



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Sri Lanka/55

27 August 2013

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 combined fifth to seventh report of Sri Lanka, at the Committee's forty-eighth session, held in February 2011. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 52 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Sri Lanka to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 31 and 41 of the concluding observations, namely:

“31. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party take all necessary measures to increase the representation of women in politics and public life at the local, provincial and national levels. The Committee also urges the State party:

- (a) To pursue sustained policies aimed at the promotion of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making in all areas of public, political and professional life;
- (b) To fully utilize general recommendation No. 23 concerning women in public life and adopt temporary special measures, within a clear timeframe and with numerical targets, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25; and
- (c) To implement awareness-raising campaigns, including on the purpose of introducing temporary special measures, such as quotas or financial support to women candidates, and to highlight the importance to society as a whole of women's full and equal participation in leadership positions in all sectors and at all levels.”; and

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“41. The Committee urges the State party:

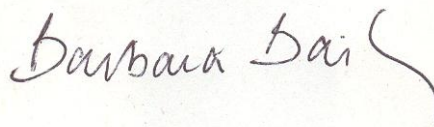
- (a) To protect women affected by the prolonged conflict, particularly the Tamil minority group, including internally displaced women and female ex-combatants, from any form of human rights violations;
- (b) To promptly investigate, prosecute and punish all acts of violence, including acts of sexual violence perpetrated by private actors as well as by the armed forces, the Police and militant groups;
- (c) To establish counselling centres for women to address the traumatic experiences, specifically with regard to sexual violence;
- (d) To provide adequate infrastructure for women IDPs and returnees especially housing and health facilities, water and sanitation;
- (e) To include provision for economic and social rights in post-conflict reconstruction including through the adoption of temporary special measures;
- (f) To ensure the freedom of movement of internally displaced women, wider access of international organizations to the conflict-affected population in the North of the country and the population's access to humanitarian aid;
- (g) To consider having an independent international accountability mechanism, in accordance with recent proposal of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, mandated to investigate the cases of serious violations of human rights, including women's rights, which have arisen in the last stages of the fighting in the State party; and
- (h) To include women in the country's post-conflict, reconstruction and peace building process”.

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2013, 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 Sri Lanka on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay. 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](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org). For ease reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of Follow-up reports by State parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara Bailey  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women