



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: MK/follow-up/68/the Democratic People's Republic of Korea/75

11 March 2020

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 second to fourth periodic reports of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, at the Committee's sixty-eighth session, held in November 2017. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/2-4) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 57 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 (a) and 12 (b), 38 and 46 (a) of the concluding observations, namely:

“12. The Committee, recalling its previous concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/1](#), para. 24), recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and apply a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women in its legislation that is in line with article 1 of the Convention, so as to ensure that women are protected against direct and indirect discrimination in all spheres of life;

(b) Increase the minimum age of marriage to 18 years.”

“38. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt legislation to specifically define and criminalize sexual harassment in the workplace, develop a confidential, independent and safe system for filing complaints relating to sexual harassment and sex-based discrimination in the workplace and ensure that victims have effective access to means of redress, including adequate punishment of perpetrators. The Committee also recommends that the State party review its Criminal Code to criminalize and punish rape, including forced intercourse, in the workplace with the same penalty as rape, ensuring that its definition is based on the lack of freely given consent and takes into account coercive circumstances.”

His Excellency
Mr. Tae Song Han
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“46. The Committee urges the State party to protect women in detention from violence, in particular sexual violence, including by:

(a) Ensuring that women in detention are supervised by female guards and that all guards are provided with mandatory gender-sensitive training on the dignity and rights of women detainees.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in November 2019, 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.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder within one month of the date of this correspondence.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **3,500 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.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Lia Nadaraia
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women