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Nicaraguan National Assembly weakens protection for women facing violence

Women may have to face their abusers in mediation after a legal reform passed by Nicaragua's National Assembly last night, a move Amnesty International said is letting down thousands of survivors of domestic violence across the country.

“Instead of focusing on mediation and ways of letting abusers off the hook, the Nicaraguan authorities should look at ways of protecting women from violence and ensuring that those who abuse them face justice,” said Esther Major, Nicaragua researcher at Amnesty International who recently returned from the country.

The Law 779 (Ley Integral contra la Violencia hacia la Mujer, Integral Law against Violence against Women), passed in 2012, provides a route for women to access justice and protection from violence and to hold perpetrators to account.

Amnesty International is currently analysing the reforms to the law in full.