



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

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REFERENCE: MK/follow-up/64/Trinidad and Tobago/71

14 January 2019

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 fourth to seventh periodic report of Trinidad and Tobago, at the Committee's sixty-fourth session, held in July 2016. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/TTO/CO/4-7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 48 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Trinidad and Tobago to provide written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9 (c), 11(c) and 19 (c) within two years, and paragraph 11 (d) within one year of the concluding observations, namely:

“9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Adopt a national action plan on the implementation of the present concluding observations, with clear targets and indicators.”

“11. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendations (A/57/38, part one, paras. 140 and 142) that the State party:

(c) Develop an inventory of all laws that are discriminatory towards women, with a view to amending or repealing them;

(d) Expedite the adoption of the national policy on gender and development, ensure that the definition of the term “gender” is in line with the Convention and, in particular, the Committee's general recommendation No. 28 (2010) on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention and also ensure that issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights are addressed.”

“19. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) As a matter of priority, amend the Marriage Act, the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, the Hindu Marriage Act, the Orisa Marriage Act and the Children Act, which perpetuate the harmful practice of child marriage, by raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 years so that it is harmonized with the age of sexual consent, in line with joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices (2014).”

Her Excellency
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Although the Committee received the information on paragraph 11 (d) on 21 August 2017, it has not received the information on paragraphs 9 (c), 11(c) and 19 (c), which was due in July 2018, to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response on the matters.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Trinidad and Tobago on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder within one month of the date of this correspondence.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **4,000 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,

Hilary Gbedemah
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women