



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
15 September 2009

Original: English

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Pre-session working group

Forty-sixth session

12-30 July 2010

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

Russian Federation

The pre-session working group considered the sixth and seventh periodic reports of the Russian Federation (CEDAW/C/USR/7).

General

1. Please provide further information on the process of preparing the report, including what Government departments and institutions were involved and whether the report was adopted by the Russian Government and presented to Parliament. Please also provide information on the nature and extent of the involvement of non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations, in this process.
2. Please provide updated information on the statistical data disaggregated by sex and ethnicity pertaining to the main areas and provisions of the Convention. Please indicate what steps have been taken to establish regular collection and analysis of data to capture the real situation of women belonging to disadvantaged groups, especially older women and women with disabilities.

Legal status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol

3. The Committee, in its previous Concluding Observations,¹ urged the State party to incorporate in the Constitution a specific right to non-discrimination on the ground of sex and a definition of discrimination, in conformity with article 1 of the Convention. The State party's report indicates that the draft law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Liberties for Men and Women in the Russian Federation and Equal Opportunities for their Realization containing the definition of discrimination

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/57/38), para. 374.

was not adopted. Please indicate if the State party foresees to adoption of this law or intends to immediately incorporate the definition of discrimination in Constitution or other legislation. Please provide information on the obstacles faced by the State party in this regard.

4. What are the remedies or avenues of redress in place to ensure that women can enjoy the rights enshrined in the Convention? How effective have they been? How many cases of discrimination have been brought before the courts and other bodies, such as the Ombudsman's Office since the consideration of the fifth periodic report? What were the grounds invoked and what was the outcome of these cases? What measures are being taken to sensitize women and encourage them to seek redress against discrimination?

Stereotypes and cultural practices

5. The report acknowledges that the Russian Federation remains a traditional society, in which stereotypical representations of the social roles of men and women are still strongly held. Please detail the cultural and traditional practices as well as the ways of life that hamper women's advancement in society.

6. Please provide details about measures being taken by the State party to address gender role stereotyping in the society and in the family.

Violence against women

7. In its previous concluding observations,² the Committee was concerned by the high prevalence of domestic violence and murders of women. Please provide information on the scale of violence against women, including the number of women murdered by their husbands, partners or ex-partners since the consideration of the fifth periodic report. Also provide statistics on the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions and penalties relating to violence against women.

8. Please provide information on concrete measures taken by the State party to investigate all instances of violence against women, whether it occurs in the home, in the workplace, the community or society in general. Please also provide information about the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators as well as the granting of adequate compensation and support to victims. Please indicate if the existing laws and norms on violence against women criminalize all acts of violence, including marital rape and whether the vulnerability of older women and women with disabilities was taken into consideration.

9. How is violent behaviour between spouses perceived by women and men? Are there any public campaigns to raise awareness about violence against women? And if there are, do they attempt to change the attitudes of men?

10. Please detail the efforts being taken to ensure the allocation of adequate resources within the government budget for activities related to the elimination of violence against women, including resources for the implementation of the various initiatives and plans of actions as listed in the report. What steps have been taken to work towards a comprehensive plan of action aimed at addressing violence against women, especially domestic violence?

² Ibid., 363.

11. According to the report, several rehabilitation centres were created for women victims of domestic violence. Please provide information about the services available and the number of consultations provided, as well as the results of any assessment conducted. Please indicate if asylum-seekers are granted access to shelters and what kind of training has been conducted for crisis centres employees to work with women and girls victims of sexual and gender-based violence of different backgrounds, origins and religions.

12. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences noted that in the North Caucasus, women have been more vulnerable to human rights violations due to the counter-terrorist strategy adopted in response to suicide bombings allegedly committed by Chechen women (E/CN.4/2006/61/Add.2, para. 56). Please provide information on results of investigation of such cases, and this particular group of women.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

13. The Committee, in its previous concluding observations,³ requested the State party to provide, in its next report, comprehensive information on the trafficking of women and girls. The report provides statistics on 2005-2006. Please provide detailed and updated statistics on the number of victims, including minors, and the compensation received, as well as complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and penalties imposed on the perpetrators of such crimes.

14. Are there laws and policies in place to protect women and young girls from labour agencies which engage in trafficking? Are there laws and policies in place related to marriage agencies, specifically those involved in arranging marriages with foreign nationals?

15. Please provide information on the measures taken to address the root causes of prostitution. Are there specific social programmes for those women involved in prostitution who would wish to leave it? Are there laws and policies in place to reintegrate victims of commercial sexual exploitation into society, including through job training, legal assistance and confidential health care, and if so, what resources are being allocated for this purpose? Are there specific health programmes for women involved in prostitution, focused in the care and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases?

