



UNITED NATIONS
**HUMAN RIGHTS
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HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Bahrain/91

4 July 2025

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 fourth periodic report of Bahrain, at the Committee's eighty-fourth session, held in February 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/4](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 54 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Bahrain to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13 (c), 19, 23 and 41 (a) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/BHR/FCO/4](#)) received with one month delay on 3 March 2025 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its ninety-first session, held in June and July 2025, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 13 (c)** of the concluding observations which called upon the State party to **“amend article 43 of the Law on Associations so that it becomes more inclusive and does not exclude board members because of possible political affiliation”**:

The Committee takes note of the State party's position that article 43 of the Law on Associations is consistent with international human rights instruments and constitutional provisions. The Committee notes the State party's explanation that the provision requiring candidates for membership of managing boards to enjoy their political rights is motivated by public interest considerations. The Committee regrets, however, that the State party has not provided any information on steps taken to review or amend article 43 to make it more inclusive, as recommended. The Committee is concerned that the State party's response focuses on justifying the existing provision rather than addressing the Committee's concern that the

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current formulation may exclude individuals from board membership based on political affiliation, which could restrict freedom of association and women's participation in civil society organizations.

The Committee considers that the State party has not taken any steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party does not relate to the recommendation and fails to address the specific concern raised. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 13 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Amend article 43 of the Law on Associations so that it becomes more inclusive and does not exclude board members because of possible political affiliation.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 19** of the concluding observations which urged the State party to “**further strengthen and enforce measures and safeguards to protect women human rights defenders, women journalists, and women political opposition members from acts of reprisal**”:

The Committee takes note of the State party's explanation of the role and functions of the Office of the Public Prosecution, including its commitment to impartial application of the law and the existence of an Office for the Protection of Witnesses and Victims. The Committee regrets, however, that the State party has not provided any information on specific measures taken to strengthen and enforce safeguards to protect women human rights defenders, women journalists, and women political opposition members from acts of reprisal, as recommended. The Committee is concerned that the response focuses solely on general prosecutorial procedures and witness protection mechanisms without addressing the particular vulnerabilities and protection needs of the specific groups of women identified in the recommendation.

The Committee considers that the State party has not taken any steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party does not relate to the recommendation and fails to address the specific measures requested. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 19** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Further strengthen and enforce measures and safeguards to protect women human rights defenders, women journalists, and women political opposition members from acts of reprisal.

Regarding the recommendation made in paragraph 23 of the concluding observations that the State party "**continue to implement measures, including awareness-raising and education campaigns, to dismantle deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society. It also recommends that the State party promote equal sharing of family responsibilities between women and men.**":

The Committee takes note of the awareness-raising and education campaigns undertaken by the Ministry of Culture and Information, including television and broadcast programming highlighting women's achievements, social media content raising awareness of women's rights, and documentaries showcasing women's contributions to society. It notes the partnerships with civil society organizations, national universities, and training sessions for media professionals on discussing women's issues objectively. The Committee also notes the media coverage provided for Bahraini Women's Day and various activities celebrating women's achievements. The Committee regrets, however, that the information provided focuses primarily on highlighting women's achievements and successes rather than addressing the specific recommendation to dismantle deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes regarding traditional roles and responsibilities. The Committee further regrets the absence of information on specific measures to promote equal sharing of family responsibilities between women and men, as recommended.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps related to the recommendation but has not addressed its core elements. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates partially to the recommendation but does not address the specific objectives of dismantling patriarchal attitudes and promoting equal sharing of family responsibilities. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 23** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on any actions taken to:



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Continue to implement measures, including awareness-raising and education campaigns, to dismantle deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society. It also recommends that the State party promote equal sharing of family responsibilities between women and men.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 41 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party **“strengthen the legal protection of women migrant/expatriate workers by extending the application of the Labour Code to domestic workers”**.

The Committee takes note of the State party's indication that domestic workers are included in the scope of the Labour Code for the Private Sector through specific articles covering employment contracts, wage protections, annual leave, severance pay, and exemption from litigation fees. The Committee regrets, however, that the State party has not provided information on measures taken to strengthen legal protections by extending the full application of the Labour Code to domestic workers, as recommended. The Committee recalls its concern that the Labour Code does not adequately protect domestic workers, particularly regarding maximum working hours, overtime compensation, and rest periods, which leaves women migrant domestic workers vulnerable to exploitation. The Committee is concerned that the State party's response does not address the gaps in legal protection identified in the concluding observations or demonstrate how the Labour Code has been strengthened or extended to provide comprehensive coverage for domestic workers equivalent to other workers.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation **has been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is extensive and relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jelena Pia-Comella'.

Jelena Pia-Comella
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women