



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: DB/follow-up/Venezuela/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 seventh and eight periodic reports of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, at the Committee's fifty-ninth session, held in October 2014. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 48 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 19 and 31 of the concluding observations, namely:

“19. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) To accord priority to the full implementation of the Act on Women's Right to a Life Free from Violence, including by adopting the necessary regulations and protocols, and to reconsider the definition of femicide in the reform of the Act in order to ensure that it is in accordance with international standards;

(b) To adopt a national action plan on addressing violence against women and include specific measures to address all forms of violence, including the emerging violence that women experience online. The plan should also provide for a national violence coordination and monitoring mechanism, specific indicators and a clear time frame, as well as sufficient budget allocations, and ensure that all relevant stakeholders are specifically targeted;

(d) To ensure that women, including refugee and migrant women, have effective access to justice throughout the State party, by establishing specialized courts on violence against women in all states, including in rural areas and border zones, strengthening gender-sensitive complaints mechanisms, strengthening legal aid programmes, prosecuting and adequately punishing perpetrators of violence against women and compensating victims.”

His Excellency  
Mr. Mr. Jorge Valero  
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela  
to the United Nations Office at Geneva  
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“31. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) To enhance efforts to reduce maternal mortality by adopting a comprehensive strategy that provides for the effective implementation of the existing protocol on prenatal care and emergency obstetric care, a monitoring mechanism and adequate sexual and reproductive health services, including emergency contraception, antenatal, delivery, postnatal and post-abortion services. To that end, the State party is encouraged to consider the technical guidance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce preventable maternal morbidity and mortality ( A/HRC/21/22 and Corr. 1 and 2);

(c) To intensify efforts to reduce teenage pregnancies, including by ensuring access to age-appropriate information and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights for girls and boys.”

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 the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela 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,



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