



REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Zimbabwe/58

10 September 2014

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 honour to refer to the examination of the combined second to fifth periodic report of the Republic of Zimbabwe, at the Committee's fifty-first session, held in February-March 2012. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/ZWE/CO/2-5) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 44 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Republic of Zimbabwe to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 14 (a) and (b) and 24 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (g) of the concluding observations, namely:

“14. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Speed up its Constitutional review and urgently repeal section 23.3 of the Constitution that allows discrimination based on sex/gender in matters that fall within the provisions of personal and customary law;

(b) Include in its Constitution and other appropriate legislation a bill of rights for women that guarantees the human rights of women under the Convention and the prohibition of discrimination against women, which encompasses both direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, in line with article 1 of the Convention, and also to include provisions prohibiting all forms of discrimination against women on all grounds, including in matters that fall within the provisions of personal law.

“30. The Committee urges the State party to:

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of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations
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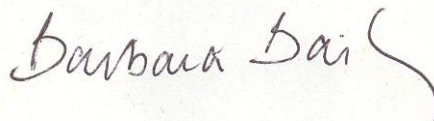
- (a) Put in place comprehensive measures to prevent and address violence against women and girls, recognizing that such violence is a form of discrimination against women and constitutes a violation of their human rights under the Convention, and ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation No. 19;
- (b) Provide mandatory training for judges and prosecutors on the strict application of legal provisions dealing with violence against women and train police officers on procedures to deal with women victims of violence;
- (c) Encourage women to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence, by de-stigmatizing victims and raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts;
- (d) Put in place measures to prevent and address politically motivated violence against women;
- (g) Collect statistical data on domestic and sexual violence disaggregated by sex, age, nationality and relationship between the victim and perpetrator."

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in March 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 the Republic of Zimbabwe 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,



Barbara Bailey
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women