the time. To accomplish this, taking into account the reported increases for minimum living and adjustable wage in 2022 — parameter for the economic subsidy in the *Acompañar* initiative —, the projected budget should have been, as a minimum, 35% higher.
7. Thirdly, the proposed budget for 2022 was not approved by the National Congress, which means an extension of the 2021 budget will be executed. The consequences derived from the lack of agreement in the Legislative Branch are less predictability and transparency regarding the goals established by the PEN, which hinders the monitoring of targets and commitments.
8. In order for the civil society to better monitor the commitments made by the National State, but also for the Legislative Branch to make informed decisions concerning budgetary allocations proposed by the Executive Branch, it is paramount to report adequately on the reduction or increase in budgetary allocations destined to promote gender equality. The grounds on which the PEN makes decisions should be public, as well as the reasons for the reductions/increases, the rationale, and the results and projections on which these are based.
9. Finally, as part of this process of more budgetary transparency that has been strengthened throughout these past years, it is important to move towards the institutionalization of the

³ Civil Association for Equality and Justice (ACIJ), and ELA (2021). *Ejecución del Presupuesto Nacional etiquetado con Perspectiva de Género - Segundo Trimestre 2021* (Executing National Budget Labelled as Gender-Sensitive - Second Quarter 2021), see (in Spanish): <https://bit.ly/Presupuesto2Trim2021>.

⁴ The *Acompañar* initiative consists of, among other measures, a 6-month economic provision equivalent to a minimum living and adjustable wage for women and LGBTIQ+ people experiencing gender-based violence. To access the plan, no criminal complaint is required.

⁵ See (in Spanish): https://www.eldiarioar.com/politica/presupuesto-ministerio-mujeres-generos-diversidad-triplico-ano-ejecuto-mitad_1_8551600.html.

civil society participation in the budgetary discussion — inexistent in 2021 — in preparation for the budget for 2023.

1.2. Performance of gender-based violence prevention and early detection policies

10. The Argentinian government took various measures to strengthen gender-based violence response services. The creation of the MMGyD in December 2019 was a manifestation of the political will to prioritise the gender and diversity agenda at the national level, strengthening gender-based violence prevention policies. The main lines of action as well as prevention, assistance, and protection measures against gender-based violence are found in the National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence 2020-2022 (PNA), which is complemented by the National Plan for Equality in Diversity 2021-2023, also developed by the MMGyD.
11. In the pandemic, many traditional response mechanisms were redesigned to address gender-based violence: they adopted alternative communication channels and strengthened the networks to expand the methods of reporting and protection orders during lockdowns. Among the most important measures, economic empowerment programmes and access to justice reformulations stand out. Results from these policies were ambiguous: neither the national territory was equally reached nor the needs of every woman and LGBTIQ+ person were met.
12. In relation to the policies established by the Executive Branch, these have major difficulties in reaching the entire Argentinian territory — there is a vast discrepancy among territories, even those in the same province. It is noted that the demand generated by some programmes, such as the *Acompañar* initiative — offering comprehensive support that includes an economic subsidy to gender-based violence victims — overstrained the professional teams in municipal governments in charge of the territorial implementation, as the staff and materials needed to address these had not been reinforced. To accomplish territorial reach, civil society organisations — including organised women groups, feminist movements, unions, social and women’s organisations — play a key role as they have the situated knowledge of the living conditions and practices positively impacting the community. However, the government did not secure information and access to resources for such organisations so as to contribute with a successful implementation.
13. An integral approach with social, political, economic, and cultural advocacy requires commitment and compliance from every State branch and agencies. Therefore, it is essential to publicly produce and disseminate information. However, there is no systematised information available that can account for the progress and results accomplished regarding the execution of commitments made by other public ministries and agencies that are a part of the PNA.
14. In the Judicial Branch, the current challenges are related to the deficits that were present even before the pandemic, such as inexistent monitoring of compliance with precautionary measures ordered to protect gender-based violence victims; delays in responses; geographical distance to Judicial Branch offices for a large part of the population, which increases the costs of the access to justice. Access to online and electronic devices to follow judicial processes varied greatly, and mostly depended on where women lived, their socioeconomic status, digital literacy level and connectivity, among other factors.
15. Therefore, it is essential that women victims of gender-based violence have in-person assistance centres close to them, in order to prevent them from not reporting abuse, as well as keep them from missing opportunities of getting help. Some specific assistance

protocols have been developed to strengthen the intervention of judicial and police officers in gender-based violence cases. However, its effective implementation is still to be assessed.

