



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: ohchr-registry@un.org

REFERENCE: CERD/109th session/2023/FU/BJ/ks

2 May 2023

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 109th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Singapore, pursuant to article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 18 (a) and 30 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/SGP/CO/1), adopted following the consideration of the State party's initial report, at its 105th session, held in November/December 2021.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its combined second to fourth periodic reports, which is due for submission, in a single document, by 27 November 2025.

Paragraph 18 (a) of the Concluding Observations

The Committee notes the information provided on measures to ensure the adequate access to quality health-care services, particularly for members of minority groups, including through the development of tailored health programmes with community partners targeting members of minority groups aiming at increasing health screening rates across members of all minority groups. Furthermore, the Committee notes the information that hospitals engage translation services, if required, to facilitate communication. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on new measures taken to address the linguistic barriers systematically faced by persons belonging to some ethnic minority groups in accessing to health-care services. Therefore,

H.E. Mr. Umej Singh Bhatia
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Singapore
to the United Nations Office,
Geneva
mfa_geneva_un@mfa.gov.sg

the Committee recommends that the State party guarantee the availability of interpretation services to ensure that members of minority groups have access to quality health-care services.

The Committee considers the response to this recommendation partially satisfactory and requests the State party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to fully implement the recommendation.

Paragraph 30 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee notes the information on the available alternative dispute resolution tools for non-citizens who are not permanent residents regarding relational, community and employment disputes as well as on the legal aid services provided by civil society organizations and other entities. Nevertheless, the Committee regrets the lack of information on measures taken to extend the legal aid to non-citizens who are not permanent residents to ensure equal access to justice, including for victims of racial discrimination as well as on the lack of information on data collection on the number of persons applied to and benefited from legal aid to bring claims of racial discrimination.

The Committee considers the response of the State Party to this recommendation unsatisfactory and requests it to provide, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to fully implement the recommendation.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Singapore, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



Verene Shepherd
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination