



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

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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Egypt/52

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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 periodic reports of Egypt, at the Committee's forty-fifth session, held in January-February 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 59 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Egypt to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 16 and 24 of the concluding observations, namely:

“16. The Committee calls upon the State party to give high priority to the completion of the necessary legislative reforms and to modify, or repeal, without delay and within a clear time frame, discriminatory legislation, including discriminatory provisions in the Penal Code and the personal status law. The Committee calls on the State party to increase its efforts to sensitize the parliament, as well as public opinion, regarding the importance of accelerating legal reform aimed at achieving formal equality for women and compliance with the Convention. It also encourages the State party to continue to increase support for law reform through partnerships and collaboration with religious and community leaders, lawyers, judges, unions, civil society organizations and women's non-governmental organizations.”

“24. The Committee urges the State party to give priority attention to combating violence against women and girls and to adopting comprehensive measures to address such violence, in accordance with its general recommendation No. 19. Such measures should include the expeditious adoption of a comprehensive law criminalizing all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, marital rape, sexual violence, sexual harassment, institutional violence and crimes committed in the name of honour. They should also include the development of a coherent and multisectoral action plan to combat violence against women.

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The Committee also urges the State party to amend articles 17 and 60, as well as other applicable provisions, of the Penal Code to ensure that perpetrators of violence against women do not benefit from any reduction in penalty. The Committee calls upon the State party to increase the number of shelters and ensure an adequate geographical distribution thereof, and it also calls upon the State party to lift age limitations on access to shelters for victims of domestic violence. The Committee requests the State party to provide data on and information on trends in the prevalence of various forms of violence against women, disaggregated by age and by urban and rural areas.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2012, 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 Egypt on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder. Please send a Word electronic version of the information to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to cedaw@ohchr.org.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Bailey
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women