



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: DB/follow-up/Maldives /67

21 September 2017

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 fourth and fifth periodic reports of Maldives, at the Committee's sixtieth session, held in March 2015. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/MDV/CO/4-5) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 53 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Maldives to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9, 13 (a)-(c) and 45 (a) of the concluding observations, namely:

“9. The Committee urges the State party to ensure the full implementation of the Convention and, to that end, recommends that it honour its commitment to withdrawing its reservation to article 16 (2) within a clear time frame and to reviewing its reservation to article 16 (1), with a view to fully withdrawing it, taking into consideration the practices of countries with similar religious backgrounds and legal systems that have successfully harmonized their national legislation with international human rights obligations and consultations with civil society, in particular women's organizations.”

“13. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) To expedite the adoption of bills pending before the parliament aimed at strengthening the State party's administration of justice, in particular the bills on legal aid, evidence, witness protection, juvenile justice and the judicature, remove evidentiary requirements that discriminate against women and ensure the equal consideration and weight of women's testimonies as witnesses;

(b) To strengthen the independence of the judiciary, establish legal remedies that are expeditious and accessible to women, and ensure, through adequate regulations and procedures, that women who report violations, especially in cases of violence, are treated in a gender-sensitive manner at all stages of judicial proceedings;

Her Excellency
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(c) To take measures to increase the representation of women in the judiciary, in particular as judges and court officials;”

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) As a matter of urgency, decriminalize and abolish the imposition of flogging as a sentence for consensual sexual relations outside marriage, as recommended by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/MDV/CO/3 , para. 34);”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2017, 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 Maldives 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 **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. 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,



Hilary Gbedemah
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women