



REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Zambia/56

15 November 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 and sixth report of Zambia, at the Committee's forty-ninth session, held in July 2011. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/ZMB/CO/5-6) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 49 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Zambia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 and 22 of the concluding observations, namely:

“14. The Committee reiterates its deep concern that the State party did not repeal article 23, paragraph 4, of the Constitution, which permits discrimination against women in the areas of law that most affect women, and that it has been maintained in the draft text of the proposed new Constitution. The Committee, while noting that a referendum is required to validate the draft Constitution, wishes to remind the State party of its duty to ensure that the Zambian Constitution is in line with the Convention and other international human rights obligations. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Ensure, as an immediate priority, that the provisions of the Convention are reflected in the proposed new draft Constitution which will be put up for referendum, and enact legislation to ensure that there is a prohibition against discrimination in line with article 1 of the Convention, which encompasses direct and indirect discrimination against women in all areas of life;

(b) Harmonize religious and customary law in keeping with the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 16”; and

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“22. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Prioritize and ensure adequate resources for the full implementation of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act and adopt comprehensive measures to address such violence, including domestic violence in accordance with the Committee’s general recommendation No. 19;

(b) Expeditiously criminalize marital rape;

(c) Strengthen training for the judiciary and law enforcement personnel and health-service providers in order to ensure that they are aware of the Anti Gender-Based Violence Act, that they provide adequate gender-sensitive support to victims and that they strengthen efforts to prosecute and punish perpetrators of rape and defilement;

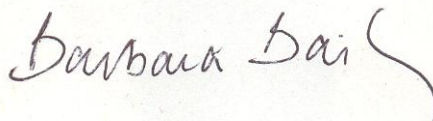
(d) Provide in its follow-up report information on the implementation of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act as well as other measures taken to prevent such violence, to investigate and prosecute reported cases, to punish perpetrators and to provide protection, relief and remedies, including appropriate compensation to victims and their families.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 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 Zambia 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. 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,



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