16. The challenges related to justice access become more apparent when gender-based violence refers to domestic and sexual violence; however, poor responses in the judicial system are present in any area related to the law and in relation to every form of violence. The legal assistance different civil society organisations provide is important but does not substitute the need to guarantee free legal representation from the State, pursuant to current legislation. It is yet uncertain what the contribution made by the Attorney Department for Legal Representation in Gender-Based Violence Cases is — recently transferred to the MMGyD, after two years under the purview of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights —, both in terms of practical reach in the different provincial territories, as well as in planning its scaling-up and coordination objectives with other available policies, such as the *Acercar Derechos* programme.⁶
17. Femicides and transfemicides numbers⁷ are the reflection of the difficulties present to access justice and of the inefficient fulfilment of the protection measures taken. In accordance with the information from the National Registry of Femicides of Justice, in 2021, 251 fatal victims of gender-based violence were registered. Among those, 231 were direct victims of femicide. In 88% of the cases, the victim knew the attacker, 39% lived with him and in 62% of the cases, they were current or past intimate partners. 81% of direct femicides occurred in the context of domestic violence. In accordance with the survey carried out by the Women's Office of the Argentine Supreme Court of Justice, 4 of the victims were people with disabilities, 5 were homeless, 6 were pregnant, 7 were in a situation of prostitution, 12 were international migrants and at least 22 were missing at the time the femicide was reported.⁸
18. It is essential to strengthen the measures taken by the State to improve responses vis-à-vis such a complex problem as gender-based violence. The first challenge would be the need to secure participation from members of feminist and women's movements in decision-making spaces, to mainstream gender sensitivity in the actions taken and address the problem in a more appropriate manner. Other challenges are related to the lack of psychological assistance, economic resources, legal advice and representation, and access to safe housing. Due to this, reporting may put the victim at greater risk.⁹
19. Moreover, special situations need to be considered when the access to justice has additional obstacles, such as the ones faced by migrant women, women of African descent, or women with disabilities. It is also worth mentioning that little information on the places to resort to, an uncertainty about the resolution of a possible claim, as well as the economic, social, and family conditions raise further barriers when women seek assistance from the State.

II. COVID and the Economic Crisis — an Impact on the Economic Empowerment of Women

⁶The *Acercar Derechos* programme, under the purview of the MMGyD, provides psychosocial and legal assistance from interdisciplinary teams comprised of lawyers, psychologists, and social workers.

⁷ ELA (2021). Letter to the Rapporteur on Women — Causes and Consequences on the Creation of Femicides Observatories. Available (in Spanish) at <http://www.ela.org.ar/c/APP187/49/15/43/4462>.

⁸ CSJN (2022). Judicial Branch Federal Registry of Femicides. Available (in Spanish) at www.csjn.gov.ar/om.

⁹ ELA (2022). *Abordajes estatales y sociales para la prevención de las violencias contra las mujeres y LGTBQ+ durante el periodo 2015 – 2021* (State and Social Approach to Prevent Gender-Based Violence Against Women and LGTBQ+ Groups, 2015-2021). City of Buenos Aires.

20. In the case of informal workers, total or partial loss of income was one of the main difficulties caused by the social, preventive, and mandatory isolation enacted to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Results from the survey around the experiences of organisations and activists¹⁰ show that the main challenge identified was access to material resources: 73% of surveyed women indicated that the lack of material resources represented a major obstacle for women experiencing gender-based violence,¹¹ which also reveals the importance of the economic dimension in the lives of women who are in more vulnerable situations, such as migrant women.¹²
21. According to a report drafted by the National Agency of Economy, Equality, and Gender, the government took economic measures targeting the most affected groups of people, such as those receiving Universal Children/Pregnancy Allowance.¹³ One of the most important measures, representing the greatest income transfers in the country, was the provision of an Emergency Income Support (IFE), equivalent to USD 145 for each person and to 59.3% of the minimum living and adjustable wage¹⁴ for independent workers registered in the low tiers, informal workers, domestic workers and the unemployed¹⁵. In 2020, three IFE¹⁶ payments were made, with an estimated reach of 9 million people. In addition, it prevented 3 million people from falling into poverty.¹⁷
22. Even though the IFE was not necessarily aimed at closing gender gaps, it was elaborated and implemented following a gender approach: women accounted for 55.7% of the people enjoying this right, and 61,5% of those receiving the IFE are 18-34 years old (this is worth mentioning since the unemployment rate peaks among women aged 18-29). Besides, it was aimed at informal workers — a sector mostly represented by women (38.2% versus 33.9%) with a broader pay gap (36.8% versus 27.7% in formal employment). The IFE included women who are domestic workers and paved the way to provide an income to those who engage in unpaid care work, given that the percentage of women considered inactive and able to receive the IFE is considerably higher among

