



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Namibia/91

4 July 2025

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 sixth periodic report of Namibia, at the Committee's eighty-second session, held in June 2022. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 61 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Namibia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 (b), 16 (a), 28 (d) and 54 (b) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/NAM/FCO/6](#)) received with more than five months delay on 30 December 2024 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its ninety-first session, held in June and July 2025, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 12 (b)** of the concluding observations which urged the State party to **“strengthen efforts to establish a national database, containing gender-disaggregated data, to track the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee”**:

The Committee takes note of the approval of the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) by Cabinet directive in 2021 and the Ministry of Justice's efforts to cluster various recommendations in spreadsheet format to track compliance with treaty body recommendations, including CEDAW recommendations. The Committee regrets, however, that the database has not yet been finalized or made publicly available.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken initial steps toward implementing the recommendation but that significant work remains to be completed. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

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The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates directly to the recommendation but demonstrates limited progress in establishing the operational database. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 12 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Strengthen efforts to establish a national database, containing gender-disaggregated data, to track the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 16 (a)** that the State party “**accelerate the adoption of all bills aimed at ensuring formal and substantive equality of women and men, and incorporate a gender-sensitive approach in all relevant legislation**”:

The Committee takes note of the introduction of the Dissolution of Marriages Act, 2024, which streamlines the divorce process and provides guidelines for asset division and maintenance arrangements, as well as the passage of a new Marriage Act by Parliament. It notes with appreciation the amendment and promulgation of legislation addressing gender-based violence, including the Combating of Rape Amendment Act, 2022, and the Combating of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2022. The Committee regrets, however, that the Marriage Act and Dissolution of Marriages Act are not yet operational due to the absence of implementing regulations. The Committee further regrets the lack of information on other pending bills aimed at ensuring formal and substantive equality between women and men, as well as the absence of details on how a gender-sensitive approach has been incorporated in the development and review of relevant legislation.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement the recommendation but that further action is required to accelerate adoption and operationalization of equality legislation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates directly to the recommendation but is limited in scope regarding the broader legislative agenda for gender equality. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 16 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Accelerate the adoption of all bills aimed at ensuring formal and substantive equality of women and men, and incorporate a gender-sensitive approach in all relevant legislation;

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 28 (d)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**Ensure that police officers trained in responding to gender-based violence are based at each police station, and ensure effective access to protection orders, reparations, shelters and psychosocial treatment and counselling for women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence in all parts of the State party**”:



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The Committee takes note of the State party's reference to the use of a Pocket Manual for Law Enforcement and the training of approximately 1,207 police officers. The Committee regrets, however, that no information has been provided on whether trained police officers are stationed at each police station, as recommended. It further regrets the absence of detailed information on the specific content and scope of capacity-building programs for police officers beyond the mention of a pocket manual. The Committee is particularly concerned about the complete lack of information on measures taken to ensure effective access to protection orders, reparations, shelters, and psychosocial treatment and counselling for women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence in all parts of the State party. The Committee notes that while the State party mentions that GBV Protective Units offer various services, no information is provided on their geographic coverage, accessibility, or how effective access is ensured across the country.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken limited steps to implement the recommendation and has failed to address key components. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is insufficient and does not adequately address the core elements of the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 28 (d)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, in its next periodic report, information on further actions taken to:

Ensure that police officers trained in responding to gender-based violence are based at each police station, and ensure effective access to protection orders, reparations, shelters and psychosocial treatment and counselling for women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence in all parts of the State party, including specific information on the content of training programs, geographic coverage of services, and concrete measures to guarantee accessibility of support services.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 54 (b)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**amend the Child Care and Protection Act (No. 3 of 2015) and the Marriage Act (No. 25 of 1961) to remove all exceptions to the minimum age of marriage of 18 years for women and men, clarify the meaning of “full age” in article 14 (1) of the Constitution, ensure that the minimum age of marriage of 18 years is applied to all marriages and unions in the State party, and support girls who are married by providing mechanisms to increase their access to education and vocational training and by providing information on sexual and reproductive health and rights;**

The Committee takes note of the State party's indication that child marriages under 18 years are prohibited and punishable under the Child Care and Protection Act, 2015, with penalties of up to N\$50,000 or ten years imprisonment. It notes the development of child-friendly materials based on CCPA provisions and the definition of “full age” as 18 years in the Marriage Bill. The Committee regrets, however, that the State party has not provided information on amendments made to remove all exceptions to the minimum age of marriage, as specifically recommended. The Committee is particularly concerned that both the CCPA and the Marriage Bill still require parental consent for



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marriage up to age 21, which suggests that exceptions to the minimum age requirement may still exist. The Committee further regrets the complete absence of information on measures to support girls who are married by providing mechanisms to increase their access to education and vocational training, or by providing information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, as recommended.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps toward implementing the recommendation but has failed to address key components, particularly the removal of all exceptions and support mechanisms for married girls. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates partially to the recommendation but lacks critical details on amendments to remove exceptions and support services for married girls. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 54 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Amend the Child Care and Protection Act (No. 3 of 2015) and the Marriage Act (No. 25 of 1961) to remove all exceptions to the minimum age of marriage of 18 years for women and men, clarify the meaning of “full age” in article 14 (1) of the Constitution, ensure that the minimum age of marriage of 18 years is applied to all marriages and unions in the State party, and support girls who are married by providing mechanisms to increase their access to education and vocational training and by providing information on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jelena Pia-Comella'.

Jelena Pia-Comella
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women