

REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Pakistan/61

1 September 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 fourth periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, at the Committee's fifty-fourth session, held in February 2013. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PAK/CO/4) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 45 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 22 and 28 of the concluding observations, namely:

“22. In line with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee calls upon the State party:

(a) To ensure the proper implementation of the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act of 2011 and other relevant legislation, ensure uniformity in the application of the law and repeal the provisions of the Qisas and Diyat ordinances which discriminate against women;

(b) To address shortcomings in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2004 and repeal all provisions under which perpetrators of so-called honour crimes are allowed to negotiate pardon with victims' families;

(c) To strengthen support services for victims of violence, such as counselling and rehabilitation services, both medical and psychological; increase the number of shelters to ensure the implementation of the standard operating procedures for the treatment of victims in all provinces;

(d) To adopt a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all harmful practices and stereotypes, in conformity with article 2, and specifically 2 (f), and article 5 (a) of the Convention, which includes awareness-raising efforts targeting the general public and the media, religious and community leaders, in collaboration with civil society and women's organizations;

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(e) To ensure a robust and effective regulation of the arms trade as well as appropriate control over the circulation of existing and often illicit arms, in order to enhance the security of women and girls;

(f) To take appropriate measures to ensure the collection of disaggregated data on all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, by the Gender Crime Cell.”

“28. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that, at the national and provincial levels, coordinated and consistent measures are taken to:

(a) Improve the literacy rate of women and girls, reduce and prevent dropouts among girls, especially at the secondary level, formulate re-entry policies enabling young women to return to school after pregnancy, and organize programmes for girls affected by conflict who leave school/university prematurely;

(b) Improve the quality of education by providing all teachers with systematic and gender-sensitive training and by conducting a revision of the curriculum and textbooks to remove gender stereotypes;

(c) Take the necessary measures to prevent the occurrence of attacks and threats against educational institutions which undermine the fundamental rights of women and girls, in particular, the right to education, and to ensure that perpetrators of such acts of violence are promptly investigated, prosecuted and punished;

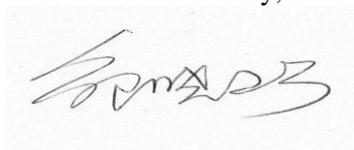
(d) Consider the establishment of a rapid response system whenever there are attacks on educational institutions, in order to promptly repair and rebuild them and replace educational materials so that women and girls can be reintegrated into schools/universities as soon as possible.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 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 Pakistan 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](mailto: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 States parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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Rapporteur on follow-up  
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