



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org – cedaw@ohchr.org

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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 fifth periodic report of Turkmenistan, at the Committee's seventieth session, held in July 2018. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/5](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 59 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Turkmenistan to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 23 (a) and (c), 29 (a) and 35 (a) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received in July 2020 ([CEDAW/C/MUS/FCO/8](#)) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventy-ninth session, held remotely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in June 2021, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 23 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to: **“conclude, without delay, a survey on the prevalence of gender-based violence against women and ensure that it covers rural women, women with disabilities, older women, women belonging to minority groups and women in polygamous or de facto unions”**:

The Committee notes the information on the establishment of a working group to conduct a survey on domestic violence, women's health and the role of women in the family, in accordance with the national programme of action for ensuring gender equality (2015–2020). According to information by the State party, the working group collected and analysed data from the capital and five provinces in 2020 and the findings, which are being developed, will be submitted to the Interdepartmental Commission on Compliance with the International Obligations to guide further actions. Despite these measures, the Committee notes that according to the information by the State part the survey is based on a narrow focus on domestic violence only and not on all forms of gender-based violence. Furthermore, no information was provided if and how this survey covered gender-based violence against women belonging to vulnerable groups. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. Thus, it considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

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

His Excellency
Mr. Atageldi Haljanov
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Email: office@turkmenistanmission.ch

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 23 (c)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**develop a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women, on the basis of the results of the above-mentioned survey and with the participation of women, including a victim-centred approach that acknowledges women as rights holders, promotes their agency and autonomy and takes into account the particular situation of women affected by intersecting forms of discrimination**”:

The Committee takes note of the information on the legislative assessment implemented by the Parliament with the support of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on gender-based violence, which concluded the need of a legislative reform process. The Committee also notes the information on steps taken to review the plan for addressing gender-based violence by the Interdepartmental Commission on Compliance with the International Obligations in the Field of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, as well as the development of standard operating procedures for health, police and social services workers, based on the concepts of confidentiality and rights-based approach. On the issue of domestic violence, the Committee notes that the survey conducted by the working group will feed into the development of a strategy, which may include proposing legislative review on domestic violence. Moreover, the Committee notes with appreciation that the Parliament will prepare a draft law on the prevention of violence against women in family and domestic settings with a view to strengthening women's rights. However, the Committee remains concerned about the lack of a comprehensive strategy to combat all forms of gender-based violence, the exclusion of women from participation in related processes, as well as the lack of focus on women and girls belonging to disadvantaged groups. Thus, the Committee considers that the State party has taken no action to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information received from the State party is vague, incomplete, and fails to address the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 23 (a) and (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

(a) **Conduct a survey on the prevalence of all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls, ensuring that it covers rural women and women and girls belonging to other disadvantaged groups;**

(b) **Develop a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women on the basis of the results of the above-mentioned survey and ensure its full implementation, monitoring and assess its impact.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 29 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**simplify registration requirements for civil society organizations and ensure that there are no disproportionate restrictions on their activities;**”:

The Committee notes with appreciation that the Parliament prepared a draft law to amend the Public Associations Act of 2014, which was adopted in September 2020. According to information, the amendment decreases number of people required for registering a civil society organization. The Committee however, regrets the lack of detailed information on the scope of these amendments and their impact on the operation of civil society organizations. Thus, the Committee considers that the State party took steps towards the implementation of the recommendation, but that it needs to take further action to implement all measures recommended by the Committee. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.



The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough, but 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 29 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Accelerate the adoption of the amendment to the Public Associations Act of 2014 and ensure that civil society organizations, in particular women's rights organizations, are able to undertake their activities without undue restrictions.

With regard to the recommendation made in **paragraph 35 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“undertake a study to assess the impact of education reforms on eliminating occupational segregation and achieving the substantive equality of women and men in the labour market, with a view to identifying the specific and fundamental factors preventing women from taking full advantage of the free education system to acquire the necessary skills, from choosing non-traditional career paths and from gaining access to formal employment, including in higher-paying, male-dominated sectors”**:

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on the legislative and policy frameworks concerning equal access to education and employment. The Committee also notes the data on women's participation in professional education and training institutions and women's representation in the national labour force, which reflect a slight increase in 2019 compared to 2015. The Committee regrets the lack of steps taken to conduct a study on the impact of educational reform and to identify barriers in achieving equality in employment, as recommended by the Committee. Thus, the Committee considers that the State party has taken no action to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information received from the State party is vague, incomplete, and fails to address the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 35 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

Conduct a study to assess the impact of education reforms on eliminating occupational segregation and achieving the substantive equality of women and men in the labour market, with a view to identifying the specific and fundamental factors preventing women from taking full advantage of the free education system to acquire the necessary skills, from choosing non-traditional career paths and from gaining access to formal employment, including in higher-paying, male-dominated sectors.

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

Yours sincerely,

Louiza Chalal

Rapporteur on follow-up

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women