

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/83/St Kitts and Nevis/90

13 March 2025

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 combined fifth to ninth periodic reports of Saint Kitts and Nevis, at the Committee's eighty-third session, held in October 2022. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/KNA/CO/5-9](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 50 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Saint Kitts and Nevis to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13, 15 (a), 23 (a) and 37 of the concluding observations, namely:

“13. The Committee urges the State party to review its legislation to ensure that women without sufficient means and women belonging to disadvantaged groups have access to free legal aid and waivers of court fees, and to amend all legal provisions that, whether directly or indirectly, create different standards with respect to accessing justice for women of different socioeconomic status.”

“15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide adequate human, technical and financial resources to the national gender machinery in Saint Kitts and the Department of Gender Affairs of Nevis to enable them to effectively fulfil their mandate for the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming, and combat gender-based violence against women.”

“23. Recalling its general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, and in line with target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Criminal Code and relevant legislation to criminalize all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls, including physical, psychological, sexual, economic and domestic violence, as well as rape, including marital rape, child sexual abuse and sexual harassment.”

H.E. Ms. Mutryce Agatha Williams
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts
and Nevis to the United Nations
370 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2202 (Floor 22)
New York, NY 10017
E-mail: info@nymission.gov.kn

“37. Recalling its general recommendation No. 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women, and target 5.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a specific rural women’s development programme targeted at rural women, women farmers and women in fisheries, provide training in agroprocessing, fisheries, entrepreneurship and agribusiness management, facilitate special loans and access to land, as well as ensure the availability of public transportation in rural areas. It also recommends that the State party enhance rural women’s access to justice, education, employment, health-care services and land ownership.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in November 2024, 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 Kitts and Nevis 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-cesdaw@un.org.

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

Yours sincerely,



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