



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: DB/follow-up/Azerbaijan/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 fifth periodic reports of Azerbaijan, at the Committee's sixtieth session, held in March 2015. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/5) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 45 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Azerbaijan to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15 (a) and (b) and 23 of the concluding observations, namely:

“15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the capacity of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs by upgrading it to a fully-fledged ministry in order to improve its effective functioning as a national machinery responsible for the advancement of women and the full implementation of the Convention; establish clear terms of reference for gender focal points in government institutions; and provide them with adequate human, financial and technical resources;

(b) Adopt a national action plan on gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, recommendations in the present concluding observations;”

“23. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To adopt without delay the national strategy on the prevention of domestic violence and the national action plan on the prevention of domestic violence, and allocate adequate resources for their implementation;

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(b) To put in place a system to collect comprehensive data on all forms of violence against women, disaggregated by age, urban and rural areas and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator;

(c) To establish State-funded support and referral centres for victims of violence throughout the country and strengthen cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations in this respect;

(d) To increase the number of State-funded shelters for women who are victims of violence, especially in the regions, and establish a round-the-clock national helpline for victims;

(e) To set a time frame for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.”

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 Azerbaijan 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](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,



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