

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/81/Senegal/88

25 June 2024

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the eighth periodic reports of Senegal, at the Committee's eighty-first session, held in February 2022. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/SEN/CO/8](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 49 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Senegal to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 (a) and (d), 22 (b) and 34 (a) of the concluding observations, namely:

“14. In line with its general recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women's access to justice, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure access to effective legal aid services for all women and girls in all parts of the State party and expedite the adoption of the law on legal aid to ensure that legal aid is available, affordable and accessible to all women in all settings, especially marginalized groups of women;

(d) Give legal standing to civil society organizations to enable them to lodge complaints on behalf of victims of human rights violations.”

“22. In line with joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014) on harmful practices, as well as target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Amend or repeal article 111 of the Family Code, accelerate the adoption of a child protection act to increase the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years, and continue to raise awareness on the detrimental effects of child marriage on girls' enjoyment of their rights under the Convention;”

“34. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health and targets of 3.1 and 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Amend article 305 of the Penal Code and Act No. 2005-18 of 5 August 2005 to decriminalize abortion in all cases and to legalize it, at a minimum, in cases of rape, incest, severe foetal impairment and risk to the health or life of the pregnant woman, recognizing that the criminalization of abortion is a form of gender-based violence against women, in line with general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women;”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2024, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response on the matters.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Senegal on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder within one month of the date of this correspondence.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **3,500 words**, including footnotes. You may attach a limited number of annexes containing statistical data only which are not counted for the word limit. Please also send a **Word electronic version** of the information requested to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to ohchr-cedaw@un.org.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women