



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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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 ninth periodic report of Denmark, at the Committee's seventy-eighth session, held in March 2021. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/DNK/CO/9](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 44 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Denmark to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11(a), 15(b), 21(a) and 35 (b) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/DNK/FCO/9](#)) received on time in March 2023 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its eighty-fifth session, held in May 2023, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 11(a)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**consolidate the Danish social model throughout the State party as a driving force for sustainable change, and use it as a catalyst for implementing measures, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, to redress long-standing inequalities between women and men by placing women and girls at the centre of recovery strategies, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, paying particular attention to unemployed women and women living in poverty, women belonging to ethnic or national minorities, indigenous women, older women, women with disabilities, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women, and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and intersex persons**”:

The Committee notes with interest the indication by the State party that, since the previous dialogue it has adopted new legislation and policies aimed at strengthening women's and LGBT+ person's opportunities and rights. It welcomes the entry into force in January 2023 of strengthened legislation on gender balance in management and on executive boards and the adoption of a bill that giving women the right to ten hours of free psychological help when they register at a women's shelter. It also notes with appreciation that the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and gender characteristics has been made explicit in legislation both inside and outside the labour market, and that a new LGBT+ action plan was launched in August 2022. The Committee regrets, however, that most of the legislation and measures do not seem to be explicitly centred on women and girls. It also regrets that no information was provided on measures aimed at women living in poverty, women belonging to ethnic or national minorities, indigenous women or older women.

The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive and that it relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.



The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 11 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions to:

Implement measures to redress long-standing inequalities between women and men by placing women and girls at the centre of recovery strategies, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, paying particular attention to, inter alia, women living in poverty, women belonging to ethnic or national minorities, indigenous women, and older women.

In relation to the recommendation in **paragraph 15(b)** that the State party “**accelerate the harmonization of legislation, while respecting the autonomy of the self-governing territories and the principle of subsidiarity, and adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women, including direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres and intersecting forms of discrimination, and ensure its consistent application throughout the territory of the State party**”:

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party that the Government of Greenland is in the process of revising the existing gender equality law with the aim of providing a better protection of all genders, including women, which will include a definition of forms of discrimination. It notes that in the drafting process, key stakeholders will be consulted for inputs and possible collaboration to ensure that intersecting forms of discrimination will be considered either directly in the legislation or by other means. It also notes the State party’s indication that the Government of the Faroe Islands will be revising the current Gender Equality Act which will potentially include reviewing intersecting discrimination, as well as reviewing and clarifying necessary definitions of direct and indirect discrimination in public and private spheres. However, the Committee regrets that there is no guarantee that direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres or intersecting forms of discrimination will be included in the definition of discrimination against women in legislation in either Greenland or the Faroe Islands.

Thus, the Committee considers that the State party has taken steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 15 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Accelerate the harmonization of legislation, while respecting the autonomy of the self-governing territories and the principle of subsidiarity, and adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women, including direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres and intersecting forms of discrimination, and ensure its consistent application throughout the territory of the State party.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 21 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**define consent in the new criminal provision on rape, strengthen awareness-raising and education with regard to the new definition of rape, specifically targeting young women and men, and introduce the consent-based definition of rape in Greenland and the Faroe Islands**”:

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party that, as per general custom, the definition of the term “consent” is found, not in the Criminal Code, but rather in the preparatory work to the provision which is considered the preparatory work is one of the most important sources of law in Denmark, and that the courts will rarely come to a different result, if

there is a clear definition in the explanatory statements accompanying the legislation. The Committee further notes that the teaching and guidance material for sex education in Denmark was updated in order to reflect the new consent-based rape provision and that the government launched a campaign with information about the new provision in December 2020. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party that since June 2022, the rape provision in the Faroese Criminal Code has been consent-based. It regrets, however, that non-consensual sex with a person in a “helpless state” is considered sexual abuse rather than rape.

Thus, the Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **substantially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive and that it relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 35 (b)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**collect comprehensive data on the causes of the high prevalence of suicide, including among girls, in Greenland and report thereon, including on measures taken to address them, in its next periodic report**”:

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party that population surveys are carried out in Greenland every 4 years and studies have shown that there is a correlation between stressful childhood situations and suicidal thoughts in later life. It also notes with interest that the Greenland cabinet (Naalakkersuisut) will publish a strategy to prevent suicide in 2023. The Committee regrets, however, that the information provided does not indicate that efforts were made to collect comprehensive data on the root causes of suicide and that it is not clear if in fact the only cause of the high prevalence of suicide in Greenland is a stressful childhood environment.

Thus, the Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is vague and incomplete even though it relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 35 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Collect comprehensive data on the causes of the high prevalence of suicide, including among girls, in Greenland and to address the root causes of suicide, including by providing detailed information on the Naalakkersuisut’s upcoming suicide prevention strategy.

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