¹⁰ ELA (2020). *Las brechas de las políticas públicas. Miradas desde la sociedad civil sobre el abordaje de la violencia por razones de género en tiempos de COVID-19*. (Gaps in Public Policies. Perspectives from the Civil Society on Addressing Gender-Based Violence during COVID-19). Buenos Aires, May 2020.

¹¹ ELA (2020). *Las brechas de las políticas públicas. Miradas desde la sociedad civil sobre el abordaje de la violencia por razones de género en tiempos de COVID-19*. (Gaps in Public Policies. Perspectives from the Civil Society on Addressing Gender-Based Violence during COVID-19).

¹² Reina Torres, Integral Centre for Women “Marcelina Meneses,” Province of Buenos Aires. Quote taken from the document *Las brechas de las políticas públicas. Miradas desde la sociedad civil sobre el abordaje de la violencia por razones de género en tiempos de COVID-19*. (Gaps in Public Policies. Perspectives from the Civil Society on Addressing Gender-Based Violence during COVID-19). ELA.

¹³ Ministry of Economy. (2020). *Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia: Análisis y desafíos para la transferencia de ingresos a trabajadores/as precarios/as* (Emergency Income Support. Analysis and Challenges of Income Transfers for Informal Workers), National Agency of Economy, Equality, and Gender, p. 5. Available (in Spanish) at: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/dneig-ingresofamiliardeemergencia-analisisydesafios.pdf>.

¹⁴ National Agency of Economy, Equality, and Gender. (2020). *Políticas públicas y perspectiva de género*. (Public Policy and Gender Perspective). Available (in Spanish) at: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/analisis_de_politicas_publicas_ppg_2020_.pdf.

¹⁵ Emergencia Sanitaria, Decreto 310/2020 (Health Emergency, Executive Order No. 310/2020), 23 March 2020. Available (in Spanish) at: <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227113/20200324>.

¹⁶ ANSES Noticias. (2020). IFE 3: la Anses efectuará el pago desde el 10 de agosto (IFE 3: the National Social Services Institute for Retirees and Pensioners will start paying on August 10). 23 July 2020 Available (in Spanish) at: <http://noticias.anses.gob.ar/noticia/ife-la-anses-efectuara-el-pago-desde-el-de-agosto-3557>.

¹⁷ Télam. (2020). *El IFE logró que 3 millones de personas “no caigan en la pobreza”, aseguró Raverta* (IFE prevented 3 million people from “falling into poverty”, Raverta informed). Economics, 10 July 2020. Available (in Spanish) at: <https://www.telam.com.ar/notas/202007/487884-el-ife-logro-que-3-millones-de-personas-no-caigan-en-la-pobreza-aseguro-raverta.html>.

women than men (35.4% and 11.3%, respectively). By giving priority to women for collection when requested by more than one member of the family group, it was ensured that they have an income stream and access to funds. More than half of the population who received the IFE (51.7%) is located in the two lowest income deciles. Since women are over-represented in these lower-income segments, the progressive nature of the measure in terms of gender is revealed.¹⁸

