



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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## *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Türkiye/89

13 November 2024

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 honor to refer to the examination of the eighth periodic report of Türkiye, at the Committee's eighty-second session, held in June 2022. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 62 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Türkiye to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 31 (a), 38 (a) and 40 (a) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/TUR/FCO/8](#)) received on time in July 2024 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its eighty-ninth session, held in October 2024, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 31 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**Amend the Penal Code, with a view to explicitly excluding crimes committed in the name of so-called ‘honour’ from the application of article 29 of the Code**”:

The Committee notes with appreciation the Law on Amendments to the Turkish Penal Code and Certain Laws, introduced in 2022 to combat violence against women, including the introduction of aggravated offences for certain crimes committed against women and inclusion of intentional injury committed against women as a reason for arrest under the Criminal Procedure Code. It takes note of the State party's indication that the legal justification of the article 29, explicitly excludes application of article 29 of the Penal Code to crimes committed in the name of honour. The Committee notes with regret, nevertheless, the lack of action taken to amend the Penal Code to explicitly exclude crimes committed in the name of so-called ‘honour’ from the application of article 29 of the Code.

The Committee considers that the action taken by the State party has not directly implemented the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

H.E Mr Burak Akçapar  
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The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive and 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 31 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Amend the Penal Code, with a view to explicitly excluding crimes committed in the name of so-called ‘honour’ from the application of article 29 of the Code.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 38 (a)** that the State party “**Adopt temporary special measures, such as statutory quotas and a gender parity system, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, to ensure the equal representation of women, in particular women belonging to ethnic minorities and women with disabilities, in the Grand National Assembly, provincial and municipal legislative bodies, the Government, the civil service and the foreign service, in particular at decision-making levels**”:

The Committee notes with interest Türkiye’s Twelfth Development Plan (2024-2028) and Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women’s Empowerment (2024-2028), addressing female representation and participation in decision-making mechanisms. In particular, the Committee welcomes the planned strategies to implement quotas and support programs. It also recognises the planned development and delivery of services with particular attention to the needs of women and girls with disabilities, entailed within the National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee regrets, however, that the temporary special measures envisaged do not demonstrate efforts towards a significant increase in representation of women and towards the goal of gender parity. It further notes with regret the lack of information provided on specific measures to ensure increased representation of ethnic minority women and women with disabilities.

The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation, but that this action fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

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

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 38 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Adopt temporary special measures, such as statutory quotas and a gender parity system, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, to ensure the equal representation of women, in particular women belonging to ethnic minorities and women with disabilities, in the Grand National Assembly, provincial and municipal legislative bodies, the Government, the civil service and the foreign service, in particular at decision-making levels.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 40 (a)** that the State party “**Ensure that women human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists can freely carry out their legitimate activities and create an enabling environment for them to advocate for women’s human rights**”:

The Committee takes note of the State party's indication that it organises regular consultations and meetings scheduled between itself and women's associations and civil society organisations. It notes with interest the development of the Women's Empowerment Strategy Document and Action Plan (2024-2028). The Committee notes with interest the State party's indication that the Anti-Discrimination Advisory Commission Meetings creates an enabling environment for human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists in advocating for women. It is concerned, however, at continuing reports of that women human rights defenders and activists are being subjected to arrest, physical assault, threats, intimidation, and harassment.

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

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive and 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 40 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Ensure that women human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists can freely carry out their legitimate activities and create an enabling environment for them to advocate for women's human rights.**

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