



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: MK/follow-up/Singapore/75

11 March 2020

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 fifth periodic report of Singapore, at the Committee's sixty-eighth session, held in October-November 2017. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/SGP/CO/5) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 51 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Singapore to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in 17 (b) and 21 (a) and (b) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received on time in November 2020 (CEDAW/C/SGP/FCO/5) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventy-fifth session, held in February 2020 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 17 (b)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**in line with the Committee's general recommendation No. 25, apply temporary special measures, such as outreach or support programmes, targeted recruitment, hiring and promotion, quotas and numerical goals associated with time frames, in areas in which women continue to be underrepresented or disadvantaged, including public and political life and employment**”:

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party on the establishment of the Council for Board Diversity in January 2019 to increase the number of women on boards of listed companies, statutory boards and non-profit organisations. However, it remains concerned at the limited understanding of the nature and meaning of temporary special measures and the lack of information on temporary special measures that have been taken by the State party. The Committee considers that there is a **lack of sufficient information to make an assessment**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is incomplete and fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

His Excellency  
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The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 17 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party, **in its next periodic report**:

**Provide information on temporary special measures that have been taken by the State party, such as outreach or support programmes, targeted recruitment, hiring and promotion, quotas and numerical goals associated with time frames, in areas in which women continue to be underrepresented or disadvantaged, including public and political life and employment.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 21 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**systematically collect data on gender-based violence against women, disaggregated by age, nationality and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, as well as on the number of complaints about gender-based violence against women, investigations, prosecutions and convictions, and the sentences imposed on perpetrators**”:

The Committee welcomes that the State party collects data on rape and outrage of modesty, disaggregated by age, nationality and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, as well as the number of application for Personal Protection Order, Expedited Order, Domestic Exclusion Order and complaints about rape and outrage of modesty. Nevertheless, the Committee regrets that the State party does not provide information regarding data on other forms of gender-based violence, the number of investigations prosecutions and convictions and the sentences imposed on perpetrators. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

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

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 21 (b)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**provide mandatory and recurring capacity-building programmes to members of the judiciary, lawyers and law enforcement officers, including forensic medical personnel, as well as legislators and health-care professionals, to equip them to apply relevant criminal law provisions strictly in cases of gender-based violence against women and to treat victims in a gender-sensitive manner**”:

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party on various capacity-building programmes to members of the judiciary, judicial officers, prosecutors, police officers, medical professionals and medical social workers on gender-based violence and its effects on victims, and on how to treat victims in a gender-sensitive manner. While noting that the State party recognizes the importance to equip relevant officers with skills to apply provisions of criminal law strictly, the Committee regrets the lack of information on capacity-building programmes on the strict application of criminal law provisions. The Committee considers that the State party took substantial steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been substantially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, 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 21** of the concluding observations **in its next periodic report**, the State party:



**Provide information on mandatory and recurring capacity-building programmes to members of the judiciary, lawyers and law enforcement officers, including forensic medical personnel, as well as legislators and health-care professionals, to equip them to apply relevant criminal law provisions strictly in cases of gender-based violence against women.**

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lia Nadaraia".

Lia Nadaraia  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women