



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: registry@ohchr.org – cedaw@ohchr.org

REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Bangladesh/55

27 August 2013

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 honour to refer to the examination of the combined sixth and seventh report of Bangladesh, at the Committee's forty-eighth session, held in February 2011. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/BGD/CO/7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 44 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Bangladesh to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 and 20 of the concluding observations, namely:

“12. Recalling its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/BGD/CO/5, para.236), the Committee urges the State party to expedite its efforts towards the withdrawal of its reservations to articles 2 and 16, paragraph 1 (c) within a concrete timeframe”; and

“20. The Committee urges the State party to give priority attention to combating violence against women and girls and to adopt comprehensive measures such as a national action plan to address all forms of violence against women and girls, in accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992). It calls upon the State party to expeditiously:

- (a) Ensure that all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and all forms of sexual abuse are criminalized, that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished and that the women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress, rehabilitation and protection;
- (b) Remove any impediment faced by women in gaining access to justice and ensure that *shalish* decisions do not violate laws and do not lead to extrajudicial penalties;
- (c) Take effective measures to ensure the implementation of the existing legal framework including enactment of legislation on sexual harassment and organize training and awareness-raising programmes for the judiciary and public officials, in particular law enforcement and health service personnel, in order to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and can provide adequate gender-sensitive support to victims;

H. E. Mr. Md. Abdul Hannan
Permanent Representative of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations
Rue de Lausanne 65
1202 Geneva

E-mail: mission.bangladesh@ties.itu.int

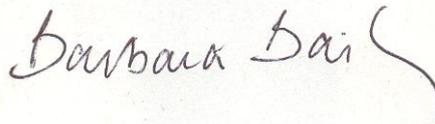
- (d) Establish counselling services and sufficient number of shelters for victims of violence in all parts of the country, including in rural areas;
- (e) Establish a database to collect data and information on the implementation of the laws and policies in place to deal with all forms of violence against women and girls and on the impact of such measures;
- (f) Undertake studies and/or surveys on the extent of such violence and its root causes.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2013, 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 Bangladesh 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 of 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