

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/82/United Arab Emirates/89

22 November 2024

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the tenth periodic reports of the United Arab Emirates, at the Committee's eighty-second session, held in June 2022. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/ARE/CO/4](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 55 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested the United Arab Emirates to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 31, 41 and 47 (a) of the concluding observations, namely:

“31. The Committee recommends that the State party amend article 30 of Federal Law No. 28 of 2005 to repeal all exceptions to the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for women and men, in line with joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It further recommends that the State party adopt legislation that specifically criminalizes guardians and marriage officiators who conduct or facilitate child marriages, and provide capacity-building programmes for the judiciary on the criminal nature and negative consequences of child marriage on girls' education, human rights and development.”

“41. Recalling its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/ARE/CO/1, para. 33, and CEDAW/C/ARE/CO/2-3, para. 36), the Committee recommends that the State party grant Emirati women the same rights as Emirati men to acquire, change and retain their nationality and to confer it on their children and foreign spouses. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party revise its legislation, withdraw its reservation to article 9 of the Convention, and ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and the Protocol of 1967 thereto, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 1954 and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 1961. The Committee also recommends that the State party regularize the situation of stateless women and girls and ensure their right to a nationality, repeal provisions that make the provision of birth certificates contingent on the production of a valid marriage certificate, and collect sex- and age-disaggregated data on the number of stateless persons in the State party.”

H.E Mr. Jamal Jama Al Musharakh
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“47. The Committee recommends that the State party:
(a) Abolish the kafalah system and eliminate such practices, and ensure that policies and measures protecting foreign workers are fully implemented, guaranteeing that those who suffer abuse or exploitation are able to fully access appropriate remedies.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2024, 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 United Arab Emirates 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 ohchr-cedaw@un.org.

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

Yours sincerely,



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