



REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Samoa/59

25 November 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 honor to refer to the examination of the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of the Independent State of Samoa, at the Committee's fifty-second session, held in July 2012. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 49 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Independent State of Samoa to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 and 28 of the concluding observations, namely:

“14. While welcoming the efforts by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development to ensure women's development across all sectors in the State party, including the adoption of a national plan for the advancement of women covering the period 2008-2012, the Committee is concerned that only 21 of the 104 people working in the Ministry deal with gender issues and that only 10 per cent of the general budget is allocated to the advancement of women, which may not be sufficient to ensure that gender equality policies are properly developed and fully implemented throughout the work of all ministries and government offices”.

“28. The Committee welcomes the State party's National Education for All Programme and Action Plan and commends the State party on the progress achieved in the education of girls and women, as reflected by the attainment of parity in primary education. The Committee is, however, concerned at the high dropout rates between the primary and secondary levels (46 per cent) and the lack of information on tertiary enrolment. While noting the adoption by the State party in 2009 of the Education Act providing zero tolerance for corporal punishment in schools, the Committee is concerned at the high number of girls who are victims of sexual abuse and harassment in schools by teachers. The Committee is further concerned at the high dropout rate and the low retention

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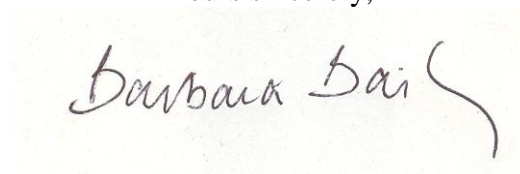
and completion rates for girls, especially at the secondary and tertiary levels, owing to teenage pregnancy, discriminatory traditional and cultural practices and poverty, especially in rural areas. The Committee is also concerned that the traditional views of both students and teachers orient female students into areas of study perceived as appropriate to their social roles and participation in public life.”

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 the Independent State of Samoa 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