23. With regard to the lack of economic resources aggravating the situation of vulnerability and exposure to gender-based violence, in April 2020 the MMGyD and the Ministry of Social Development agreed on prioritizing the inclusion of women and LGTBIQ+ people experiencing gender-based violence in the *Potenciar Trabajo* plan. This plan grants a complementary social wage equivalent to 50% of the minimum living and adjustable wage, in addition to carrying out training and job placement modules.¹⁹ With a similar purpose, the *Acompañar* initiative was launched in September 2020. Although this initiative is compatible with the *Potenciar Trabajo* plan, the Government proposed an articulation so that once the 6 months foreseen for the payment of the funds of the *Acompañar* initiative have elapsed, the same person can be enrolled in the *Potenciar Trabajo* plan.²⁰ In most cases, however, the continuous assistance to women subject to gender-based violence and vulnerability did not materialise, as reported by the Accompaniment Units in different municipalities.²¹
24. In general terms, the Argentinian Government implemented policies aimed at mitigating the negative social and economic impact of the pandemic, especially for the lower socioeconomic population, where women and feminised identities are over-represented. In this regard, in addition to the IFE, the additional support of the Universal Children Allowance (AUH) and the Universal Pregnancy Allowance (AUE), the food card and minimum pensions stand out. However, certain groups were hindered in their access to these rights, as is the case of migrant and trans women, and travesti populations. It is essential to improve, mainstream and strengthen these measures with an intersectional approach at all levels of the State (national, provincial, municipal). Although certain gender-sensitive policies were promoted at the national level, there was resistance in the provinces, and the access to women's human rights experienced setbacks.
25. A gender perspective was adopted for some measures, in order to address the effects of the pandemic during its first year. This seems to be due — not exclusively — to the contribution of the MMGyD while drafting these measures. In addition, creating a National Agency of Economy, Equality, and Gender promoted the inclusion of a gender perspective in the adoption of economic measures. This resulted in better focus on the effects of the pandemic on women, who represent the majority of people in informal or precarious employment. On the other hand, notwithstanding the active roles of certain

¹⁸ National Agency of Economy, Equality, and Gender. (2020). *Políticas públicas y perspectiva de género*. (Public Policy and Gender Perspective). The report also notes that, although “the design of the form provided for the implementation of the IFE does not reflect any information on this benefit reaching to the travesti-trans population, it is assumed that, given the requirements to obtain it, they are not excluded from this emergency income support.”

¹⁹ See (in Spanish): <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-programa-potenciar-trabajo-incluire-personas-en-situacion-de-violencia-de-genero>.

²⁰ See (in Spanish): https://www.argentina.gob.ar/generos/plan_nacional_de_accion_contra_las_violencias_por_motivos_de_genero/programa-acompanar.

²¹ ELA (2022) (in Spanish). *Implementación del Plan Nacional de Acción contra las Violencias (2020-2022) – una lectura sobre sus resultados desde la mirada del Estado, la sociedad civil y usuarias*. (Implementation of the National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence (2020-2022): A View on the Outcomes from the Perspective of the State, the Civil Society and Women Users). Ongoing research.

national and provincial women officials in the management of the crisis, there was low participation of women in decision-making positions and a lack of official information regarding the composition of the crisis committees.

III. Gender-Based Violence against Some Groups Facing Greater Precarity as a Consequence of the Pandemic.

III.1. Migrants

26. The already deep social, cultural, and economic gaps that are part of the daily lives of migrant women in Argentina were further aggravated by the health emergency. Thus, this group was particularly affected in terms of access to public policies and income support programmes, such as the AUH or the IFE. The situation of migrant women during the pandemic — most of whom are informally employed, work at street fairs or have a trade that has been hampered by isolation — led them to organise themselves into community support networks to obtain food assistance.²²
27. The right to collect the IFE did not reach the homes of some of these women in time, and others were left out. There have been delays of several months for the registration forms to be generated, mostly related to the structural precarity in which they live and the lack of access to technological devices and the internet, in addition to the lack of documentation of residence in the country. Specifically, regarding migrant women, 12.3% of them receive the IFE, 12.3% receive the AUH and 79.7% do not receive any income support. This is the group of women who, together with women of African descent, faced greater obstacles to access public policies and income support²³, mainly due to the various difficulties they experience in getting documents in Argentina. A two-year regular residence period is a mandatory prerequisite for them to be included in these programmes.²⁴

III.2. Women Domestic Workers

28. The domestic work sector is highly feminised: statistics show that 98.4% of this work is performed by women. The domestic sector represents 12.2% of employed women workers and 16% of women receiving wages in the country. They also receive the lowest average salary in the labour market. In addition, 78.1% are not registered;²⁵ this is the sector of the economy with the highest informality rates. During the pandemic, more than

²² ELA (2021). *Los derechos de las mujeres en tiempos de COVID-19*. (Women's Rights in Times of COVID-19). City of Buenos Aires.

