



UNITED NATIONS
**HUMAN RIGHTS
TREATY BODIES**

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES 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/85/Iceland/92

24 February 2026

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the ninth periodic report of Iceland, at the Committee's eighty-fifth session, held in May 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/ISL/CO/9](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 48 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Iceland to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10, 12, 16 and 18 of the concluding observations, namely:

10: "The Committee recommends that the State party include the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations in the training programmes of the Judicial Administration and in capacity-building programmes for lawyers, judges, government officials, the police and other law enforcement officers."

12: "The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to raise awareness among women of their rights under the Convention and the remedies available to claim those rights, such as the individual communications and inquiry procedures under the Optional Protocol, including among women's organizations and women human rights defenders."

16: "Recalling its general recommendation No. 6 (1988) on effective national machinery and publicity, as well as the guidance provided in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, notably regarding the conditions necessary for the effective functioning of national machineries for the advancement of women, the Committee recommends that the State party consider transforming and elevating the status of the Department of Equality and Human Rights to that of a line ministry responsible for women's affairs, with adequate human, technical and financial resources to coordinate all public policies and strategies for gender equality and the advancement of women throughout the State party, including gender-responsive budgeting, and with gender units operating at the local level, in accordance with Act No. 150/2020, Act No. 151/2020 and the parliamentary resolution on the gender equality action programme for 2020–2023. The Committee also recommends that the State party conduct awareness-raising campaigns among

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women, in particular migrant women and women with disabilities, on the role and mandate of the Directorate of Equality and the Equality Complaints Committee.”

18: “Reiterating its previous recommendation ([CEDAW/C/ISL/CO/7-8](#), para. 14), the Committee recommends that the State party establish a national human rights institution with adequate human, technical and financial resources to carry out its mandate effectively, independently and in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and provide it with a robust mandate to promote and protect women’s human rights and gender equality. It also recommends that, once operational, the national human rights institution should apply to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions for accreditation.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in June 2025, 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.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Iceland on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder **within one month of the date of this correspondence**.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **3,150 words**, including footnotes. You may attach a limited number of annexes containing statistical data only which are not counted for the word limit. 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 ohchr-cesdaw@un.org.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jelena Pia-Comella', written over a horizontal line.

Jelena Pia-Comella

Rapporteur on follow-up

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women