



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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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 honour to refer to the examination of the sixth periodic report of Tajikistan, at the Committee's seventy-first session, held in November 2018. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/TJK/CO/6](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 51 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Tajikistan to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 26 (a), 36 (a) and 46 (c) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received in February 2021 ([CEDAW/C/TJK/FCO/6](#)) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventy-ninth session, held remotely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in June 2021, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 26 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“expedite the adoption of legislation to criminalize all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, marital rape and sexual assault within and outside marriage”**:

The Committee takes note of the information that, in line with the national action of 2017–2020, the State party implemented various measures on the prevention of domestic violence, including reviewing the criminal law to criminalize domestic violence as a separate offence, which is still under review. The Committee also notes the information on the recommendations of the working group, which is established to review gender-related laws with the cooperation of civil society organizations, proposing legislative review. The Committee takes note of the information on the provision of psychological and legal assistance, including through the operation of helplines with the support of civil society organizations, for victims of domestic violence. However, the Committee regrets that both initiatives to review the legislation focused on domestic violence and that the State party did not take steps to adopt a comprehensive legislation to criminalize all forms of gender-based violence. The Committee considers that the State party took steps towards the implementation of the recommendation, but that it needs to take further action to implement all measures recommended by the Committee. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

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

His Excellency
Mr. Jamshed Khamidov
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Tajikistan
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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The Committee recommends that, in relation to paragraph **26 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Adopt legislation criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence, marital rape and sexual assault within and outside marriage.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 31 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**accord priority to eliminating negative stereotypes and other barriers that hinder access for women and girls to education and that influence their choice to pursue traditional fields of education, take measures, including temporary special measures, and provide career counselling for girls on non traditional career paths in such fields as science, technology, engineering and mathematics**”:

The Committee welcomes the information on the steps taken to increase the access of women and girls to education, such as the provision of scholarships for women and girls to enrol in basic and secondary education and vocational training programmes, the availability of special educational courses targeting girls who dropped out of school, the review of school curriculum on topics focusing on right to education and the empowerment of women in the national workforce, and the inclusion of gender related courses in the training of teachers and employees in the educational sector. The Committee also notes that girls and women benefited from the project to strengthening vocational education and training, which includes guidance on training girls and women in non-traditional professions and providing them with employment. The Committee also takes note of the information by the State party on use of campaigns to highlight the importance of vocational education to encourage girls and women to pursue non-traditional professions. On the issue of eliminating negative stereotypes, the Committee notes the information on the efforts by the Commissioner for Human Rights, in cooperation with civil society organizations and local authorities, to raise awareness of the public through media and organizing seminars on issues such as early and forced marriage and the importance of birth and marriage registration. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the impact of these measures and on the access of girls and women to education and to pursue non-traditional career paths in such fields as science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Committee considers that the State party has provided evidence that it has taken substantial action towards the implementation of the recommendation, but that this action fails to respond fully to the recommendation. Thus, it considers that the recommendation has been **substantially implemented**.

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

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 31 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Promote and encourage girls and women to enroll in non-traditional fields of study, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including through orientation programmes and career counselling in secondary and higher education, and undertake periodic impact assessment of the implementation of the strategies and action plans on eliminating negative stereotypes and other barriers that hinder access for women and girls to education

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 46 (c)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**promote and encourage the official registration of marriages, including through awareness-raising initiatives, the removal from the Family Code of the requirement that women submit to a check-up prior to concluding a marriage contract, and the provision of infrastructure to make registration accessible**”:



The Committee takes note of the information by the State party on the organization of regular raising awareness events, with the participation of religious leaders, targeting the public and focusing on the prevention of polygamous unions, child and forced marriages, as well as holding trainings targeting religious leaders and *imams* to eliminate religious marriage. However, the Committee remains concerned about the lack of measures to repeal the mandatory check-ups for future brides and the provision of infrastructure to make registration accessible. The Committee considers that the State party took steps towards the implementation of the recommendation, but that it needs to take further action to implement all measures recommended by the Committee. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

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

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 43 (b) and (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

Enforce the provisions concerning registration of marriages and promote and encourage the official registration of marriages, including through the removal from the Family Code of the requirement that women submit to a check-up prior to concluding a marriage contract, and the provision of infrastructure to make registration accessible

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

Yours sincerely,

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