



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 honour to refer to the examination of the sixth periodic report of Lithuania, at the Committee's seventy-fourth session, held in October and November 2019. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/6](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 51 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Lithuania to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 23 (c) and (e), 37 (b) and 43 (d) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received on time in October 2021 ([CEDAW/C/LTU/FCO/6](#)) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its eighty-first session, held in February 2022, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 23 (c)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“monitor and assess the responsiveness of members of the judiciary, prosecutors and police in cases of gender-based violence, including sexual violence and domestic violence, introduce mandatory capacity-building for judges, prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officers on the strict application of criminal law provisions on gender-based violence against women and on gender-sensitive investigation procedures and effectively prosecute and punish the perpetrators of all forms of gender-based violence”**:

The Committee welcomes the development and approval of an action plan to implement the concluding observations by the CEDAW Committee on Lithuania's sixth periodic report, which includes plans to collect statistical data on cases of domestic violence and to add capacity building on gender-based violence against women to the training programme of judges. The Committee is concerned, however, that these activities are planned for the 4th quarter of 2022 only, or are contingent on the 'receipt of additional financing' and necessity respectively. Further, the Committee notes that in December 2022, courses on domestic violence were organized for criminal law judges, but it regrets the lack of information on whether these courses are mandatory and recurrent for criminal law judges and other professionals in the judiciary. Finally, the Committee notes the reference to Article 3 of the Law on Courts in the Republic of Lithuania, with regard to the independence of judges. Nevertheless, it regrets the absence of information on the steps taken by Lithuania to monitor and assess the responsiveness of members of the judiciary, prosecutors and police in cases of gender-based violence, including to ensure the effective prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of all forms of gender-based violence.

The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

H.E. Mr. Darius Staniulis
Permanent Representative

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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**.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 23 (e)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**adopt legislation to establish a stand-alone civil protection order procedure for victims of domestic violence**”:

The Committee welcomes the draft Law on Protection against Domestic Violence of the Republic of Lithuania, which would provide for orders for protection against domestic violence. However, it remains concerned that granting the protection order would not be a stand-alone civil procedure and that protection orders would expire under certain conditions at the start of a pre-trial investigation. Further, it regrets the absence of information on a timeframe for the adoption of the law.

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 23 (c) and (e)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

1) **Increase its efforts to monitor and assess the responsiveness of members of the judiciary, prosecutors and police in cases of gender-based violence, including sexual violence and domestic violence, introduce mandatory capacity-building for judges, prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officers on the strict application of criminal law provisions on gender-based violence against women and on gender-sensitive investigation procedures, and effectively prosecute and punish the perpetrators of all forms of gender-based violence; and**

2) **Adopt, without delay, legislation to establish a stand-alone civil protection order procedure for victims of domestic violence.**

With regard to the recommendation made in **paragraph 37 (b)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**strengthen measures to address horizontal and vertical occupational segregation and enhance access for women to the labour market, including for women who have reached pensionable age and disadvantaged groups of women, such as migrant women, Roma women, rural women, older women and women with disabilities, including under the action plan for the integration of Roma into Lithuanian society, 2015–2020, which is also aimed at the economic empowerment of Roma women**”:

The Committee notes with appreciation the amendments to the Law on the National Social Insurance of the Republic of Lithuania and the measures taken under the national programme on equal opportunities for women and men of 2015–2021, under the Plan for Implementation of the Recommendations and under the interinstitutional cooperation agreement of 2021. However, the Committee remains concerned about the absence of information on whether these strategies and activities have incorporated a gender dimension, especially in relation to women who have reached pensionable age and disadvantaged groups of women. Further, while some limited statistical data is provided by the State party, the Committee is concerned that it is not clear how and whether these strategies have effectively decreased horizontal and vertical occupational segregation and enhanced access for women to the labour



market, including for disadvantaged groups of women. It further notes the lack of information on the outcome of and follow-up to the inspections and consultations undertaken by the State Labour Inspectorate in 2020 and 2021. The Committee welcomes the steps taken to integrate Roma women into the labour market, but regrets the absence of information on the specific measures taken to support other disadvantaged groups of women.

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 37 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Accelerate efforts to address horizontal and vertical occupational segregation and to enhance access for women to the labour market, including for women who have reached pensionable age and disadvantaged groups of women, such as migrant women, Roma women, rural women, older women and women with disabilities, and to systematically monitor and evaluate progress.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 43 (d)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**ensure that women and girls with disabilities have the right to decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence**”:

The Committee takes note of the reference to Article 14 of the Law on the Rights of Patients and Compensation of the Damage to their Health of the Republic of Lithuania, which addresses the prohibition of the provision of health care services without the patient's consent. However, it regrets the lack of information on the specific rights of women and girls with disabilities and the measure taken to ensure that they can decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

Thus, the Committee considers that the State party has provided some information, but that it is insufficient to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented. It considers that there is **lack of sufficient information to make an assessment**.

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

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 43 (d)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Ensure that women and girls with disabilities have the right to decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

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



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Louiza Chalal'.

Louiza Chalal
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women