



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](mailto:registry@ohchr.org) – [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org)

REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Italy/57

8 April 2014

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for 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 Italy at the Committee's forty-ninth session, held in July 2011. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/ITA/CO/6). You may recall that in the concluding observations, the Committee requested Italy to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 23 and 27 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received in August 2013 (CEDAW/C/ITA/CO/6/Add.1) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its fifty-seventh session, held in February 2014 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 23** of the concluding observations to “put in place a comprehensive, sustained and coordinated policy, targeted at men and women, and boys and girls, to overcome the portrayal of women as sexual objects and the stereotypes regarding their roles in society and in the family, in accordance with article 2 (f) of the Convention. Such a policy should include legal, administrative and awareness-raising measures, involve public officials and civil society and target the entire population”: The Committee **did not receive information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

Regarding the recommendation to “mainstream gender equality and eliminate patriarchal stereotypes in the education system”: The State party indicated that the Ministry on Education has been developing a web page dedicated to Equal Opportunities in the school system, in which it describes recent teaching material, projects and plans carried out in the schools (para. 46 of the State party's follow-up report). The Committee notes that, in the above-mentioned webpage, the State party describes recent activities organized to address gender-based discrimination in the education system; however the State party failed to provide information on efforts made to eliminate the patriarchal stereotypes through measures targeting the entire population. The Committee considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

H. E. Mr. Maurizio Enrico Luigi Serra  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Italy  
to the United Nations  
Chemin de l'Impératrice 10  
1292 Chambésy

E-mail: [rappoi.ginevra@esteri.it](mailto:rappoi.ginevra@esteri.it)

Regarding the recommendation to “make gender equality issues and sensitivity training an integral, substantive and mandatory component of all teachers’ training, at all levels”: The State party mentioned that several initiatives of sensitization, information and training on prevention and combat of any form of violence and discrimination have been provided to students, parents and teachers, during the “Action week against violence” (para. 27 of the State party’s follow-up report). The Committee notes that the above-mentioned activities, including training, are only optional and temporary, and in its view they fail to focus on gender equality issues in all their complexity. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

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

- 1) Put in place a comprehensive policy to overcome the portrayal of women as sexual objects and the stereotypes regarding their roles in society and in the family, in accordance with article 2 (f) of the Convention;
- 2) Enhance its efforts in mainstreaming gender equality and in eliminating patriarchal stereotypes in the education system; and
- 3) Make gender equality issues and sensitivity training an integral, substantive and mandatory component of all teachers’ training, at all levels.

Regarding the recommendation made **in paragraph 27** of the concluding observation to “put emphasis on comprehensive measures to address violence against women in the family and in society, including through addressing the specific needs of women made vulnerable by particular circumstances, such as Roma and Sinti, migrant and older women and women with disabilities”: The State party indicated that it had adopted a National Action Plan against gender-based violence and stalking on 10 November 2010 (para. 12 of State party’s follow-up report). The State party mentioned the adoption of the Bill No. 724 concerning “Provisions for the promotion of the female subjectivity and the fight against femicide” and the Senate Act No. 764 “Introduction of the crime of femicide” (para. 56 of the State party’s follow-up report). In addition, in the context of the 2011 Roma strategy, the State party envisages the establishment of four working groups on housing, education, labour and health (para. 39 of the State party follow-up report). The Committee notes the steps taken towards addressing the needs of Roma people, while noting that integration policies of Roma people are not the most adequate responses to address the needs of Roma women who are exposed to violence. Moreover, the Committee notes that the National Action Plan against gender-based violence and stalking was adopted before the issuance of the concluding observations and that the State party failed to provide details on its implementation since then. In addition, the report is silent on measures taken to address specific needs of migrant and older women and women with disabilities. The Committee considers that it **did not receive sufficient information** to assess the level of implementation of the recommendation.

Regarding the recommendation to “ensure that female victims of violence have immediate protection, including expulsion of the perpetrator from the home, a guarantee that they can stay in secure and well-funded shelters, in all parts of the country, and that they have access to free legal aid, psychosocial counselling and adequate redress, including compensation”: The State party indicated that the 2010 National Action Plan against gender-based violence and stalking aims, among others, at ensuring and implementing a network of relevant anti-violence centres and shelters and securing adequate support for the victims nation-wide (paragraph 15 of the State party’s follow-up report). The State party failed to provide details on the implementation of this component of the Plan since the issuance of the concluding observations. It also failed to provide information on actions taken to ensure expulsion of the perpetrator from the home, to guarantee that women can stay in secure and well-funded shelters and that they have access to free legal aid, psychological counselling and adequate redress, including compensation. The Committee considers

that it **did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

Regarding the recommendation to “ensure that public officials, especially law enforcement officials and professionals in the judiciary, health care, social work and education are systematically and fully sensitized to all forms of violence against women and girls”: The State party indicated that one of the components of the 2010 National Action Plan against gender-based violence and stalking aims at adequately training and equipping with the appropriate tools all the social and health-care providers mandated to supporting victims and/or working in this area, with the ultimate goal of mainstreaming gender-based culture (paragraph 15 of the State party follow-up report). It added that the Ministry of Justice launched, in the biennium 2011-2013, confidence-building measures in the judicial sector to adequately protect victims of violence especially when rendering testimony against offenders (para. 58 of the State party’s follow-up report). The State party further mentioned the signature in 2011 of a Convention on training for law enforcement to uniform their approach to the victims of gender-based violence and provided detailed information on various training for Police officers and health care workers on domestic violence, stalking, discrimination against vulnerable groups, and trafficking in persons (paras. 67 to 71 of the State party’s follow-up report). The State party also provided information on sensitization and training provided to teachers during the “Action Week Against Violence” (para. 27 of the State party’s follow-up report). While noting that further training and awareness-raising are needed, the Committee considers that the State party took a significant number of measures to sensitize public officials to all forms of violence against women. The Committee considers that, for the period under consideration, the recommendation has **been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation to “enhance the system of appropriate data collection on all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, protection measures, prosecutions and sentences imposed on perpetrators, and conduct appropriate surveys to assess the prevalence of violence experienced by women belonging to disadvantaged groups, such as Roma and Sinti, migrant and older women and women with disabilities”: The State party indicated that a component of the 2010 National Action Plan against gender-based violence and stalking envisages a structured collection of data to better steer relevant policies (paragraph 15 of the State party’s follow-up report). The State party added that, to enhance the relevant exercise of the penal action, the Ministry of Justice launched, in the biennium 2011-2013, the possibility of defining modalities to collect relevant quantitative and qualitative data on all forms of discrimination against women and girls, to better steer local and national actions. The State party also indicated that, for the biennium 2013-2014, the National Office on Statistics (ISTAT) will carry out the second survey on violence against women, including on women with disabilities and migrant women subjected to violence (para. 117 of the State party’s follow-up report). The Committee notes the steps taken by the State party towards enhancing the system of data collection on all forms of violence against women. The Committee also notes that the second survey on violence against women has been planned for the biennium 2013-2014. However, the Committee notes that the State party failed to ensure that the estimates on prevalence of violence experienced by Roma, Sinti and older women will be provided under the survey. The Committee considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation to “further pursue, in collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, including women’s and other civil society organizations, awareness-raising campaigns through the media and public education programmes to make violence against women socially unacceptable, and disseminate information on available measures to prevent acts of violence against women among the general public”: The State party indicated that the 2010 National Action Plan against gender-based violence and stalking aims, among others, at raising awareness in a broad and adequate manner (paragraph 14 of the State party’s follow-up report). The Committee notes that the State party took some steps towards raising awareness among the general public. The Committee considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation to “ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, in a timely manner”: The report indicated that on 19 June 2013, the Bill to ratify the Istanbul Convention was approved (para.51 of the State party’s follow-up report). The Committee considers that the recommendation has **been implemented**.

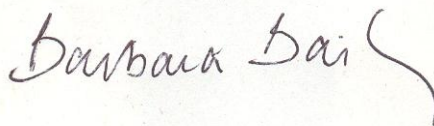
The Committee recommends that, in relation to paragraph 27 of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

- 1) Continue implementing the National Action Plan against gender-based violence and stalking (and provide more information on the content of this plan and outcomes of its implementation);
- 2) Put emphasis on comprehensive measures to address violence against women such as Roma and Sinti, migrant and older women and women with disabilities;
- 3) Continue its efforts to ensure that all the female victims of violence have immediate protection and guarantee that they can stay in secure and well-funded shelters, in all parts of the country;
- 4) Provide assistance to female victims of violence, including free legal aid, psychosocial counselling and adequate redress;
- 5) Further develop and implement awareness-raising activities about all forms of violence against women and girls; and
- 6) Enhance the system of appropriate data collection on all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, protection measures, prosecutions and sentences imposed on perpetrators, and conduct appropriate surveys to assess the prevalence of violence experienced by women belonging to all disadvantaged groups, including Roma and Sinti women and older women.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Italy on the implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



Barbara Bailey  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women