



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women**

Fifty-first session

13 February – 2 March 2012

**List of issues and questions with regard to the consideration
of periodic reports**

Norway

The pre-session working group considered the eighth periodic report of Norway (CEDAW/C/NOR/8)

General

1. Is there an overall assessment of the State party's policy of gender mainstreaming and its effectiveness vis-à-vis the specific measures taken to protect women from gender-based discrimination in all areas? Please provide statistical data and other information on the concrete results achieved in eliminating discrimination against women in all areas covered by the Convention, through the implementation of the gender-mainstreaming policy in the State party.

Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework

2. According to the information before the Committee, protection against gender discrimination in the State party is ensured by the Gender Equality Act and through the incorporation of the Convention in the Human Rights Act, but is not enshrined in the Constitution. This may impair the legal basis of the protection against gender discrimination. Please provide information on measures taken to incorporate the protection against gender discrimination into the State party's Constitution. Given the state of the Norwegian national legislation, please indicate whether the provisions of the Convention have been invoked in national courts and provide examples of pertinent case law.

3. The report indicates (CEDAW/C/NOR/8, para.42) that in 2007 a law commission was appointed by the Government with the task of studying how to further strengthen the legal framework on discrimination and the proposal, submitted to the Cabinet in 2009 ("Et helhetlig diskrimineringsvern", or Comprehensive legal protection against discrimination), is being considered by Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion. Please provide updated information on the status of this document.

4. Please inform the Committee if there is an existing strategy to ensure that population of the State party, including immigrants and other minorities, receive information about

their rights and duties in a way they can understand. Please provide information on measures taken to ensure the right to legal information for people with language difficulties, such as migrant women and women with disabilities, and specific strategies taken in this regard.

National machinery for the advancement of women

5. Please provide updated information on the development of the Action Plan for Gender Equality, initiated in spring 2010.

6. The report indicates (CEDAW/C/NOR/8, para. 46) that a consequence analysis of the budgetary work of the ministries during the period 2006-2009 was undertaken and that it was included in the report "På sporet av kjønnsperspektivet" (On the track of the gender perspective). The report concluded that there is a trend in the direction of clearer expression of the gender perspective in the budget propositions of most ministries and in the documenting and gender statistics. However, the report acknowledges that some ministries still lack specific objectives and measures for gender equality. Please provide information on measures taken to include specific objectives for gender equality in the budget propositions of all ministries.

7. The report indicates (CEDAW/C/NOR/8, para. 48) that in 2007 the Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion took charge of basic financing of the Regional Centres for Equality and the evaluation of the pilot project was presented in 2010 and is considered by the Ministry. Please provide updated information on the outcomes of this pilot project.

Violence against women

8. The report indicates (CEDAW/C/NOR/8, para. 9) that in December 2007, the Government submitted its third Action Plan on Domestic Violence for the period 2008–2011 and that the evaluation of the work of the police on domestic violence was expected to commence during 2010. Please provide updated information on the outcomes of this evaluation. Also please provide information on steps taken to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence and Domestic Violence against Women, which the State party has signed.

9. The report indicates (CEDAW/C/NOR/8, para. 10) that in the new Penal Code, which has not yet entered into force, the penalty levels will be raised to a maximum of six years for domestic abuse and 15 years for gross domestic abuse. Please provide information on the progress achieved with regard to the new Penal Code and when it will enter into force. Please provide information on measures taken to provide specific training to judiciary in this regard.

10. The report indicates (CEDAW/C/NOR/8, para. 72) that at the time of the preparation of the report (2010), the Government was in the process of establishing nationwide treatment facilities for perpetrators of violence against women, and was planning to open four new facilities in cooperation with the foundation Alternative to Violence. Please provide information on whether these centres were established and regarding the budget and funds allocated to these facilities in comparison to those of shelters for women victims of violence.

11. Please provide information on measures taken in order to map the root causes of the high number of homicides in close relationships. Please inform the Committee as to how the Government counters structural discrimination related to gender stereotypes within the judiciary, particularly concerning rape and other types of violence against women.

Employment

12. The report indicates (CEDAW/C/NOR/8, para. 104) that the Government is planning to submit a white paper on equal pay with a long-term strategy to meet the objective of equal pay, taking as its starting point the report of the Equal Pay Commission (Official Norwegian Report (NOU) 2008:6 “Kjønn og lønn. Fakta, analyser og virkemidler for likelønn”, or Gender and pay. Facts, analyses and measures for equal pay), and organizing a public consultation. Please provide updated information on the development of the white paper on equal pay.

13. Please provide information on measures taken to ensure that contracts entered into by public authorities promote gender equality. Is gender mainstreaming incorporated into Public Procurement Contract proceedings with the view to ensure non-discrimination on the basis of gender?

Health

14. Please provide information on the situation of women infected with HIV/AIDS. Please indicate what measures have been taken to increase public awareness of the risk and effects of HIV/AIDS and whether these measures have been aimed specifically at women and girls. Please also provide information on measures taken to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

15. The report acknowledges (CEDAW/C/NOR/8, para. 118) that the health situation of the Sami population is inferior to that of the Norwegian majority population. Please provide information on measures taken to facilitate access to health care services for Sami girls and women.

Disadvantaged groups of women

16. Please provide information on specific measures taken by the State party to ensure gender equality for women, who experience intersectional discrimination based on factors such as ethnicity, religion, age, disability, class and sexual orientation, in all areas covered under the Convention.

17. It has been reported that disabled and migrant women are more exposed to violence than other women. Is there any systematic research on how gender and other grounds of discrimination interact in relation to being at risk of violence, including sexual violence?

18. The report refers to several measures taken to address the issue of disabled persons. Please provide more information on measures taken to improve the situation of disabled women. Please inform the Committee as to whether the State party is considering ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

19. The report acknowledges (CEDAW/C/NOR/8, para. 23) the need to improve the access to and participation of women with minority backgrounds in the labour market. Please provide updated information on measures taken to achieve this goal.

Marriage and family relations

20. Please provide updated information on the amendments to the Co-ownership Act and the Act of 4 July 1991 No. 45 relating to the right of joint residence and household goods when a household community of cohabitants ceases to exist (proposed in Official Norwegian Report 2007:16 “Ny skiftelovgivning”, or New Probate Legislation). What is the current legal situation pertaining to such matters? Do the parties, in such cases, receive sufficient guidance and assistance in dividing property of the cohabitants?