



UNITED NATIONS
**HUMAN RIGHTS
TREATY BODIES**

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

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Hungary/92

25 February 2026

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 ninth periodic report of Hungary, at the Committee's eighty-fourth session, held in February 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/HUN/CO/9](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 46 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Hungary to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 (a), 16 (a), 30 (a), and 36 (a) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/HUN/FCO/9](#)) received on 7 August 2025, five months after the two year reporting period. Due to the postponement of the Committee's 92nd session as a result of the liquidity crisis, the report was examined with some delay under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its ninety-second session, held in February 2026, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 14 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**address the barriers to women's and girl's access to justice, including by conducting a study to identify barriers faced by women and girls, in particular those who experience intersecting forms of discrimination, in accessing justice, and by taking effective measures to remove those barriers, including by raising the awareness of women of their rights and improving the accessibility of the judicial system**”:

The Committee notes the State party's reference to its legislative framework prohibiting discrimination and promoting equal opportunities, including Article XV of the Fundamental Law and provisions in the Civil Code and Code of Civil Procedure establishing legal capacity and the right to be party to court actions.

The Committee regrets, however, that the State party has not conducted a study to identify barriers faced by women and girls experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination in accessing justice, as explicitly requested. The Committee notes with concern information indicating that over 90 percent of Roma women report facing discrimination in multiple sectors, yet only approximately 25 percent feel adequately protected by current anti-discrimination laws, and that both Roma and refugee/migrant women report discrimination in accessing healthcare services and employment. The Committee further regrets the absence of information on measures taken to raise awareness of women's rights or improve judicial accessibility.

H.E. Mrs. Zsófia Havasi
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The Committee considers that the State party has taken no steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that while the information provided describes the existing legal framework, it does not address the specific components of the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 14 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Address the barriers to women's and girl's access to justice, including by conducting a study to identify barriers faced by women and girls, in particular those who experience intersecting forms of discrimination, in accessing justice, and by taking effective measures to remove those barriers, including by raising the awareness of women of their rights and improving the accessibility of the judicial system.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 16 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party "**finalize and adopt the draft national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, in cooperation with representatives of women's civil society organizations, and ensure that it takes into consideration the full spectrum of the Council's agenda on women peace and security, as reflected in Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, and that it incorporates a model of substantive equality that addresses gender-based violence against women and discrimination against women in all spheres of women's lives, including intersecting forms of discrimination against women**":

The Committee notes the State party's development of its second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for 2024-2028, approved by the Minister of Defence on 5 July 2024. The Committee takes note of its strategic objectives across education and science, preparation and operations, human resources, and equality measures, including provisions on the development of accountability mechanisms for all forms of sexual harassment, employment of equality advisors and officers related to the WPS Agenda within the Ministry of Defence and Hungarian Defence Forces, efforts to strengthen capacity to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, and involvement of the scientific community in relevant research. The Committee also notes that civil society organizations were involved in the consultation process, receiving the document for review and being able to propose objectives, and that an implementation plan and resource allocation strategy are currently under development.

The Committee regrets, however, that the National Action Plan does not address intersecting forms of discrimination against women, as explicitly requested in the recommendation, and that while civil society organizations were consulted during development, the State party has not specified whether civil society will be involved in implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken substantial steps toward implementing the recommendation through development of a detailed National Action Plan with concrete accountability mechanisms and planned resource allocation strategies. However, the failure to address intersecting forms of discrimination, as explicitly requested, represents a



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significant gap in the recommendation's implementation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough, extensive and relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 30 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party "**introduce targeted measures, including temporary special measures, in line with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and general recommendation No. 25 (2004), such as increased quotas in different sectors and financing targeted campaigns to accelerate women's equal and inclusive representation at all levels of government, including in Parliament, the judiciary, academia and the foreign service, in particular at decision-making levels**":

The Committee notes the State party's Action Plan for Empowering Women in the Family and Society (2021-2030) and various programs to support women entrepreneurs and leaders, including initiatives through the SEED Foundation, Mathias Corvinus Collegium Women's Public Leadership Training Program, and the Female Manager of the Year Award. The Committee also notes the introduction of the Complex Leader Selection System for healthcare leadership positions.

