



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Republic of Korea/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 seventh periodic report of the Republic of Korea, at the Committee's forty-ninth session, held in July 2011. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/KOR/CO/7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 46 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Republic of Korea to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15 and 21 of the concluding observations, namely:

“15. The Committee calls on the State party to take urgent steps towards the adoption of a comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Act, in line with articles 1 and 2 of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 28 (2010), that includes a clear prohibition of all forms of discrimination, both direct and indirect, and takes into account article 2 (4) of the National Human Rights Commission Act (Korea, 2005), which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation”; and

“21. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

(a) Take the necessary measures to encourage the reporting of domestic and sexual violence cases, including by ensuring that education professionals, health-care providers and social workers are fully familiar with relevant legal provisions and are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and are capable of complying with their obligation to report cases;

(b) Review and amend the Criminal Code and other relevant legislation to remove provisions that require adult victims of sexual violence to file a complaint in order to have their cases prosecuted;

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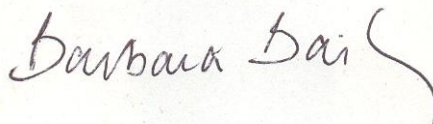
- (c) Take measures to increase the number of women police officers and steps to enhance their capacity to deal with cases of violence against women in a gender-sensitive manner;
- (d) Conduct awareness-raising campaigns for women, including foreign women, to make them aware of their rights and avenues of redress, including available measures for protection against and prevention of domestic violence;
- (e) Take all legislative measures necessary to criminalize marital rape, defined on the basis of lack of consent of the wife;
- (f) Collect data and conduct research on the prevalence, causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women, including violence in the domestic sphere, in line with the Committee's general recommendation No. 19 (1992), and use such data as the basis for further comprehensive measures and targeted interventions. The Committee invites the State party to include statistical data and the results of measures taken in its next periodic report."

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 the Republic of Korea 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,



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