²³ Ministry of Women, Gender Identities and Diversity, CONICET and Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (2020). *Diagnóstico de la situación de las mujeres rurales y urbanas, y disidencias en el contexto COVID-19*. (Diagnosis of the Situation of Rural and Urban Women and Dissidences in the Context of COVID-19). Available (in Spanish) in: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/como-impacta-la-pandemia-en-mujeres-rurales-y-urbanas-y-disidencias>.

²⁴ Second report of the Observatory on Migration and Asylum in Argentina - Gabriel Chausovsky, *Migrantes en pandemia, entre la nueva Normalidad y la vieja desigualdad* (Migrants and the Pandemic, between the New Normal and the Old Inequality), (in Spanish): <http://observatoriomigracionyasilo.caref.org.ar/inicio/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Informe-2-Migrantes-en-pandemia.pdf>.

²⁵ López Mourelo, E. (2020). *La COVID-19 y el trabajo doméstico en Argentina*. (COVID-19 and Domestic Work in Argentina). International Labour Organization (ILO), ILO office in Argentina, technical report, 20 April 2020.

400,000 women workers lost their jobs.²⁶

29. The average domestic service wage is the lowest in the entire economy due to its high levels of informality. With an average income of ARS 16,936, female workers in the sector were, as of the 4th quarter of 2021, well below the total basic food basket (ARS 23,995 in that period), which delimits the poverty line. This income was less than half of the average income earned by women in their main occupations (ARS 45,359) and about a quarter of that of men (ARS 63,297). It was also about half of the minimum living and adjustable wage (ARS 32,000 in the 4th quarter of 2021)²⁷. Adding domestic service, education, and health care workers, we see that 4 out of every 10 employed women are in jobs related to household and care work. Men are the majority in sectors associated with industry, construction, and energy.²⁸
30. Domestic work is mostly performed by women who are racialised, and internal or external migrants, often with incomplete education. It is a fragile sector of society because this group of workers face minimal registration: according to the latest INDEC data, there are 1,730,000 jobs in private households with domestic service, of which 515,000 are registered and 1,214,000 are unregistered or informal. This situation implies a lack of access to basic labour rights, which overexposes them to situations of gender-based violence and harassment at work and curtails their possibilities of having access to institutional response channels when faced with these problems.²⁹
31. Research revealed that women domestic workers reported having experienced and/or knowing other women workers who were victims of various unwanted and unwelcomed sexual behaviours and practices. Women workers in the migrant and live-in segments were the ones who reported the greatest number of such experiences. According to their testimonies, most of these situations occurred when they were teenagers. In addition to this, the workers reported having been in situations where they or their colleagues were at risk, or their physical integrity was harmed.³⁰
32. In their accounts, domestic workers spontaneously pointed to the pandemic and especially to the first months of social, preventive, and mandatory isolation as a context in which irregular practices took place. According to their statements and in line with previous studies³¹, different violations of their rights were identified: interruption or reduction of wages, reduction of working hours without payment of the corresponding partial compensation, and unjustified dismissal. These declarations evidence that such dismissals affected mainly female workers residing in the province of Buenos Aires, who worked without any employment registration in homes in the City of Buenos Aires. These female workers, who were unable to prove their employment relationship and/or did not have an ID card, were unable to obtain the necessary license to travel to their place of work.

²⁶ ELA (2021). *Los derechos de las mujeres en tiempos de COVID-19*. (Women's Rights in Times of COVID-19). City of Buenos Aires.

²⁷ National Agency of Economy, Equality, and Gender. *Protagonistas del crecimiento. Las brechas de género en la economía argentina*. (Protagonists of Growth. Gender Gaps in the Argentinian Economy). 4th quarter of 2021.

²⁸ Ministry of Economy. (2020). *Las brechas de género en la Argentina. Estado de situación y desafíos*. (Gender Gaps in Argentina. Current Situation and Challenges).

²⁹ ELA and ILO, Spotlight Initiative, *Estudio cualitativo sobre la violencia y el acoso en el sector del trabajo doméstico (Qualitative Report on Gender-Based Violence and Harassment in the Domestic Work Sector)*, Buenos Aires; ILO Office in Argentina, 2022.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ López Mourelo, E., *op cit.*

33. They also mentioned as a recurrent practice in this context of pandemic that their registration category at the Federal Administration of Public Revenue (AFIP, Spanish acronym) was changed to “assistance and care of people”, to make them attend their jobs, since this was the only task that was deemed essential. Domestic workers consider this practice abusive and violent, insofar as they report having felt forced to go to their workplace in violation of current regulations, infringing their rights and exposing themselves to contagion.

