



Proposal to the CEDAW Committee
Inputs for the List of Issues on CEDAW for Denmark

By the Women's Council in Denmark, June 2014

Background

The Women's Council in Denmark is the largest women's organisation in Denmark. Established in 1899 as an umbrella organisation working for gender equality within all areas of society, we are still active with more than 40 different organisations as members of the Women's Council.

In 2013 the Women's Council submitted a shadow report annexed to the official Danish report to the CEDAW Committee.

With the following selected inputs we would like to draw the attention of the CEDAW Committee to matters of concern regarding gender equality in Denmark. Following each issue recommendations are made for the Committee's list of issues to be submitted to Denmark.

It is our hope that the Committee will find our proposals to the list of issues useful.

Recommendations

Our recommendations to the List of Issues are sorted according to the articles in CEDAW.

ARTICLE 3: Basic Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

A large number of women in Denmark report that they have been exposed to one or several forms of sexual, physical or mental violence (European Agency of Fundamental Rights report on VAW, 2014). In 2014 the Government ratified the Istanbul Convention on VAW which underlines the need for prevention.

We recommend that the issues and questions below are added to the list of issues:

- Does the Government intend to include all forms of VAW in strategies and actions plans?
- Please provide information on concrete and comprehensive initiatives in the field of primary prevention of VAW?
- Are there any plans of providing free access to long-term psychological treatment for both women victims of violence and their children, whether or not they are in contact with a shelter?

ARTICLE 5: Sex Role Stereotyping and Prejudice

When the present Government came into office a paper outlining the issues the Government would work on was drafted. In this paper parental leave for fathers for up till 12 weeks was mentioned. However the Government chose not to implement this part of the plan.

We recommend that the issues and questions below are added to the list of issues:

- In which way will the Government ensure a more equal division of parental leave between both parents?

ARTICLE 6: Prostitution

In Denmark there is according to the Danish National Centre for Social Research an estimated minimum of people in prostitution of app. 3000, serving a population of 5.6 million. In neighboring Sweden there are according to police a minimum of app. 1000 people in prostitution, serving a population of 9.5 million.

In June 2014 the Nordic Forum “New Action on Women’s Rights” took place in Sweden. An outcome of this, the largest gathering of women’s organisations, researchers and activist in a Nordic setting in 20 years, was the Final Document containing demands and recommendations on all areas within the Beijing Platform for Action. One demand was the establishment of an independent National Rapporteur on Trafficking in all Nordic countries to strengthen the work on ending violence. Denmark has no National Rapporteur on Trafficking.

We recommend that the issues and questions below are added to the list of issues:

- Please elaborate on what Denmark believe is the reason for the big discrepancy in the reported numbers of persons in prostitution in Denmark and Sweden.
- Which actions if any – apart from awareness raising campaigns – will Denmark initiate in order to bring down the number of persons in prostitution?
- Please provide information on whether Denmark is considering appointing an independent National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings.

ARTICLE 7: Political and Public Life

In 2009, at the Danish municipality elections the representation of women came for the first time in Danish history to more than 30 %. Unfortunately, again representation dropped to below 30 % at the November 2013 elections. Among the Nordic countries, Denmark is the country with the lowest number of women holding a seat at municipality level.

We recommend that the issues and questions below are added to the list of issues:

- Please provide information on which actions are being taken to ensure a more equal representation of women and men at municipality level.
- Please provide information on how the political parties are dealing with the lack of women in politics at municipality level.

It is our hope that the proposed questions and recommendations together with our Shadow Report can act as inspiration to the Committees’ List of Issues for Denmark.

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