



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: DB/follow-up/Brunei Darussalam/66

26 April 2017

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 combined initial and second periodic reports of Brunei Darussalam, at the Committee's fifty-ninth session, held in October 2014. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/BRN/CO/1-2) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 50 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Brunei Darussalam to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9, 13 and 39 of the concluding observations, namely:

“9. The Committee strongly encourages the State party to consider withdrawing or narrowing down its general reservation and withdrawing its specific reservation to article 9 (2) of the Convention, with a view to ensuring that women fully benefit from all the rights enshrined in the Convention. It recommends that the State party use as examples the best practices of States parties with similar social, cultural, religious and legal systems that have withdrawn similar reservations and successfully brought their legislation into conformity with the Convention.”

“13. The Committee urges the State party to immediately review the new Sharia Penal Code Order 2013 with a view to repealing its direct and indirect discriminatory provisions affecting women.”

“39. The Committee recommends that the State party reform the Islamic Family Law Act, taking into consideration the experiences of countries with similar religious backgrounds and legal systems that have successfully harmonized their national legislation with their legally binding obligations under the Convention, specifically with regard to matters of property, divorce, inheritance and the requirement of authorization from the guardian (wali) in order to enter into marriage.”

His Excellency  
Mr. Dato Mahdi Rahmanp  
Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam  
to the United Nations Office at Geneva  
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Although the information sought by the Committee was due in October 2016, 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 Brunei Darussalam 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 **4000 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 [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org). For ease of reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of follow-up reports by States parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hilary Gbedemah'.

Hilary Gbedemah  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women