

## *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Russian Federation/88

12 June 2024

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 ninth periodic report of the Russian Federation, at the Committee's eightieth session, held in October and November 2021. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 63 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Russian Federation to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13 (c), 29 (f) and 41 (b) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/RUS/FCO/9](#)) received on time in September 2024, under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its eighty-eighth session, held in May 2024, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 13 (c)** of the concluding observations that the State party **“Provide systematic and mandatory capacity-building on women’s rights and gender equality for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and other law enforcement officials, and ensure an enabling environment in which women feel safe reporting violations of their rights without fear of revictimization in their interactions with the judicial and law enforcement authorities”**:

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party on the existing measures and policies to provide capacity-building on women’s rights and gender equality. The Committee welcomes the updated National Strategy of Actions in the Interests of Women (2023-2030), and the education and training generally provided to judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law enforcement professionals with respect to gender-based and sexual violence. The Committee regrets, however, the lack of detail provided regarding the nature of this training and education, including whether it is systematic and mandatory for all professionals in these disciplines. The Committee additionally regrets the lack of information provided by the State party on steps taken to facilitate an enabling environment for women to feel safe reporting violations of their rights. It furthermore expresses concern at reports of underreporting of gender-based and sexual violence to authorities, as a result of reported persisting inadequate police and judicial responses.

The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but that it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is only **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 13 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Provide systematic and mandatory capacity-building on women's rights and gender equality for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and other law enforcement officials, and ensure an enabling environment in which women feel safe reporting violations of their rights without fear of revictimization in their interactions with the judicial and law enforcement authorities.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 29 (f)** that the State party “**Adopt measures to reduce the demand for prostitution, including by carrying out educational and awareness-raising measures targeting the general public, in particular men and boys, with a focus on combating all forms of subordination and objectification of women**”:

The Committee notes with interest the educational and awareness-raising events held under the framework of the National Strategy of Actions in the Interests of Women (2023-2030) to counter the subordination and objectification of women. The Committee regrets the lack of information provided concerning the frequency, effectiveness and outcomes of these events in combating all forms of subordination and objectification of women. It further regrets the lack of detail provided by the State party on measures adopted to specifically address combating the objectification of women and reducing the demand for prostitution.

The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but that it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is only **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 29 (f)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Adopt measures to reduce the demand for prostitution, including by carrying out educational and awareness-raising measures targeting the general public, in particular men and boys, with a focus on combating all forms of subordination and objectification of women.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 41 (b)** that the State party “**Adopt measures to combat and eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination against and stigmatization of women living with HIV/AIDS, women using drugs, women in detention and women with disabilities in health care and ensure that they have access to adequate health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, antiretroviral treatment and drug treatment**”:

The Committee welcomes the action undertaken by the State party to improve sexual and reproductive health services and antiretroviral treatment in places of detention for women. The Committee further notes the information provided on the existing legal framework to ensure equal health care for women. It nonetheless, regrets the lack of information provided by the State party on measures adopted to combat gender-based violence and discrimination against women living with HIV. The Committee is furthermore concerned by reports of ongoing discrimination faced by HIV positive women, particularly women within the LBTI community, who are excluded from publicly funded HIV prevention programs.



The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but that it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is only **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 41 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Adopt measures to combat and eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination against and stigmatization of women living with HIV/AIDS, women using drugs, women in detention and women with disabilities in health care and ensure that they have access to adequate health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, antiretroviral treatment and drug treatment.**

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Natasha Stott Despoja'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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