

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/80/South Africa/87

20 March 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 fifth periodic report of South Africa, at the Committee's eightieth session, held in October/November 2021. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/ZAF/CO/5](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 67 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested South Africa to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10 (b) (c), 28 (e) and 34 (b) of the concluding observations, namely:

“10. The Committee urges the State party to:

(b) Ensure systematic training for judges, prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officers on the strict application of criminal law provisions on gender-based violence against women and gender-sensitive investigation and interrogation procedures, and create an enabling environment for women and girls to report gender-based violence by addressing the stigmatization of victims, discriminatory stereotypes and judicial gender bias;

(c) Strengthen victim support services, including adequately funded shelters and safe houses, throughout the State party, in particular in rural and remote areas;”

“28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(e) Establish a standing inter-ministerial committee for the coordination of women's rights reporting obligations and follow up on implementation of the Committee's recommendations;”

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“34. Recalling 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 (2019) on harmful practices, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Criminalize the harmful practice of ukuthwala and ensure that all cases of ukuthwala and female genital mutilation are investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished, and that women and girls in such unions have access to protection, including adequate shelters, and victim support services.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in November 2022, 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 South Africa 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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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women