



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Sierra Leone/64

10 August 2016

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 sixth periodic report of the Republic of Sierra Leone, at the Committee's fifty-seventh session, held in February 2014. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 49 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Republic of Sierra Leone to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 and 33 of the concluding observations, namely:

“11. The Committee welcomes the commitment of the State party to finalizing the constitutional review and holding a referendum by March 2015. In this regard, it calls upon the State party:

(a) To ensure that the constitutional review is finalized within the given time frame and that section 27 (d) (4) is accordingly repealed, inter alia, through raising the awareness of all relevant stakeholders, including local chiefs and community leaders, regarding the importance of incorporating the prohibition of sex-based discrimination and gender equality provisions in legal texts;

(b) To take a holistic approach to law reform that will ensure women's de jure and de facto equality within the framework of the ongoing legislative and constitutional review processes;

(c) To undertake intensive awareness-raising campaigns so as to ensure that section 27 (d) (4) of the Constitution, as well as all discriminatory laws, including customary law, are amended or repealed and brought into full compliance with the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations, as a matter of priority.”

Her Excellency  
Ms. Yvette Stevens  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone  
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“33. The Committee urges the State party to ensure the effective implementation of all measures aimed at facilitating women’s affordable access to health care, including through the allocation of sufficient resources and the implementation of the Initiative for Free Health Care throughout the State party. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen its efforts to reduce maternal mortality, address its causes and increase the number of skilled health-care personnel, in particular in rural areas;

(b) Provide effective access for women and girls to comprehensive information regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights, including on contraceptive use in order to reduce the rate of unwanted pregnancies, teenage pregnancies and unsafe abortions, and ensure that modern contraceptives are available and affordable for all women;

(c) Enhance women’s access to health-care facilities and skilled birth attendance, postnatal and maternal care, especially in rural areas and in Northern Province;

(d) Accelerate the adoption of the abortion bill;”

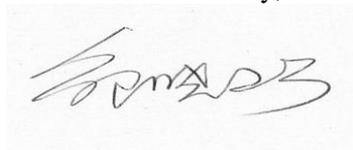
Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2016, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government’s response on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of the Republic of Sierra Leone 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,



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