The Committee regrets, however, that the State party explicitly states it "does not favor the use of quotas to increase women's participation in political and public decision-making," directly rejecting the core element of the recommendation to introduce temporary special measures including quotas. The Committee notes with serious concern that women's representation remains extremely low in Parliament and regional assemblies, with no female ministers in government as of 2024, and only 11 percent representation on boards of largest publicly quoted companies, failing to achieve the goal of gender parity in decision-making set out in the Committee's General Recommendation No. 40 (2024) on equal participation of women in political and public life. The Committee expresses further concern that the implementation of EU Directive 2022/2381 on improving gender balance among directors of listed companies has not occurred despite the 2024 deadline, and that a limited bill addressing only supervisory boards has not been adopted.

The Committee considers that while the State party has implemented some awareness and training programs, it has explicitly rejected the recommendation's core requirement to introduce temporary special measures such as quotas. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is extensive but demonstrates explicit rejection of the recommendation's central element. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 30 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Introduce targeted measures, including temporary special measures, in line with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and general recommendation No. 25 (2004), such as increased quotas in different sectors and financing targeted campaigns to accelerate



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women's equal and inclusive representation at all levels of government, including in Parliament, the judiciary, academia and the foreign service, in particular at decision-making levels.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 36 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party "**repeal the amendment to the regulation No. 32/1992 (XII.23) and ensure unimpeded and adequate access to legal abortion and post-abortion services for all women in the State party, including by ensuring that institutions are precluded by law from raising conscientious objections, defining the grounds on which it is permissible for health professionals to raise such objections and guaranteeing mandatory referrals in cases of conscientious objections**":

The Committee notes the State party's indication that abortion is available within a legal framework and under appropriate healthcare conditions, and that protecting the life of the mother is the top priority in high-risk pregnancies or emergencies. The Committee also notes the State party's position that church-run institutions may decide whether to perform abortions and that women may be directed to other institutions.

The Committee regrets that the State party has not repealed the amendment to regulation No. 32/1992 (XII.23) as recommended and expresses serious concern that access to abortion has further deteriorated since the State party's last review in 2023. The Committee notes with alarm that the decree requiring women to listen to the fetus' heartbeat remains in practice, abortion fees continue to rise significantly making abortion and post-abortion services increasingly unaffordable and inaccessible, and medical abortion remains unavailable despite receiving marketing authorization in 2012. The Committee is further concerned about reports of biased mandatory counselling designed to discourage abortion combined with waiting periods of up to seven days, hospitals increasingly participating in "abortion-free days" initiatives, rising cross-border abortion tourism, and that church-run institutions may refuse to perform abortions without guarantee of mandatory referrals. The Committee regrets that contraceptives are not covered by public health insurance, emergency contraception requires a prescription, and sexuality education frames abortion as primarily dangerous while emphasizing "protection of life from conception. Lastly, the Committee regrets that the State party has not provided a clear definition of the grounds on which it is permissible for health professionals to raise conscientious objections or established a system guaranteeing mandatory referrals, with the State party report indicating only that women "may be directed" to other institutions, which does not sufficiently address the mandatory referral mechanism recommended.

The Committee considers that the State party has not taken steps to implement the recommendation and notes that several measures taken since the Committee's previous concluding observations have further impeded women's and girls' access to abortion and post-abortion services, thereby undermining the objective of the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party fails to address the recommendation and describes the existing situation without indicating progress toward compliance. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.



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The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 36 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Repeal the amendment to the regulation No. 32/1992 (XII.23) and ensure unimpeded and adequate access to legal abortion and post-abortion services for all women in the State party, including by ensuring that institutions are precluded by law from raising conscientious objections, defining the grounds on which it is permissible for health professionals to raise such objections and guaranteeing mandatory referrals in cases of conscientious objections.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jelena Pia-Camella', written over a horizontal line.

Jelena Pia-Camella
Rapporteur on follow-up

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women