



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Turkmenistan/61

22 September 2015

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for 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 combined third and fourth periodic reports of Turkmenistan at the Committee's fifty-third session, held in October 2012. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4). You may recall that in the concluding observations, the Committee requested Turkmenistan to provide, within two years, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 15 and in paragraph 23 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received with a four-month delay in February 2015 (CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/3-4/Add.1) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its sixty-first session, held in July 2015 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 15** of the concluding observations that the State party “establish one centralized national machinery for the advancement of women with a clearly defined mandate and responsibilities and provide it with adequate human, financial and technical resources for it to coordinate and work effectively for the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming”: The Committee considers that **it did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “provide training on women's rights, to women and men working in the national machinery for the advancement of women”: The Committee considers that **it did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

His Excellency  
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Regarding the recommendation that the State party “adopt a National Action Plan for the implementation of the Convention, with a focus on the implementation of the present concluding observations”: The State party indicated that, on 22 January 2015, the Head of State approved a National Programme of Action for Ensuring Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020, which sets out a general strategy and national policy priorities for gender equality. Moreover, it mentioned that the National Programme of Action is consistent with the basic provisions of the Convention and takes into account the concluding observations issued by the Committee in October 2012. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the National Programme of Action for Ensuring Gender Equality (2015-2020). It considers that the recommendation **has been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “strengthen its impact assessment mechanisms so as to ensure that its gender equality policies are properly monitored and evaluated and their implementation assessed”: The Committee considers that **it did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to paragraph 15 of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

- 1) Establish one centralized national machinery for the advancement of women with a clearly defined mandate and responsibilities and provide it with adequate human, financial and technical resources for it to coordinate and work effectively for the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming;
- 2) Provide training on women’s rights, to women and men working in the national machinery for the advancement of women; and
- 3) Strengthen its impact assessment mechanisms so as to ensure that its gender equality policies are properly monitored and evaluated and their implementation assessed.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 23** of the concluding observations that the State party “expeditiously adopt a comprehensive law addressing all forms of violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, and ensuring that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and further ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished”: The State party indicated that the Parliament of Turkmenistan has created a working group to prepare an amended version of the 2007 Law on State Guarantees of the Equality of Women. The Committee considers that the State party failed to adopt a comprehensive law addressing all forms of violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, and ensuring that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and further ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished. The Committee considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “develop a comprehensive national plan to combat all forms of violence against women”: The State party mentioned that the combat against all forms of violence against women is set out as a priority area in the National Programme of Action for Ensuring Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020. The Committee considers that the State party failed to develop a comprehensive national plan to combat all forms of violence against women. It considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “raise public awareness, through the media and educational programmes and to provide mandatory training for judges, prosecutors, police officers, health-service providers, journalists and school staff in order to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and girls and can provide adequate gender-sensitive support to victims”: The State party indicated that seminars and round tables were held in 2013 and 2014 for employees of State structures and representatives of law enforcement agencies, local administrative agencies, and public associations on international standards and mechanisms for protecting human rights, including the rights of women, as well as on gender equality. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps towards the implementation of the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “encourage women to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence by de-stigmatizing victims and raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts and to provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence by establishing shelters, especially in rural areas, and enhancing cooperation with non-governmental organizations providing shelter and rehabilitation to victims”: The Committee considers that **it did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “collect statistical data on domestic and sexual violence disaggregated by sex, age, nationality and relationship between victim and perpetrator, and undertake studies and/or surveys on the extent of violence against women and its root causes”: The State party mentioned that preparations are under way to conduct studies/surveys on the extent of violence against women, as well as on the forms and root causes of such violence. Accordingly, seminars were held in November 2014 to examine the methodology for conducting sample surveys on domestic violence, as well as for collecting and processing data on such violence. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to improve the methodology for collecting and processing statistical data on domestic violence, as well as for conducting studies/surveys on the extent and root causes of such violence. However, the Committee considers that the State party failed to take measures to collect statistical data on sexual violence disaggregated by sex, age, nationality and relationship between victim and perpetrator. The Committee considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to paragraph 23 of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

- 1) Expeditiously adopt a comprehensive law addressing all forms of violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, and ensuring that women and

girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and further ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished;

2) Develop a comprehensive national plan to combat all forms of violence against women;

3) Raise public awareness, through the media and educational programmes and provide mandatory training for judges, prosecutors, police officers, health-service providers, journalists and school staff in order to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and girls and can provide adequate gender-sensitive support to victims;

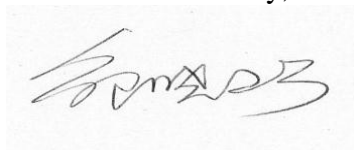
4) Encourage women to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence by de-stigmatizing victims and raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts and to provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence by establishing shelters, especially in rural areas, and enhancing cooperation with non-governmental organizations providing shelter and rehabilitation to victims; and

5) Collect statistical data on domestic and sexual violence disaggregated by sex, age, nationality and relationship between victim and perpetrator, and undertake studies and/or surveys on the extent of violence against women and its root causes.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Turkmenistan on the implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



Xiaoqiao Zou  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women