



REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Jamaica/59

25 November 2014

Excellency,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Jamaica, at the Committee's fifty-second session, held in July 2012. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/JAM/CO/6-7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that the Committee requested Jamaica to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in **paragraphs 22 (b) to (g) and 38 (c) and (d)** of the concluding observations (due to technical problems, the paragraphs 23 (b) to (g) and 39 (c) and (d) reflected in paragraph 43 on follow-up on the concluding observations have been shifted and must be disregarded), namely:

“22. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party to:

(b) Amend the Sexual Offences Act, 2009 with a view to criminalizing all marital rape, with no restrictive conditions, within a clear time frame;

(c) Collect and compile comprehensive data on violence against women, disaggregated by sex, age and the relationship between the victim and perpetrator, and carry out an in-depth analysis of the findings and utilize them to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat violence against women;

(d) Institute a programme of public awareness to encourage the reporting of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls and ensure that all such acts are effectively investigated, victims and witnesses are protected, and perpetrators are prosecuted and sentenced within a reasonable time frame;

(e) Strengthen victim assistance and support programmes by providing women victims of violence with legal aid, medical support, mental health services, rehabilitation services, and shelters as appropriate in all areas of the country;

H. E. Mr. Wayne McCook
Permanent Representative
of Jamaica to the United Nations
Avenue de France 23
1202 Geneva

E-mail: info@jamaicamission.ch

(f) Provide comprehensive training on combating violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, for relevant professionals, including targeted training for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police officers on the application of protection orders under the Domestic Violence Act. Enhance training for health professionals on standardized procedures for dealing with victims of violence in a gender-sensitive manner; and

(g) Approve and implement the draft sexual harassment policy and consider urgently adopting comprehensive legislation to combat sexual harassment.”

“38. The Committee, recalling article 16 of the Convention, as well as its general recommendation No. 21 (1994) on equality in marriage and family relations, recommends that the State party:

(c) Review the legislation and procedures for child maintenance and urgently address challenges to ensure that single mothers are provided with adequate and timely child maintenance; and

(d) Review the legislation and proceedings regarding divorce with the view to simplifying the process and ensuring that women are not placed in disadvantaged or harmful positions due to restrictive legal proceedings.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2014, 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, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Jamaica on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay. 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 cedaw@ohchr.org. For ease reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of Follow-up reports by State parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Nicole Ameline
Chairperson

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women