



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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12 September 2023

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 110<sup>th</sup> session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Estonia, pursuant to article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 and 44 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/EST/CO/12-13), adopted following the consideration of the State party's 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> reports, at its 106<sup>th</sup> session, held in April 2022.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its combined 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> periodic reports, which is due for submission, in a single document, by 29 August 2026.

***Paragraph 11 of the Concluding Observations***

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party that financial resources available to the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner that have increased year by year and the staff has since expanded to include an additional employee. However, the Committee takes note of the Commissioner's Office's concern that the technical and financial resources allocated to it remain insufficient for it to fulfil its mandate and recommends the State party to effectively address this issue. The Committee invites the State party to provide further

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information in its next periodic report on the increased base funding to improve the financial and human resources capacity of the Office of the Commissioner to enable it to implement its mandate fully. The Committee considers the response to this recommendation partially satisfactory.

***Paragraph 44 of the Concluding Observations***

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party on the efforts of the Social Insurance Board and Ministry of Justice to develop information materials on trafficking in persons. The Committee notes that hotlines for victim support and general information were established in 2019 and that the 2019 guidelines on human trafficking will be updated this year. The Committee remains concerned that information on measures adopted by the State party to address the special reception needs of asylum-seeking single women and to identify, prevent, and respond to sexual and gender-based violence is not provided. The Committee invites the State party to provide further information in its next periodic report, on the evaluation of the implementation and outcomes of the various measures taken, including statistics, to address the Committee's concerns. The Committee considers the response to this recommendation partially satisfactory.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Estonia, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



Verene Shepherd  
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination