



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Burkina Faso/55

27 September 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 sixth periodic report of Burkina Faso, at the Committee's forty-seventh session, held in October 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/BFA/CO/6) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 57 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Burkina Faso to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 22 and 50 of the concluding observations, namely:

“22. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation in full and, in accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, urges the State party to enact legislation on violence against women, including domestic violence, so as to ensure that violence against women is prohibited and sanctioned, that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished. In this regard, it urges the State party to give high priority to putting in place comprehensive measures to address all forms of violence against women and girls. The Committee encourages the State party to ensure that legal aid is provided to assist victims. It also recommends that the State party carry out educational and awareness-raising trainings for the judiciary and public officials, in particular law enforcement personnel, health service providers and social workers, community leaders and the general public so as to raise awareness and sensitization that all forms of violence against women are unacceptable and to provide adequate support to victims of all forms of violence against women. Further, it also reiterates its recommendation that the State party establish shelters and counselling services for victims of violence; “ and

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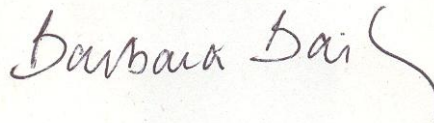
“50. The Committee urges the State party to repeal all laws relating to family life that are discriminatory towards women, and reiterates its previous recommendation that the State party eliminate those provisions in the Individual and Family Code relative to polygamy (arts. 257-262 of the Code) in accordance with article 16 of the Convention and article 14 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in light of the Committee’s general recommendation No. 21 (1994) on equality in marriage and family relations , urges the State party to accelerate the legislative reform of the Individual and Family Code so as to standardize the minimum legal age of marriage at 18 years for both women and men (art. 238 of the Code) (CEDAW/C/BFA/CO/4-5 para. 26) to ensure equality in family laws. The Committee further urges the State party to take all legal and other necessary measures to combat child marriages.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in November 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 Burkina Faso 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
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