



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Tanzania/57

8 April 2014

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 fourth to sixth periodic report of Tanzania, at the Committee's forty-first session, held in June/July 2008. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/TZA/CO/6). You may recall that in paragraph 61 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested the United Republic of Tanzania to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 17 and 27 above, namely:

“17. The Committee urges the State party to place high priority on completing the process of full domestication of the Convention. It calls upon the State party to accelerate its law review process and to work effectively with Parliament in ensuring that all discriminatory legislation is amended or repealed to bring it into compliance with the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations. It urges the State party to raise the awareness of legislators about the need to give priority attention to such reforms in order to achieve de jure equality for women and compliance with the State party's international treaty obligations. It encourages the State party to set a clear time frame for such reforms, including the passage of the proposed amendments to the Marriage Act of 1971, inheritance laws as well as the Law on the Custodian of Children. The Committee recommends that the State party seek technical support from the international community in this regard.”

“27. The Committee urges the State party to implement existing legislation prohibiting the practice of female genital mutilation and to adopt new legislation, as necessary, to eliminate this and other harmful traditional practices affecting all women. The State party should prohibit female genital mutilation in all instances, including in respect of women over 18 years of age, address the recent practice of female genital mutilation being performed on newborn baby girls, and strengthen the enforcement of the 1998 Act to ensure that offenders are prosecuted and adequately punished. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen its awareness-raising and educational efforts, targeted at both women and men, with the support of civil society, to eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation and its underlying cultural justifications. It also encourages the State party to devise programmes for alternate sources of income for those who perform female genital mutilation as a means of livelihood.”

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The Committee received the follow-up report in July 2012 (CEDAW/C/TZA/CO/6/Add.1). At its fifty-fourth session, held in February 2013 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and, in a letter of 19 March 2013 (see letter attached), the Committee made the following recommendations.

The Committee recommended that the State party provide, **by December 2013**, additional information on actions taken to complete the process of full domestication of the Convention, including by amending the Marriage Act of 1971, inheritance laws and the Law on the Custodian of Children and set a clear time frame for the finalization of the law review process in order to achieve de jure equality for women and compliance with the State party's international treaty obligations.

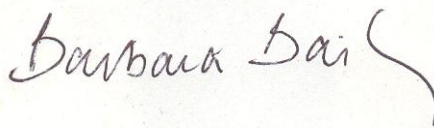
The Committee also recommended that the State party provide additional information on actions taken to:

- 1) Effectively enforce the existing legislation in order to reduce the practice of Female Genital Mutilation; adopt legal provisions which impose adequate punishment and which criminalize the practice of Female Genital Mutilation on women over 18 years of age; ensure that offenders are prosecuted and adequately punished; and address the practice of Female genital Mutilation being performed on newborn baby girls; and
- 2) Devise programmes for alternate sources of income for those who perform female genital mutilation as a means of livelihood

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Tanzania on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee invites the State party to include in its next periodic report, due in September 2014, the responses to the Committee's follow-up letter of 19 March 2013 (above-mentioned).

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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