



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Albania/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 third report of Albania, at the Committee's forty-sixth session, held in July 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/ALB/CO/3) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 49 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Albania to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 27 and 35 of the concluding observations, namely:

“27. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 and its recommendations contained in its previous concluding observations (see A/58/38, para. 73), the Committee urges the State party to continue to put emphasis on comprehensive measures to address violence against women in the family and in society. The Committee calls upon the State party to amend, without delay, the Penal Code so as to establish marital rape as a specific criminal offence, to appropriately sanction and criminalize acts of domestic violence and to ensure that all cases of violence against women are swiftly prosecuted and punished. The Committee further recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that female victims of violence have immediate protection, including the possibility of expelling the perpetrator from the home, effective recourse to a shelter and access to free legal aid and psychosocial counselling. The Committee urges the State party to adopt measures to prevent suicides by victims of domestic violence. It recommends ensuring that public officials, especially law enforcement officials, members of the judiciary, health-care providers and social workers, are fully sensitized to all forms of violence against women. The Committee calls on the State party to systematize data collection on violence against women, including domestic violence. It recommends that structures be established to help female victims of violence to rebuild their lives, including through the creation of job opportunities. The Committee invites the State party to further pursue, in collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, including women's and other civil society organizations, awareness-raising campaigns through the media and public education programmes to make such violence socially unacceptable, and to continue seeking international assistance towards this end.”; and

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“35. The Committee calls upon the State party to take all necessary measures to improve women’s access to health care and health-related services, within the framework of the Committee’s general recommendation No. 24, and especially to address the unequal access of women and men in rural compared with urban areas of the country, and to step up efforts in relation to women and girls belonging to linguistic and ethnic minorities. The Committee requests the strengthening and expansion of efforts to raise awareness about access to affordable contraceptive methods throughout the country and to ensure that women in rural areas and women belonging to linguistic and ethnic minorities do not face barriers in accessing family-planning information and services. It also recommends that sex education be widely promoted and targeted at adolescent girls and boys, with special attention to the prevention of early pregnancy, especially in rural areas and for women belonging to linguistic and ethnic minorities, and the control of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, especially with a view to preventing mother-to-child transmission of the virus. The Committee calls upon the State party to increase efforts aimed at countering discrimination against and stigmatization and social exclusion of women living with HIV/AIDS.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2012, 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 Albania 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 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 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