



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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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 sixth periodic report of the Netherlands, at the Committee's sixty-fifth session, held in November 2016. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/NLD/CO/6) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 51 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Netherlands to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 22 (b) and (c), 24 (c) and 36 (d) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received on time in November 2018 (CEDAW/C/NLD/CO/6/Add.1) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventy-second session, held in March 2019 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 22** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“amend the Media Act in line with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention in order that gender role stereotyping is considered to be discrimination”**:

The Committee welcomes the information that shows the State party's intention to examine how the representation and portrayal of women is evolving. While this is an important measure, the Committee regrets that the State party has not taken any steps to amend the Media Act in line with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention. The Committee considers that the State party did not take any steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

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

In relation to the recommendation urging the State party to **“intensify engagement with relevant actors and allocate resources to finance effective awareness-raising campaigns to promote positive and non-stereotypical portrayals of women in the media and in advertisements and conduct a study on the possible impact of sexist portrayals of women and girls in the media and the extent to which they exacerbate gender-based violence against women in the State party”**:

Her Excellency
Ms. Monique T.G. Van Daalen
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The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party that it has taken some steps to increase collaboration with relevant stakeholders, in particular through the establishment of the “Representation in the Media Coalition”. The Committee further welcomes the information provided by the State party that it intends to set up a study of how the representation of women in the media is evolving, but regrets that the study will not examine how sexist portrayals of women exacerbate gender-based violence. The Committee further regrets the absence of information on resources allocated to finance awareness-raising campaigns to promote positive and non-stereotypical portrayals of women in the media and in advertisements. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendations. It considers that the recommendations **have been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive but that it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 22** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

1. Amend the Media Act in line with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention in order for gender role stereotyping to be considered discrimination.

2. Continue its engagement with relevant actors; allocate resources to finance effective awareness-raising campaigns to promote positive and non-stereotypical portrayals of women in the media and in advertisements; conduct a study on the possible impact of sexist portrayals of women and girls in the media and the extent to which they exacerbate gender-based violence against women in the State party.

With regards to the recommendation made in **paragraph 24** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**systematically collect data on all forms of violence against women, disaggregated by age and the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, as well as on protection measures, prosecutions and sanctions imposed on perpetrators, in particular in the municipalities of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba**”:

While the Committee welcomes information that the State party has conducted and plans to conduct numerous important studies related to violence against women, notably domestic violence, it regrets that the studies do not contain disaggregated data. The Committee further regrets that the data supplied by the Safe at Home support services is not uniform. The Committee welcomes the information that the State party intends to align the protocol for registration of the Safe at Home services, but regrets that it has not indicated a clear timeline for doing so. The Committee further regrets the absence of information on other forms of violence against women. While the Committee welcomes the administrative agreement on domestic violence and child abuse with the municipalities of Bonaire, St. Eustatius; Saba of Bonaire; St. Eustatius and Saba, it regrets that it does not mention a specific timeline nor whether and how disaggregated data will be collected. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 24** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Systematically collect data on all forms of violence against women, disaggregated by age and the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, as well as on protection



measures, prosecutions and sanctions imposed on perpetrators, particularly within the municipalities of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 36** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**intensify efforts to investigate, prosecute and sanction reported cases of pregnancy-related discrimination, including sexual harassment**”:

While the Committee welcomes the launch of the Pregnancy-Related Discrimination Action Plan, it regrets that the State party has not provided information on goals and tools for measuring its efficiency. The Committee further welcomes the information that the State party is increasing the funding for the Labour Inspectorate and that it is examining possibilities to expand its mandate to include discrimination in recruitment and selection processes. It however regrets that the efforts of the Labour Inspectorate seem to be focussed on awareness raising. The Committee further regrets that no information was provided on efforts to combat pregnancy-related discrimination outside of the labour market. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented.**

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory.**

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

Intensify efforts to investigate, prosecute and sanction reported cases of pregnancy-related discrimination, including sexual harassment.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Lea Nadaraia
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women