

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Iceland/93

3 August 2026

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 ninth periodic report of Iceland, at the Committee's eighty-fifth session, held in May 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/ISL/CO/9](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 48 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Iceland to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10, 12, 16 and 18 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/ISL/FCO/9](#)) received under the CEDAW follow-up procedure on 27 March 2026, ten months after the two-year reporting period. The Committee examined the follow-up report during the intersessional period and adopted the following assessment on 31 July 2026.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 10** of the concluding observations that the State party "**include the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations in the training programmes of the Judicial Administration and in capacity-building programmes for lawyers, judges, government officials, the police and other law enforcement officers**":

The Committee notes that the State party's acknowledgement of the importance of strengthening knowledge on the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations among lawyers, judges, government officials, the police and other law enforcement officers and that it's indication that it is assessing how to build capacity on CEDAW and other UN human rights treaties among the relevant institutions.

Nevertheless, the Committee notes that no concrete steps have been taken since the May 2023 dialogue to include the Convention, its Optional Protocol or the Committee's general recommendations in training and capacity building programmes for justice sector actors.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken no concrete measures to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

H.E. Mr. Einar Gunnarsson
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The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates to the recommendation but lacks detail on the steps taken or planned to implement it. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is unsatisfactory.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 10** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Include the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations in the training programmes of the Judicial Administration and in capacity-building programmes for lawyers, judges, government officials, the police and other law enforcement officers.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 12** of the concluding observations that the State party "**intensify its efforts to raise awareness among women of their rights under the Convention and the remedies available to claim those rights, such as the individual communications and inquiry procedures under the Optional Protocol, including among women's organizations and women human rights defenders**":

The Committee notes the State party's indication that, based on the Parliamentary Resolution on a Gender Equality Action Plan for the years 2026–2029, “work will be carried out into next year to increase women’s awareness of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”. The Committee further notes the State party's indication that information material on the Convention, the Optional Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations will be prepared for the public in Icelandic, English and Easy-to-Read language, and that this material will be presented at a briefing meeting with women's organizations that safeguard women's human rights.

The Committee notes, however, that the measures described remain at the planning stage and that no concrete steps have yet been taken to implement the recommendation. Furthermore, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the measures expected to be undertaken based on the Parliamentary resolution.

The Committee considers that the State party has not taken steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates to the recommendation and outlines planned measures, but fails to report any steps already taken to implement the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 12** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Intensify its efforts to raise awareness among women of their rights under the Convention and the remedies available to claim those rights, such as the individual communications and inquiry procedures under the Optional Protocol, including among women's organizations and women human rights defenders.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 16** of the concluding observations to “**consider transforming and elevating the status of the Department of Equality and Human Rights to that of a line ministry responsible for women’s affairs, with adequate human, technical and financial resources to coordinate all public policies and strategies for gender equality and the advancement of women throughout the State party, including gender-responsive budgeting, and with gender units operating at the local level, in accordance with Act No. 150/2020, Act No. 151/2020 and the parliamentary resolution on the gender equality action programme for 2020–2023**” and to “**conduct awareness-raising campaigns among women, in particular migrant women and women with disabilities, on the role and mandate of the Directorate of Equality and the Equality Complaints Committee**”:

The Committee notes the State party's indication that the Department of Equality, now situated within the Ministry of Justice, has proven effective in coordinating public policies and strategies for gender equality, and that it does not intend to transform it into a line ministry. The Committee also notes the Directorate of Equality's information campaign titled "End Discrimination", available in Icelandic and English, aimed at raising awareness that discrimination is prohibited by law.

The Committee notes, however, that the State party does not intend to transform the Department of Equality into a line ministry. The Committee further notes that ensuring consistent gender mainstreaming across all areas of government and at the local level remains an ongoing challenge, as acknowledged by the State party itself. The Committee also notes that it remains unclear whether the awareness-raising efforts specifically target migrant women and women with disabilities, as expressly recommended.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement the recommendation, notably with regard to the awareness-raising campaign, but that further action is needed to implement all aspects of the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates to the recommendation but fails to respond fully to all its elements, in particular regarding the targeting of migrant women and women with disabilities in awareness-raising efforts and the adequacy of human, technical and financial resources of the relevant bodies. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 16** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Provide the Department of Equality and Human Rights with adequate human, technical and financial resources to coordinate all public policies and strategies for gender equality and the advancement of women throughout the State party, including gender-responsive budgeting, and with gender units operating at the local level, in accordance with Act No. 150/2020, Act No. 151/2020 and the parliamentary resolution on the gender equality action programme for 2020–2023, and to conduct awareness-raising campaigns among women, in particular migrant women and women with disabilities, on the role and mandate of the Directorate of Equality and the Equality Complaints Committee.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 18** of the concluding observations to “establish a national human rights institution with adequate human, technical and financial resources to carry out its mandate effectively, independently and in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and provide it with a robust mandate to promote and protect women’s human rights and gender equality” and that “once operational, the national human rights institution should apply to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions for accreditation”:

The Committee notes the State party's indication that, in 2024, Act No. 88/2024 on the Icelandic Human Rights Institution was adopted, with specific focus on compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles, annexed to General Assembly resolution 48/134), and that the institution commenced its operations on 1 May 2025. The Committee further notes the State party's indication that the institution will apply for accreditation to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions once possible.

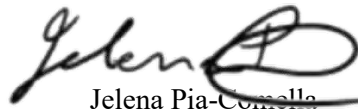
The Committee welcomes the establishment of the Icelandic Human Rights Institution as an important step towards the implementation of the recommendation. The Committee notes, however, that no information has been provided on the human, technical and financial resources allocated to the institution, nor on the specific mandate of the institution to promote and protect women's human rights and gender equality.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken substantial action towards the implementation of the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **substantially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and relates directly to the recommendation, but that it does not address all elements of the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

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

Yours sincerely,



Jelena Pia-Cornella

Rapporteur on follow-up

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women