



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Serbia/62

14 December 2015

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 second and third periodic reports of the Republic of Serbia, at the Committee's fifty-fifth session, held in July 2013. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/SRB/CO/2-3) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 44 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Republic of Serbia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 17 and 23 of the concluding observations, namely:

“17. The Committee calls upon the State party:

- (a) To allocate substantial and sustained resources, both human and financial, to all national strategies, mechanisms and action plans aimed at the elimination of discrimination against women, especially disadvantaged women, and to ensure their effective implementation;
- (b) To take measures to harmonize its national strategies and action plans, in particular with those at the local level, and to enhance coordination between sectoral policymaking and implementation and horizontal and vertical coordination between the national and local levels, as well as to monitor and regularly evaluate the process of their implementation through reporting on progress achieved;
- (c) To adopt gender-specific measures in current and new national strategies and action plans to prevent and eliminate inequality and intersectional discrimination with regard to disadvantaged women;
- (d) To accelerate the development of indicators and benchmarks as an integral part of a monitoring and evaluation system and to ensure their regular use to measure progress and address setbacks in the improvement of the situation of women.”

His Excellency
Mr. Vladislav Mladenović
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia
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“23. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 (1992), on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To review and revise the Criminal Code, the Family Code and other relevant laws with a view to effectively preventing all forms of violence against women and protecting victims;

(c) To ensure effective investigation of cases of violence against women and to prosecute and punish perpetrators of such crimes with sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the crime;

(d) To ensure that all women victims of violence have adequate assistance and unhampered access to effective protection from violence, including by ensuring a sufficient number of shelters funded by the State and improving cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations in this respect;

(e) To ensure that the relevant authorities are aware of the importance of issuing emergency protection orders for women at risk and of maintaining such orders until the women are no longer at risk.”

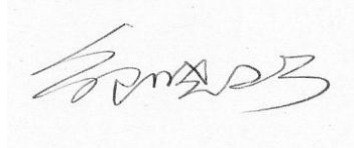
Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2015, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of the Republic of Serbia on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay.

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,



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