IV. Questions to the State Administration

1. Which effective actions were carried out to guarantee access to free and quality legal representation for victims of gender-based violence throughout the country?
2. What measures are envisaged to guarantee access to justice for women victims of gender-based violence in a comprehensive manner throughout the country? What work will be carried out jointly with the Judicial Branch in order to work in a coordinated and effective manner to generate mechanisms and/or spaces for the care of victims of gender-based violence?
3. What measures were taken to ensure budget execution transparency regarding the programmes identified as gender-sensitive in order to control the compliance with their goals and objectives at the national, provincial and municipal levels?
4. What measures will continue to be taken to lessen the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on vulnerable populations such as migrant women and women informal workers? How is the outcome of these measures evaluated?
5. What actions will be taken to foster the registration of domestic work in the medium and long term?
6. What measures have been taken to include women and LGBTIQ+ communities in decision-making spaces, especially those related to economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic?
7. Have measures been taken to review the admission requirements of programmes for women facing gender-based violence that may exclude certain groups, such as women with disabilities, women migrants and women informal workers?

V. Recommendations to the State Administration

1. Ensure transparency in the execution of gender-sensitive budgets and inform the public about the decisions made regarding changes in gender-sensitive budget allocations, their rationale and the basis on which they are made.
2. Incorporate monitoring and accountability policies on the work carried out and the budget executed by each Ministry and state agencies to address gender-based violence.
3. Guarantee the participation of the civil society in the budget debate process for the year 2023.
4. Promote the inclusion of gender-sensitive budgets at the provincial and municipal levels, offering technical training to such purpose.
5. Guarantee the participation of women and LGBTIQ+ communities in decision-making spaces, especially those related to economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic,

ensuring that the design and implementation of policies contemplate the intersectional perspective and good practices.

6. Work in coordination with the Judicial Branch to create mechanisms and/or spaces for the representation of victims of gender-based violence that are accessible to women with disabilities, indigenous women, women of African descent, migrant women, and women of different ages, fostering interventions from an intersectional, non-victimizing, prompt and restorative gender perspective in the face of gender-based violence.
7. Work in coordination with the Judicial Branch and law enforcement authorities to ensure that there is a comprehensive and effective response to gender-based violence reports. Interventions must be coordinated among the different authorities and actors in such a way that the integrity of the victim and their family is safeguarded.
8. Prepare and disseminate disaggregated statistics including information about different groups (migrant women, women with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ communities, imprisoned women, women of African descent, indigenous women) and the impact of the health emergency on them.
9. Guarantee access to policies to address different forms and manifestations of gender-based violence with federal competence and with special attention to their accessibility for people with disabilities, indigenous women, women of African descent, migrant women (regardless of their migratory status) and for different ages, particularly girls, adolescents, and older women.
10. Coordinate with the Ministries of Social Development, Production and Economy in order to develop and implement programmes aimed at giving economic independence to women and dissidences, promoting access to formal employment in various traditionally male-dominated productive areas, and providing tax relief for enterprises with equal representation of women.
11. Review the admission requirements of programmes for women subject to gender-based violence, which may exclude certain groups. For example, the requirements of possession of an ID card and a certain number of years of regular residence in the country, as in the case of the *Acompañar* initiative, continue to be an obstacle for migrant women, who are extremely vulnerable, who have no family and no social networks to assist them in a situation of gender-based violence.
12. Guarantee non-discrimination of women by eliminating the incompatibility conditions between non-contributory pensions (received by women with disabilities, mothers of seven children, among others) and programmes aimed at assisting and protecting against a situation of gender-based violence, such as the *Acompañar* initiative. This incompatibility excludes many women from the possibilities of specific and targeted State assistance precisely when they are the most vulnerable.
13. Implement mechanisms for access to justice and redress in situations of gender-based violence and harassment when working in private homes, within the framework of public institutions, aimed at providing better responses than those currently available.
14. Conduct awareness campaigns on regulations and rights, ensuring through diverse strategies and tools that people have the necessary information regardless of their level of education, place of residence, nationality, ethnicity, disability, or language spoken.