

REFERENCE: AA/Follow-up/Tur/54

8 March 2013

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 sixth periodic report of Turkey at the Committee's forty-sixth session, held in July 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/6). You may recall that in the Concluding Observations, the Committee requested Turkey to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 17 and 23 of the Concluding Observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received on 30 July 2012, under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/6/Add.1). At its fifty-fourth session, held in February 2013 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 17** of the concluding observations “to undertake studies to evaluate the impact of the ban on wearing headscarves in the fields of education, employment, health and political and public life, and to include detailed information regarding the result of the study and measures taken to eliminate any discriminatory consequences of the ban in its next periodic report”: The State party indicated that the Ministry of Family and Social Policies and the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK) have collaborated in order to conduct a study related to the headscarf ban. Correspondences have started and official requests have been made to the Ministries and universities in order to collect the relevant data. The State party indicated that the result of this study will be included in the 7th periodic report to be submitted in 2014. The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps for the conduct of the study related to the headscarf ban and that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **by September 2013**, additional information on steps taken to finalize the study aimed at evaluating the impact of the ban on wearing headscarves in the fields of education, employment, health and political and public life.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 23** of the Concluding Observations “to continue to accord priority attention to the adoption of comprehensive measures to address violence against women in accordance with its general recommendation No. 19”: The State party mentioned significant steps taken to address violence against women throughout the follow-up report. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **been implemented**.

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Regarding the recommendation “to evaluate and strengthen Law No. 4320 in order to enact comprehensive legislation on all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, and to ensure that in such legislation all forms of violence against women are prohibited, that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished”: The State party indicated that Law No: 6284 on the “Protection of Family and the Prevention of Violence against Women” has been prepared by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies to broaden the scope of the existing Law No: 4320. The Committee considers that the new law addresses domestic violence and provides for immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders. However, the law does not contain provisions for prosecution and punishment of perpetrators and, while it provides for a general definition of violence against women, it fails to mention specific forms of violence against women including rape, marital rape, sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence. In addition, the State party failed to adopt a law that exclusively focuses on violence against women. The Committee considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to expand training activities and programmes for public officials, the judiciary, law enforcement personnel and health-service providers in order to ensure that they can address and combat all forms of violence against women and can provide adequate support to victims”: Law No: 6284 provides for training on the human rights of women for an adequate number of personnel (article 11) and for personnel of public institutions and organizations and professional organizations with public institution status (article 16).” In addition, a number of training initiatives has been undertaken for officials since the issuance of the Concluding Observations. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to continue public awareness-raising campaigns on all forms of violence against women and girls”: The State party indicated a number of awareness-raising activities carried out on violence against women. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to establish additional counselling and other support services for victims of violence, including additional shelters, and ensure that adequate resources are allocated in order to implement the necessary measures in this regard”: The State party indicated the steps taken to establish additional shelters since the issuance of the Concluding Observations. However, it failed to provide information on steps taken to establish other counselling and support services for victims of violence and to allocate adequate resources in this regard. The Committee considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to enhance its cooperation with non-governmental organizations working in the area of violence against women”: The State indicated a several initiatives taken since the issuance of the Concluding Observations to cooperate with non-governmental organizations. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **been implemented**.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **by September 2013**, additional information on steps taken to:

- 1) Amend Law No: 6284 on the “Protection of Family and the Prevention of Violence against Women” to ensure that it contains provisions for prosecution and adequate punishment of perpetrators, that it covers all forms of violence against women, including rape, marital rape, sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence, and that it focuses on violence against women;

2) Conduct a study on the implementation of the law, including with regard to the implementation of the protection orders and the remaining practice of mediation in cases of domestic violence; and

3) Establish additional counselling and other support services for victims of violence, including shelters, and ensure that adequate resources are allocated in order to implement the necessary measures in this regard.

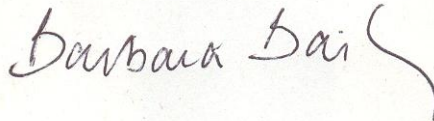
The Committee also recommends that the State party provides, **in its next periodic report**, information on the steps taken **to continue**:

- 1) According priority attention to the adoption of comprehensive measures to address violence against women in accordance with its general recommendation No. 19;
- 2) Training activities and programmes for public officials, the judiciary, law enforcement personnel and health-service providers in order to ensure that they can address and combat all forms of violence against women and can provide adequate support to victims;
- 3) Public awareness-raising campaigns on all forms of violence against women and girls; and
- 4) Its cooperation with non-governmental organizations working in the area of violence against women.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Turkey on the implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women