



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: DB/follow-up/Swaziland/65

6 December 2016

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 honor to refer to the examination of the combined initial and second periodic reports of the Kingdom of Swaziland, at the Committee's fifty-eight session, held in July 2014. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/SWZ/CO/1-2) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 50 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Kingdom of Swaziland to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9 and 21 of the concluding observations, namely:

“25. The Committee calls upon the State party to adopt a comprehensive legal definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention, covering all prohibited grounds of discrimination, including sex and marital status, by amending section 20 of the Constitution or adopting other appropriate national legislation. The State party should urgently adopt the laws and policies that are pending, such as the bills on marriage, administration of estates, transnational crime, employment, legal aid and sexual offences and domestic violence and the land policy, and ensure that they fully comply with the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party widely disseminate the amendment to the Deeds Registry Act of 2012 and ensure its full implementation.”

“21. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To enact into law the bill on sexual offences and domestic violence without further delay and ensure that it is comprehensive, covering all forms of violence against women, especially marital rape and sexual harassment;
- (b) To encourage reporting of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls, to ensure that complaints are effectively investigated and perpetrators punished with sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the offence and to address the culture of impunity;

Her Excellency
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Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Swaziland
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- (c) To develop a system for regular collection of statistical data on cases, focusing on all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and abduction, which should be disaggregated by age, type of offence and relationship between perpetrator and victim;
- (d) To decentralize one-stop centres and shelters to the four regions of the State party in order to ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence can gain access to them;
- (e) To establish a national violence coordination mechanism with a mandate to tackle all forms of violence against women and girls and to coordinate national efforts to prevent and eliminate such violence.”

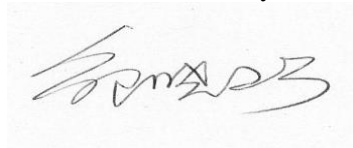
Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2016, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of the Kingdom of Swaziland on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **4000 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 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 States parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Xiaoqiao Zou
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women