



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/United Arab Emirates/52

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Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on 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 initial report of the United Arab Emirates, at the Committee's forty-fifth session, held in January-February 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/ARE/CO/1) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 57 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the United Arab Emirates to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 27 and 37 of the concluding observations, namely:

“27. The Committee urges the State party to give high priority to comprehensive measures to address all forms of violence against women and girls. It calls upon the State party to enact legislation on violence against women, including domestic violence, to ensure that it is a criminal offence. The State party should also strengthen recourse procedures so that all women and girls, including female migrant workers, who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress; provide shelter and rehabilitation to victims; ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished; and undertake nationwide educational and awareness-raising measures.”

“37. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen the legal protection of foreign workers by adopting legislation and policies aimed at preventing abuses related to, inter alia, non-payment of wages and overtime, arbitrary reduction of wages and working hours, and to prosecute offenders, both recruiters and employers, and at raising awareness of workers' rights and ensuring their access to legal aid and complaint mechanisms. The Committee also urges the

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State party to guarantee equal application of all labour laws to women and men regardless of their nationality. It calls upon the State party to expedite the adoption of the amendment to Federal Labour Law No. 8 and ensure that migrant workers are also covered by the provisions of the draft legislation under preparation and, in that regard, invites the State party to take into consideration the Committee's general recommendation No. 26. The Committee urges the State party to guarantee all workers, including especially female workers, the fundamental principle of freedom of association and to provide equal remuneration for work of equal value, and recommends that it become a party to ILO Conventions No. 87 and No. 98.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2012, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of the United Arab Emirates on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder. Please send a Word electronic version of the information to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to cedaw@ohchr.org.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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