



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: DB/follow-up/VCT/68

28 November 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 to eighth periodic reports of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, at the Committee's sixty-first session, held in July 2015. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/VCT/CO/4-8) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 54 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 17 and 21 (d), (e), (g) and (h) of the concluding observations, namely:

“17. The Committee recommends that the State party familiarize all relevant State officials and policymakers with the concept and use of temporary special measures and adopt and implement such measures to promote substantive equality of women and men, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25, in all areas of the Convention in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged. Such measures could include, for example, gender quotas for political parties' electoral lists”

“21. The Committee urges the State party:

(d) To widen the definition of rape to include other forms of penetration, or establish new offences to cover such conduct, and to consider using the Caribbean Community model legislation on sexual harassment to do so;

(e) To provide sufficient technical, human and financial resources for the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act and the National Action Plan on Gender-based Violence and enhance cooperation with civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in that regard;

(g) To encourage women to report incidents of sexual and domestic violence by destigmatizing victims and raising awareness about the grave and serious nature of such acts;

Her Excellency
Ms. Inga Rhonda King
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(h) To develop protocols for the collection of information by the police, justice officials and health workers on domestic and other types of violence against women to systematize and institutionalize the collection, analysis and dissemination of comprehensive data on domestic violence that are disaggregated by age, sex, nationality, ethnic group, type of violence and relationship between the perpetrator and the victim”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 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 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 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