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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 seventh periodic report of Denmark at the Committee's forty-fourth session, held in July-August 2009. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/7). You may recall that in paragraph 48 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Denmark to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 15 and 31 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report submitted by Denmark on 1 July 2011 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/7/Add.1). At its fiftieth session, held in October 2011 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 31** of the concluding observations, to “ensure that foreign married women victims of domestic violence are provided with flexible solutions with regard to their resident permits and ensure that clear legal guarantees and administrative guidelines for the protection are set for foreign married women victims of domestic violence”: the State party indicated that, according to the Danish Aliens Act, section 19 (8), if the residence permit has been granted on the basis of marriage or marital cohabitation, and this basis is no longer present, the authorities must pay special attention to whether the marriage or cohabitation has ended as a consequence of the alien concerned having been exposed to outrages abuse or ill-treatment, etc. by the spouse. The Committee considered that this recommendation **had been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation to “draw on other Nordic countries' good practices regarding the introduction of gender-based persecution as a ground for refugee status determination”: the State

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party indicated that asylum applications based on gender-related persecutions are considered under section 7 of the Danish Alien Act and it is generally accepted that women can be exposed to specific types of harm resulting in a need of specific protection (para. 57). It added that, in numerous cases, the Refugee Appeals Board has granted a residence permit on the basis of the applicant having been exposed to gender-related violence (para. 53). The Committee considered that this recommendation **had been implemented**.

Concerning the recommendation to “pursue its efforts to prevent and combat violence against women and adopt a coordination policy on violence against women that would ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, access to a sufficient number of State-funded safe shelters and to legal aid: the recommendation **had been fully implemented** by the Government of Denmark and **is almost implemented** in Greenland and the Faroe Islands, The Government of Greenland indicated that designs for improved strategies were prepared in 2009/2010 (para. 60) and the Government of the Faroe Islands indicated that a working group had been appointed to develop a coordinated policy on preventing and combating domestic violence (para. 66).

Concerning the recommendations to “guaranty an efficient division of responsibilities and reporting under the Convention through the establishment of effective coordination and reporting mechanisms”, no information has been provided. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had not been implemented**.

With regard to the recommendation to “consider adopting a specific law on violence against women, including domestic violence, in line with the Committee’s general recommendation No. 19”: no information has been provided by the Government of Denmark while the Government of the Faroe Islands and the Government of Greenland land indicated that there is no plan to prepare specific legislation on violence against women (para. 64). The Committee considered that the recommendation **had not been implemented**.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, additional information on:

- a) The guaranty of an efficient division of responsibilities and reporting under the Convention through the establishment of effective coordination and reporting mechanisms; and
- b) The adoption of a specific law on violence against women, including domestic violence, in line with the Committee’s general recommendation No. 19.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Denmark on the implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



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