



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

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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Oman/57

8 April 2014

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 Oman, at the Committee's fiftieth session, held in October 2011. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/OMN/CO/1) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 51 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Oman to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 28 and 45 of the concluding observations, namely:

“28. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

- (a) Adopt a specific law on violence against women, including domestic violence, in line with the Committee's general recommendation No. 19 (1992) and establish appropriate redress mechanisms accessible to all women including domestic workers, who are victims of violence, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished;
- (b) Strengthen support measures such as shelters, counselling, and rehabilitation services throughout the territory of the State party;
- (c) Provide gender-sensitive and violence-focused training for the judiciary and law enforcement officers and health professionals;
- (d) Ratify ILO Convention No. 156 (1981) and the Convention on Migrant Workers;
- (e) Establish a protection and monitoring system for migrant domestic workers.

“45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Embark on law reform with regard to the Personal Status Code taking into consideration the experiences of countries with similar religious backgrounds and legal systems that have successfully accommodated their domestic legislation to commitments emanating from the legally binding international instruments they have ratified, specifically with respect to matters of property, divorce, inheritance and the requirement of the “wali” in entering marriage;

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(b) Prohibit polygamy, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation No. 21 (1994);

(c) Continue with efforts to ensure that the practice of dowry does not negate or curtail women's fundamental human right to freely choose their spouse."

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in October 2013, 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 Oman on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay. 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. For ease reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of Follow-up reports by State parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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