



E:KF/fup-116

15 April 2016

Excellency,

In my capacity as Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee, I have the honour to refer to the follow-up to the examination of the fifth periodic report of Iceland.

At the end of its 105th session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that, in paragraph 17 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 7 and 15 of the concluding observations.

On 14 July 2015, the Committee received the reply of the State party. At its 116th session, held in March 2016, the Committee analysed this information and adopted the following decisions:

- Paragraph 7: **[B2]**: The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts to implement the Committee's recommendation, including the adoption of the Plan of Action on Gender Equality Regarding Wages adopted in October 2012. Additional information is required on:
 - (i) the progress of the Executive Committee on Gender Wage Equality in developing a plan of action and in reducing gender-based wage discrimination;
 - (ii) the impact of the Plan of Action on Gender Equality Regarding Wages and its task force;
 - (ii) the findings of the Ministry of Finance Committee and of the Government audit of Icelandic companies; and
 - (iii) the efforts by the State party to introduce measures to increase the representation of women in decision making positions, in particular the Foreign Service, the judiciary, and academia.
- Paragraph 15: **[C1]**: The Committee notes that the State party has not provided further information on measures taken to ensure that all cases of sexual abuse of children are effectively and promptly investigated, and that perpetrators are brought to justice. The Committee requests additional information on:
 - (a) Complaint mechanisms available;
 - (b) Number of complaints received in the last 3 years; and
 - (c) Number of cases brought before courts in the last 3 years, convictions and acquittals.

[B1]: The Committee notes the training conducted for the police force on investigation and prosecution of sexual abuse of children, and welcomes the



efforts made by the State party regarding education about child sexual abuse. Additional information is required on the State party's plans to make education about child sexual abuse and prevention a formal and permanent part of the curriculum for professionals working with children, and measures taken to ensure sufficient funding for these activities. Please provide information on the consultative group established to evaluate the situation of sexual abuse of children and how their recommendations are being implemented, as well as any other steps taken by the State party since July 2015 to establish Government-coordinated measures aimed at preventing child sexual abuse.

The Committee would appreciate it if the information referred be forwarded to the Secretariat **by 10 June 2016**. The reply should be sent in Word electronic version to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee (Kate Fox: kfox@ohchr.org and Fernanda Santana: fsantana@ohchr.org). The information will then be scheduled for consideration at a future session.

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

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

Sarah Cleveland
Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations
Human Rights Committee

His Excellency
Mr. Martin Eyjólfsson
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
Fax: 022 716 17 07