



REFERENCE: CERD/98th session/FU/MJA/ks

10 May 2019

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 98th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, pursuant to Article 9 (1) of the Convention, and Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year of the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14, 18 and 28 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/PAK/CO/21-23), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 21st to 23rd periodic reports, at its 90th session, held in August 2016.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its combined 24th and 26th periodic reports, to be submitted in a single document by 4 January 2020.

Paragraph 14 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee welcomes measures taken by the State party to ensure that the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (Commission) can regulate its procedures under its own statute, and welcomes information that the Commission has been given civil court powers, allowing its proceedings to be deemed judicial. The Committee also welcomes information on the increase of financial resources allocated to the Commission; however, the Committee notes that while the budgetary allocations have increased significantly from 2014 to 2018, the amount of supplementary grants during the same period has decreased, and that the total allocation for 2017-2018 is less than the total allocation for 2016-2017. The Committee regrets the lack of information on whether the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has taken measures to seek A status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

His Excellency Mr. Farukh Amil
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The Committee recommends that the State party continue to undertake measures to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the Commission, including through ensuring the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources to the Commission, and encourages the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan to seek A status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. The Committee also requests information on cases of racial discrimination reported to the Commission and the outcome of such cases.

Paragraph 18 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee takes note with appreciation of the measures taken by the State party to monitor school curricula and textbooks, including of madrasas to ensure promotion of tolerance among different ethnic and religious groups, as well as the information provided on measures taken to reform madrasas. The Committee recommends that the State party provide updated information in its next periodic report on the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Terrorism (2014), in particular the provisions to register and regulate madrasas, updated information on concrete measures taken to continue to monitor school curricula and textbooks, as well as information on other measures taken to promote tolerance, and their impact.

Paragraph 28 of the Concluding Observations

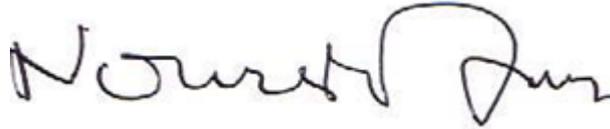
The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party on measures taken to end bonded labour. The Committee in particular notes the detailed information on measures to prevent child labour; however, it regrets the lack of similarly detailed information on measures to prevent bonded labour of adults. The Committee also welcomes information on efforts to amend the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1992 to make it more enforceable, and requests updated information on the status of its amendments, their implementation and their impact. The Committee regrets the lack of comprehensive information on measures taken to raise awareness of the Act and other measures to prevent bonded labour among victims, the judiciary, law enforcement and public officials and recommends that the State party take measures to raise awareness of the Act and other measures among these groups.

The Committee welcomes information on inspections, prosecutions and fines imposed by the Labour department of brick kilns in 2016, and 2017, however it regrets the lack of information on similar inspections carried out in the informal economy sector, textile industries and other industries where bonded labour may be prevalent. It also regrets the lack of specific information on measures to prevent bonded labour of scheduled castes (Dalits) and their impact. While welcoming that information is provided on efforts taken to prevent bonded labour in various regions, the Committee regrets that information on measures in certain regions is less detailed than others. While noting information on some quasi-judicial or judicial bodies which consider complaints on bonded labour, the Committee is concerned by the lack of specific examples of investigations and prosecutions of bonded labour cases in different regions. The Committee requests updated information in its next periodic report on measures to effectively prevent bonded labour and their impact, as well as specific examples of investigations and prosecutions of bonded labour cases in different regions.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Nouredine Amir
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination