



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Dear Mr. Lapasov,

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 the Republic of Uzbekistan, at the Committee's sixty-second session, held in November 2015. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/5) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 43 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Uzbekistan to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10 a) and b) and 18 a) and e) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received on time in November 2017 (CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/5/Add.1) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its sixty-ninth session, held in March 2018 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 10** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**carry out, within a clear time frame, a comprehensive legislative review and adopt new legislation in order to bring its national law into line with the provisions of the Convention**”: The State Party reported that in the period 2014–2016, it carried out a far-reaching and comprehensive study of its legislation, with a view to developing specific proposals, in consultation with women's NGOs of all regions of the State party, for the implementation of effective temporary special measures aimed at enhancing the status of women, the promotion of equal conditions and opportunities and for the realization of the rights of women and men in all spheres of society. The State Party further informed that at the time of the follow-up report, a national action plan has been developed for the upgrading of legislation, and the boosting the status of women through their participation in legislative elections, their appointment to senior posts in executive bodies and their empowerment in the workplace and in labor relations.

It also reported that the penalties on the coercion of a woman into sexual intercourse have been stiffened with a custodial sentence of between three and five years, and that Articles 130-1, on the manufacture, import, dissemination, advertising or display of products that promote a culture of violence or cruelty, Article 133, on the removal of human organs or tissue, and Article 138, on the forcible and unlawful deprivation of liberty have been added to the Criminal Code. The State party further informed that in 2017, the Commission on Women and Youth was set up in the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis.

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The State Party also reported that further improvements to the legislation on women's rights were discussed at international conferences on the role of women, at special meetings of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan on implementing the recommendations of the Committee, at a conference on the legal regulations against direct and indirect discrimination against women, at a conference on the conceptual framework for the protection of the family, motherhood and childhood, at a conference on the role of female entrepreneurship in the economy of Uzbekistan and its development prospects and at a forum of women's civil society organizations, and at other gatherings.

While welcoming the amendments made to the Criminal Code and acknowledging the steps taken towards improving the legislation on women's rights, the Committee encourages the State party to continue its efforts to bring the national legislation in full compliance with the provisions of the Convention. 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 State party has provided thorough and extensive information that relates directly to the recommendation. It therefore considers that the information provided is **satisfactory**.

With regards to the recommendation urging the State party to “**accelerate the adoption of the bill on equal rights and opportunities for men and women and the bill on violence in the family and ensure that they fully comply with the Convention**”: The State Party reported that over the period 2016 – 2017, the National Centre for Human Rights carried out supplementary expert appraisals of the bill in more than 40 State bodies and non-governmental organizations and that in 2017, the bill was forwarded to the Ministry of Justice and the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan for their consideration. In addition, the State party informed that discussions on the adoption of the bill on the prevention of domestic violence, with the aim of protecting children and women are underway and that proposed amendments to the Family Code to raise the marriageable age of girls from 17 to 18, which were submitted by the Women's Committee, are under consideration by the Legislative Chamber.

The Committee takes note of the measures taken by the State party with regards to accelerating the adoption of the bill on equal rights and opportunities for men and women and the bill on domestic violence. However, the Committee regrets that such bills have not been adopted since the last review of the State party. It considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement its recommendation. It thus considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided is vague and incomplete, and fails to address the recommendation. It therefore considers that 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:

1. **Bring, within a clear time frame, the national law into line with the provisions of the Convention, building on the review of legislation which has been undertaken.**
2. **Finalize the draft and adopt the bill on equal rights and opportunities for men and women and the bill on domestic violence, referred to by the State party as violence in the family.**

With regards to the recommendation made in **paragraph 18** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**accelerate the adoption of the bill on the prevention**

of violence in the family and to adopt comprehensive measures to prevent and address violence against women and girls”: The State party reported that a wide-ranging discussion has been launched and is now under way on the bill on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, with the aim of Protecting Children and Women. It also reported that the bill includes a legal definition of the concepts of “violence in the family” (economic, physical, psychological and sexual violence) and “victim of violence”, and sets in place measures for general and individual prevention.

The Committee welcomes the information on the steps taken by the State Party towards the adoption of the bill on the prevention of violence in the family. It is however concerned that the State party has not provided a clear time frame for its adoption. The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the State party has provided thorough and extensive information that relates directly to the recommendation. It therefore considers that the information provided is **satisfactory**.

Regarding the recommendation, urging the State party to “**ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress, including compensation, and protection, and that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished**”: The State Party reported that the pending bill on family violence defines the powers of State authorities to prevent domestic violence and for the provision of assistance to victims, including through temporary refuge. The State party further informed on the current availability of nine centres for the social and legal support of women and of 170 consultative centres in the regions for women, which operate on a voluntary basis, and that those centres grant psychological and material assistance to women, legal support in judicial proceedings and offer temporary housing. It added that these centres also offer assistance through a helpline. The State Party further reported that measures within the bill on family violence for addressing family violence include an official warning issued to the perpetrator of an administrative offence in family or domestic relations stipulating the inadmissibility of such illegal behaviour, the placement of the perpetrator on a list of designated domestic trouble-makers and the possibility of the issuance of a restraining order (imposing restrictions on specific activities of the perpetrator of domestic violence). Moreover, the State party informed that all complaints lodged by citizens in connection with any form of domestic violence are registered and investigated in the prescribed manner by the internal affairs agencies. It added that in cases in which, as a result of domestic violence, a person has suffered minor bodily harm without prejudice to health, a case file is opened for the purpose of instituting administrative proceedings against the offenders under article 52 of the Code of Administrative Liability and that those cases are referred to the court in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law.

The Committee welcomes the steps taken by the State Party to adopt comprehensive measures to address violence against women and girls. Taking note of the availability of centres for the social and legal support for women and of regional consultative centres, which offer temporary housing, it regrets the lack of planned measures to ensure the victims’ access to compensation, prosecution of perpetrators and adequate punishment. The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided is vague and incomplete, and fails to address the recommendation. It therefore considers that the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

With regards to the recommendation urging the State party to “**collect statistical data on domestic, sexual and other forms of violence against women, disaggregated by age and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator**”: The state party did not provide

statistical data on domestic, sexual and other forms of violence against women, disaggregated by age and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

The Committee regrets the failure by the State Party to provide statistical data on domestic, sexual and other forms of violence against women, disaggregated by age and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. The Committee considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is vague and incomplete, and fails to address the recommendation. It therefore considers that the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 37** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

1. **Ensure that the bill on the prevention of violence in the family is implemented through comprehensive measures to prevent and address violence against women and girls.**
2. **Ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress, including compensation, and that perpetrators of such violence are prosecuted and adequately punished.**
3. **Collect statistical data on domestic, sexual and other forms of violence against women, disaggregated by age and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.**

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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