



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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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 fifth to eighth periodic reports of Barbados, at the Committee's sixty-seventh session, held in July 2017. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/BRB/CO/5-8) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 56 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Barbados to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in 12 (c), 14 (a) and (b) and 34 (c) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received with a seven-month delay in February 2020 (CEDAW/C/BRB/FCO/5-8) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventy-sixth session, held remotely due to COVID-19 pandemic in July 2020, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 12 (c)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**provide capacity-building to all relevant State officials and policymakers and ensure a thorough understanding of the concept of substantive equality, in line with the Convention and the Committee's jurisprudence**”:

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party on the training of State officials to address gender-based violence and the Gender Sensitive Adjudication Training for the judiciary. However, it regrets the lack of information of capacity building on the concept of substantive equality, which is in line with the Convention and the Committee's jurisprudence, for all relevant State officials and policymakers. 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
Mr. Chad Blackman
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The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 12 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

Provide capacity-building to all relevant State officials and policymakers and ensure a thorough understanding of the concept of substantive equality, in line with the Convention and the Committee's jurisprudence.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 14 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**reform and strengthen the judicial system, including through the allocation of sufficient human, technical and financial resources and systematic capacity-building for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and other law enforcement officials on women's rights and gender equality, and raise awareness to eliminate the stigmatization faced by women who claim their rights**”:

The Committee welcomes that the State party conducted gender sensitive adjudication training for the judiciary in July and December 2019. However, it regrets the absence of information on the measures taken by the State party since the dialogue in 2017 to provide systematic capacity-building for prosecutors, lawyers, and other law enforcement officials, allocate sufficient resources, and raise awareness to eliminate the stigmatization faced by women who claim their rights. 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 notes 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**.

With regard to the recommendation made in **paragraph 14 (b)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**give priority to the establishment of courts specializing in family law and ensure that the police and courts address complaints from women about gender-based violence in an expeditious, efficient and gender-sensitive manner**”:

The Committee welcomes the actions taken by the State party to establish a Family Court with appointing a Consultant to monitor the process. It also takes note of the information on the training of police officers to ensure the implementation of the revised Sexual Offences Act, which requires them to respond to all complaints of domestic violence, and the establishment of an internal working committee in 2019 to develop a national framework addressing gender-based violence in line with human rights norms. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned about the insufficient information on the measures taken to ensure gender-sensitive investigation in case of gender-based violence by the police and whether the courts address complaints of gender-based violence from women in an expeditious, efficient and gender-sensitive manner. 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 notes 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 14** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

1. Continue efforts to provide training on gender equality for the judiciary, ensure systematic capacity-building for prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and other law



enforcement officials on women's rights and gender equality, and allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources to strengthen the judicial system;

2. Raise awareness to eliminate the stigmatization faced by women who claim their rights;

3. Increase family courts, monitor the impact of training provided to the police and the judiciary on gender-based violence or gender equality, and provide additional capacity-building for the police and the judiciary, if necessary, to ensure that the police and courts address complaints from women about gender-based violence in an expeditious, efficient and gender-sensitive manner.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 34 (c)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**expedite the adoption of the Sexual Harassment (Prevention) bill**”:

The Committee welcomes that the Employment Sexual Harassment (Prevention) Act, which protects employees from sexual harassment in the workplace in the public and private sectors, came into force in December 2017. The Committee considers that the State party took significant steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, and responds directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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