



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honour to refer to the examination of the third and fourth periodic reports of Armenia at the Committee's forty-third session, held in January-February 2009. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/ARM/CO/4/Rev.1). You may recall that in paragraph 43 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Armenia to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 19 and 23 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received on 28 September 2011 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/ARM/4/Rev.1/Add.1). At its fifty-first session, held in February 2012 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 19** of the concluding observations, to “enact a gender equality bill which would establish a national machinery for the advancement of women (with the necessary financial and human resources) and for the effective implementation of a governmental gender-mainstreaming strategy”: the State party indicated that a gender equality draft law is under consideration by the Government, but has not yet been adopted. The Committee considered that this recommendation had been **partially implemented**.

Concerning the recommendation to “establish within the office of the Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman) a specific position charged with ensuring gender equality”: while the State party indicated that there is a Special Adviser position within the Ombudsman's office who focuses on issues related to women, children, and ethnic minorities, it failed to indicate the mandate of the adviser with regard to gender equality. The Committee considered that it has **not received adequate information** to make an assessment.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, additional information on:

- a) Progress made in the adoption of the gender equality law and whether the national gender-equality mechanism is mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Convention, national programmes and gender-mainstreaming strategies; and
- b) The specific areas of the mandate of the Special Adviser in the Ombudsman's office that relate to the promotion of gender equality.

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Permanent Representative
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Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 23** of the concluding observations, to “give priority attention to eliminating all forms of violence against women, in particular domestic violence, and adopt comprehensive measures to address it in accordance with the Committee’s general recommendation No. 19”: the State party indicated that the Government adopted the Strategic Programme against Gender-based Violence for 2011-2014 and the annual programme of activities against gender-based violence for 2011. The Committee considered that this recommendation **had been implemented**.

Concerning the recommendation to “enact, without delay, legislation specifically addressing domestic violence against women”: while the State party indicated that a draft law on domestic violence is being drafted and will be transmitted to the Government in June 2012 after Armenia accedes to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women, no information was provided on the content of the law. The Committee considered that this recommendation **had been partially implemented**.

Concerning the recommendation to “implement training for the judiciary and public officials, in particular law enforcement personnel and health-service providers, ensuring that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women, in particular domestic violence, and can provide adequate support to victims”: while the State party indicated that the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues conducted an educational component on gender issues for civil servants, this action predates the last concluding observations and the State party failed to provide information on recent steps taken with regard to training of law enforcement personnel on violence against women. The Committee considered that the information provided by the State party was not relevant and that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

Concerning the recommendation to “conduct public awareness campaigns and to introduce zero-tolerance policies in regards to violence against women”: the State party indicated that the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues conducted an annual information campaign entitled “16 day action against gender-based violence.” The Committee considered that this recommendation **had been implemented**.

Concerning the recommendation to “prevent and combat violence against women and adopt a coordination policy on violence against women that would ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, access to a sufficient number of State-funded safe shelters and to legal aid”: while the State party indicated that the Government adopted the Strategic Programme against Gender-Based Violence for 2011-2014 and the annual programme of activities against gender-based violence for 2011, it failed to provide information on whether the policy on violence against women ensures that victims have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, access to a sufficient number of State-funded safe shelters, and access to legal aid. The Committee considered that this recommendation **had been partially implemented**.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, additional information on

- a) Progress made in the adoption of the draft law on domestic violence and the content of this draft law (the legislation should ensure that violence against women and girls constitutes a criminal offence and a civil wrong; that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished; and that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders and availability of a sufficient number of adequate shelters and in all regions, in particular addressing the needs of rural women, women with disabilities, refugees and minority women)
- b)
 - (i) Actions taken since the last concluding observations with regard to the training for the judiciary and public officials, in particular law enforcement personnel and health-service providers, ensuring that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women, in particular domestic violence, and can provide adequate support to victims;
 - (ii) Whether the educational component or module included in the career development course for civil servants under a “Gender issues” programme include sensitization to all forms of violence against women, in particular domestic violence;



(iii) Whether the component or module include information on how to provide adequate support to victims; and

(iv) Whether health service providers are also sensitized; and

c) Whether the policy on violence against women ensures that victims have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, access to a sufficient number of State-funded safe shelters and legal aid.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Bailey". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Barbara Bailey
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women