



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 sixth periodic report of the Republic of Moldova, at the Committee's seventy-fifth session, held in March 2020. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/6](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 49 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Republic of Moldova to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15 (a), 23 (f), 27 (a) and 41 (c) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/MDA/FCO/6](#)) received with a one year delay in February 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 15 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**resume, without delay, the activities of the Government Committee for Equality between Women and Men or consider establishing another body in the Cabinet responsible for the promotion of gender equality**”:

The Committee notes the State party's indication that it was unable to complete the process of transmitting the duties of the Government Committee for Equality between Women and Men into the mandate of the National Human Rights Committee, due to the limited decision-making power of the acting Government. It further takes note of the State party's indication that, with the establishment of the new Government in 2021, a decision will be taken about continuing the operation of the Government Committee for Equality between Women and Men.

The Committee considers that the State party took no steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has **not been 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 15 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions to:

Resume the activities of the Government Committee for Equality between Women and Men or establish another body in the Cabinet responsible for the promotion of gender equality.

In relation to the recommendation in **paragraph 23 (f)** that the State party “**Expedite the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.**”:

The Committee welcomes the ratification by the State party of the Istanbul Convention by Law No 144 of 14 October 2021, which was subsequently promulgated by the Presidential Decree No 197 of 19 October 2021 and takes note of the State party's indication that ensuring the harmonisation of the national legislation with the provisions of the Convention is a major priority.

Therefore, the Committee considers that the State party has provided evidence of the full implementation of all actions recommended by the Committee. It considers that the recommendation has been **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 27 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**adopt a law on hate speech and enhance the protection of women from hate speech, including through awareness-raising campaigns among politicians, monitor the use of discriminatory stereotypes and sexist language in political discourse and ensure effective remedies for victims**”:

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party that, a draft Law amending the Criminal Code to criminalise the actions of ‘incitement to violent actions based on prejudice’ and to substitute the words ‘social, national, racial or religious hate’ with ‘prejudice’ in the entire criminal law was adopted by Parliament in December 2016. In this regard, it is recommended to supplement the Criminal Code with the Article 134/1, which will define the term ‘prejudice’. In addition to a series of offences, the action committed ‘on grounds of prejudice’ shall constitute an aggravating circumstance. It also notes that incidences of sexist language were monitored during the Presidential elections in 2020 and the Parliamentary elections in 2021. The Committee regrets, however, that the information provided by the State party does not demonstrate that, apart from two seminars organised for publishers and journalists on equality and non-discrimination in 2021, other efforts, such as awareness-raising, have been undertaken to strengthen protection of women from hate speech despite the fact that, according to reports, hate speech has increased in the public space and in the media, as well as online media in the past years.

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 received from 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 **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 27 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

“Expedite the entry into force of legislation on hate speech and enhance the protection of women from hate speech, including through awareness-raising campaigns among politicians, monitor the use of discriminatory stereotypes and sexist language in political discourse and ensure effective remedies for victims.”

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 41 (c)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**Protect women and girls with disabilities from abuse and violence by regularly monitoring and establishing independent confidential complaint mechanisms in all residential institutions and psychiatric hospitals and ensure that no medical procedures may be performed on them without their free, prior and informed consent**”:



The Committee notes the information provided by the State party that institutions for persons with disabilities are endowed with video cameras in public places, which are installed, that there are information boards with accessible information for beneficiaries about their rights and responsibilities, and relevant contact numbers, and that civil society provide support in monitoring these institutions. It also notes the State party's indication, a number of institutions had unannounced monitoring visits in 2021. The Committee further notes the State party's indication that over the past 3–4 years, psychiatric hospitals did not register complaints concerning maltreatment, inhuman or degrading attitudes/actions, abuses or violence against patients, including against women and girls with disabilities. The Committee is concerned, however, at information received indicating that in fact cases of abuse and violence towards persons with disabilities in institutions, are not documented, that accessible informative boards for beneficiaries explaining their rights and the institutions they can address to complain of any issues are lacking, and that there is still high rate of aggressions between beneficiaries/patients, and attacks on the staff of the psychiatric or social care institutions. The Committee also regrets the lack of information on steps the State party has taken to ensure that no medical procedures may be performed on women and girls with disabilities without their free, prior and informed consent.

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 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 41 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

“Protect women and girls with disabilities from abuse and violence by regularly monitoring and establishing independent confidential complaint mechanisms in all residential institutions and psychiatric hospitals and ensure that no medical procedures may be performed on them without their free, prior and informed consent”.

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