Political participation and participation in public life

16. The State party's report acknowledges that the number of women in federal legislative bodies is at present insignificant. In 2007, only two women were members of the active cabinet of ministers. Only one woman is a governor (the head of one of the entities of the Russian Federation). What impediments and discriminatory stereotypes exist that prevent women's political participation or participation in decision-making roles? Please indicate whether any temporary special measures have been used in accordance with article 4(1) of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25.

17. In 2008, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders called on the Government to proceed with thorough impartial

³ Ibid., 396.

investigations of the killing of the journalist Anna Politkovskaya (A/HRC/7/28/Add.1, para. 1723). Please provide detailed information on investigations, prosecutions, convictions and penalties imposed on the perpetrators of assaults against women journalists.

Education

18. According to the report, the gender proportions in teaching personnel are unbalanced. Women dominate among teachers of general educational school (87 per cent), among teachers of professional technical junior colleges (60 per cent) and in technical colleges (77 per cent). The gender disproportion can be seen among teachers who have higher degrees and among the leaders of educational institutions who are mostly males. What are barriers for women's entering higher levels? Are there any temporary special measures in place to address these issues?

19. The State party report acknowledges that over several decades a disproportion has been observed in the grouping of girls and boys according to specialties (girls are studying mostly the humanities while boys are mostly studying technical subjects). Please provide information on initiatives to encourage women to pursue studies in non-traditional areas. Also, indicate measures taken to eliminate stereotypes on the roles of women and men in the education system through the revision of text books and school curricula.

Employment

20. In its previous concluding observations,⁴ the Committee called for the enactment of an equal employment opportunity law, which prohibits discrimination in recruitment, promotion, employment conditions and dismissal, require equal pay for work of equal value and provide for effective enforcement procedures and remedies. Please indicate whether this law has been enacted. If not, indicate the reasons for this delay. Also indicate what sanctions are envisaged by the State party to eliminate discriminatory practices by employers, ensure full compliance with the provisions of the Convention and guarantee the rights of women and men to equal pay for work of equal value.

21. Are there industries in which women perform handicrafts in their homes? Are there regulations which affect such home-based work? Are such workers entitled to benefits, for example, sick leave, and paid leave? What is the level of wage for such home-based work compared to other employment?

22. The State party report acknowledges that horizontal and vertical occupational segregation between women and men persists in the area of employment, and as a result women generally have less access to high-level positions. What professions are predominantly filled by women and what factors contribute to this? Does the Government ensure that opportunities, including educational and training programmes, exist for women in occupations which are not traditionally pursued by women?

23. The State party's report describes a variety of assistance programmes aimed at increasing the competitiveness of women on the labour market, reducing unemployment among them and attracting women to entrepreneurial activity. Please

⁴ Ibid., para. 384.

provide information on the type of businesses pursued by women as well as the concrete results achieved through these programmes.

24. Please indicate whether the Government has introduced measures to address sexual harassment and violence against women in the work place? If so, please describe those measures and their effect.

Health

25. According to the report in 2007, only 27 per cent of women of childbearing age in the Russian Federation made use of modern methods of contraception, which is significantly lower than in many European countries. Please indicate what major actions the Government has taken to raise awareness of, and to increase access to contraception, particularly in rural areas and whether all contraceptives are free of charge and accessible to both men and women, as well as adolescent boys and girls.

26. Please provide information on what action the Government has taken to include sex education in the school curriculum, as recommended in the Committee's previous concluding observations.

Rural women

27. What measures are being, or have been taken, to increase rural women's awareness of the rights enshrined in the Convention? Please provide information on any national policy, strategy or programme carried out by the State party to improve the situation of rural women and girls including their access to health care, education, employment, land, credit and decision-making roles. What percentage of agricultural work in rural areas is done by women?

Minority women

28. Please indicate whether the State party has adopted comprehensive discrimination legislation protecting ethnic minorities, in particular Chechens, Roma and persons of African origin. Please provide information on the situation of women and girls of foreign origin, ethnic minorities, including with regard to employment, social security, education, housing and health. What measures of either a general or targeted nature have been implemented, taking into account the specific needs and circumstances of these vulnerable groups of women? Furthermore, what legal remedies are available to these minority women who are victims of gender-based violence or domestic violence? Please provide detailed information with regard to human rights education offered to them in general, and education on gender equality, in particular.

Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of women

29. Please provide information on programmes and services for women with disabilities including any assistance given to them during pregnancy and after childbirth, or in their housework. Please also provide information on the health services and social benefits provided to older women.

30. The State party's report provides little information on refugee women, internally displaced women and asylum-seekers. Please provide information on the situation of these women in all areas covered by the Convention, particularly on rural refugee women who may be exposed to multiple forms of discrimination.

Furthermore, please provide information on violence against women within these communities. Does existing Refugee Law contain provisions defining gender-based asylum-related claims? Are there trainings for members of the Federal Migration Service to consider claims related to gender-based persecution?

Amendment to article 20, paragraph 1

31. Please describe progress towards acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, concerning the meeting time of the Committee.
