



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Afghanistan/62

14 December 2015

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 honor to refer to the examination of the combined initial and second periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, at the Committee's fifty-fifth session, held in July 2013. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 49 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 and 23 of the concluding observations, namely:

“11. The Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To set as a priority, for the next 18 months, the consolidation of the legislative achievements by reinforcing the implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Electoral Law, in line with the Convention;
- (b) To ensure that the Wolesi Jirga and Meshrano Jirga joint commission working on amendments to the Electoral Law maintains the 25 per cent quota for women in the National Assembly and in the provincial councils as currently established in the Electoral Law;
- (c) To consolidate the legislative framework relating to women's rights by adopting without delay the draft family code and by ensuring that any revisions of the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedures repeal, and do not include, discriminatory provisions against women;
- (d) To reinforce its efforts to raise the awareness of parliamentarians and members of the provincial councils regarding women's rights with a view to upholding the gains already achieved;
- (e) To intensify its collaboration with women's organizations to eliminate violence against women and to improve women's access to education, health, justice and political participation.”

Her Excellency  
Ms. Suraya Dalil  
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
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“23. In line with its general recommendation No. 19, on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To establish measures, as a priority, to effectively combat impunity and comply with its due diligence obligation to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish violence perpetrated against women by State and non-State actors;

(b) To ensure the proper implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women by, for example, providing systematic training on that law for all police officers working in family response units, issuing guidelines to the courts on the application of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women, including its mandatory application in conjunction with other relevant national legislation; and developing a strategy to ensure the recruitment and retention of female police officers;

(c) To ensure that shelters for women victims of violence are properly resourced and that the quality of services offered is regularly monitored; increase the number of shelters so as to strengthen support services for victims, such as counselling and rehabilitation services, both medical and psychological; and develop a strategy to ensure their financial support in the framework of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework;

(d) To adopt a comprehensive policy and strategy to eliminate all harmful practices against women and girls, which includes raising the awareness of religious and community leaders with the aim of preventing misinterpretations of sharia law and Islamic principles, in addition to awareness-raising efforts targeting the general public and the media, in collaboration with civil society and women's organizations;

(e) To ensure the proper registration of cases of violence and the standardized collection of disaggregated data on all forms of violence against women.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2015, 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 Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **4000 words**, including footnotes. You may attach a limited number of annexes containing statistical data only which are not counted for the word limit. Please also send a Word electronic version of the information requested to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org). For ease of reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of follow-up reports by States parties.



Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Xiaoqiao Zou'.

Xiaoqiao Zou  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women