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Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for 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 fifth and sixth periodic report of United Kingdom, at the Committee's forty-first session, held in June-July 2008. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/UK/CO/6). In paragraph 302 of those concluding observations, the Committee requested the United Kingdom to provide within one year written information on steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 261 and 263 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the information submitted by the United Kingdom under CEDAW's follow-up procedure on 30 July 2009 (CEDAW/C/UK/CO/6/Add.1) in a timely fashion.

At its forty-fifth session, held in January-February 2010 in Geneva, the Committee examined the information provided and noted that the recommendations have been partially implemented by the United Kingdom. The following observations are made by the Committee in respect of the State party replies:

- a. The Committee notes that the State party does not agree with the recommendation contained in paragraph 261 concerning the incorporation of all provisions of the Convention in the Equality Bill. The Committee also notes the information that the "Northern Ireland administration is keeping all aspects of equality legislation under ongoing review." The Committee would appreciate receiving further information on the incorporation of the provisions of the Convention in the appropriate legislation.

.../...

His Excellency  
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- b. Concerning the recommendation contained in paragraph 263, the Committee requests further information about the status of the CEDAW Convention in all Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and clarifications about what is meant by seeking "the extension of CEDAW." Would this mean making the Convention legally binding or in force in all of its territories? The Committee would also like to receive information on which of the Overseas Territories required technical and financial assistance and what kind of assistance was provided to each of them.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of the United Kingdom on the implementation of the Convention, and, in that context, to receiving your response to my enquiries in the next periodic report.

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

Yours sincerely,



Dubravka Šimonović  
Rapporteur on Follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women