



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 – ohchr-cedaw@un.org

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/75/Bulgaria/82

9 March 2022

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the eighth periodic report of Bulgaria, at the Committee's seventy-fifth session, held in February 2020. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/BGR/CO/8](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 50 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Bulgaria to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 16 (a) and (b), 24 (c) and 34 (c) of the concluding observations, namely:

“16. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations working for women's rights and gender equality, and support their initiatives towards the implementation of the Convention. The Committee also calls upon the State party:

(a) To ensure an environment that is, de jure and de facto, safe and in which organizations working for women's rights and gender equality participate systematically in the development and implementation of relevant legislation and policies;

(b) To financially support civil society organizations that provide assistance to women facing discrimination, gender-based violence and the violation of their rights, while ensuring that the State party retains the primary responsibility for providing those women with protection, rehabilitation, reintegration and other relevant services;”

“24. Recalling its general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, the Committee calls upon the State party:

(c) To amend the Criminal Code to specifically criminalize marital rape as aggravating circumstances;”

“34. Recalling its general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, with the aim of ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as its previous recommendation ([CEDAW/C/BGR/CO/4-7](#), para. 36), the Committee recommends that the State party:

His Excellency Mr Yuri Borissov STERK

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

Email: info@mission-bulgarie.ch



(c) Intensify the implementation of health programmes, including inclusive awareness-raising programmes, to ensure the availability of affordable modern contraceptives to all women and girls, including those belonging to disadvantaged groups and in rural areas;”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2022, 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.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Bulgaria on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder within one month of the date of this correspondence.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **3,500 words**, including footnotes. You may attach a limited number of annexes containing statistical data only which are not counted for the word limit. 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 ohchr-cedaw@un.org.

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

Yours sincerely,

Louiza Chalal
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women