



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org – cedaw@ohchr.org

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Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honour to refer to the examination of the fifth periodic report of the Republic of Lithuania at the Committee's fifty-eight session, held in July 2014. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5). You may recall that in the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Republic of Lithuania to provide, within two years, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15 and 23 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received with 5-month delay in December 2016 (CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5/Add.1) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its sixty-sixth session, held in March 2017 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 15** of the concluding observations, that the State party "strengthen the mandate and authority of and the level of representation of line ministries in the Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men to enable it to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the National Programme effectively": The State party mentioned that draft amendments to the Regulations of the Inter-institutional Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, aiming to strengthen the status and mandate of the Commission, as well as its influence and membership of state institutions and non-state actors, are being developed. The State party added that in this framework, the possibility of delegating high-ranked representatives to participate in the works of the Commission, who would have a deputy in case of their absence, is also being discussed.

The Committee welcomes the preparation of draft amendments to the Regulations of the Commission in order to strengthen its mandate and representation of ministries. However, the Committee notes that these amendments have not yet been adopted. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

His Excellency
Mr. Andrius Krivas
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Chemin Louis-Dunant 15
1202 Geneva

E-mail: mission.ch@urm.lt

In relation to the recommendation that the State party “increase the financial and human resources of the Gender Equality Unit”: The State party mentioned that financing is allocated within the framework of the Action Plan for Implementation of the National Programme. In fact, this Action Plan establishes specific measures, deadlines for their implementation, institutions in charge, and need for state budget funds for the implementation of each measure. The State party further reported that the Gender Equality Unit has three employees, two of whom are civil servants and one works under an employment contract.

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party regarding the human resources available to the Gender Equality Unit, as well as the information on how financing is allocated. However, it considers that the State party did not take sufficient measures to increase the financial and human resources of the Gender Equality Unit. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

With regards to the recommendation that the State party “ensure that every ministry allocates a special budget for the effective implementation of the National Programme”: The State party mentioned that each Ministry responsible for the implementation of specific measures of the Action Plan for Implementation of the National Programme allocates a separate budget, if needed. The State party added that there is no other mechanism ensuring that sufficient funds are appropriated for the implementation of the measures.

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party regarding the allocation of funds of the different Ministries responsible for the implementation of specific measures of the Action Plan. However, the Committee considers it has not taken sufficient measures to create a mechanism aiming to ensure that special budget is allocated by the different Ministries for the effective implementation of the National Programme. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

In relation to the recommendation that the State party “ensure monitoring of the effectiveness of the National Programme in all regions of the State party based on time-bound targets and indicators and extend the application of the National Programme beyond 2014”: The State party mentioned that the National Programme for 2015–2021 was approved at the beginning of 2015. Further, the Action Plan for Implementation of the National programme 2015-2017 was approved by the Government in 13 April 2015. It also indicated that implementation of the Action Plan is coordinated by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. At the meetings of the Commission, on a yearly basis, implementation of different measures is discussed and information on the outcomes is presented. The State party added that there is no special mechanism dedicated to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the measures of the Action Plan in all the regions of the State.

The Committee welcomes the approval of a new National Programme for 2015 – 2021, as well as of a corresponding implementation plan. The Committee also notes the information provided by the State party on yearly meetings of the Commission to monitor progress of implementation. The Committee however notes the absence of a mechanism to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of its implementation based on time-bound targets and indicators. 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 recommends that, in relation to paragraph 15 of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

1. Expedite adoption of amendments to the Regulations of the Inter-institutional Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, in order to strengthen its mandate and authority and its level of representation, to enable it to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the National Programme effectively.
2. Increase the financial and human resources of the Gender Equality Unit.
3. Ensure that every ministry allocates a special budget for the effective implementation of the National Programme.
4. Establish a mechanism to monitor the effectiveness of the National Programme in all regions of the State party based on time-bound targets and indicators.

With regards to the recommendation made in **paragraph 23** of the concluding observations “to adopt a comprehensive strategy, which would complement the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Provision of Assistance to Victims for 2014–2020, aimed at eliminating sex- and gender-based violence against women in all its forms in public and private life, and set up an adequate coordinating and monitoring mechanism, or mandate an existing mechanism, to effectively prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women”: The State party mentioned that it adopted the 2014–2020 National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Provision of Assistance to Victims, on 28 May 2014. It further reported that on 24 September 2014, the 2014–2016 Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2014–2020 National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Provision of Assistance to Victims providing for measures and funds for the implementation of the Programme, was approved by the Government. It further reported that on 14 June 2013, an interdepartmental working group for coordinating and resolving issues on protection against domestic violence was formed by the Prime Minister.

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party regarding the adoption of the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Provision of Assistance to Victims for 2014–2020 together with the 2014–2016 Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2014–2020 National Programme, and the establishment of an interdepartmental working group in charge of coordinating and resolving issues on protection against domestic violence. However, the Committee considers that the State party did not take measures to adopt a comprehensive strategy aimed at eliminating sex- and gender-based violence against women, which would complement the National Programme. The State party has further not set up a coordinating and monitoring mechanism, or mandated an existing mechanism, to effectively prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women. The Committee considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to regularly collect, analyse and publish data on cases of all forms of violence against women and girls that have been reported, investigated and prosecuted”: The State party mentioned that data on reports received, prejudicial investigations instituted, refusals to institute prejudicial investigations, number of aggrieved persons, and suspected of domestic violence are accumulated in a Police register; and is further analysed and published. Data is also made public through conferences, seminars, and mass media. The State party further informed that every month, on the basis of the Departmental Register of Criminal Actions, the Information Technology and Communications Department, draws up a report; “Data on the criminal actions and persons suspected (accused) of committing criminal actions associated with domestic violence (Form Violence – IT)” and publishes them on the internet.

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party regarding its effort to regularly collect, analyse and publish data on domestic violence. However, the Committee considers that the State party does not collect, analyse and publish data on other forms of violence

against women. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

With regards to the recommendation that the State party “provide crisis and walk-in centres that offer protection and assistance to all women who are victims of violence”: The State party mentioned that since 2012, 17 Specialised Assistance Centres operated by NGOs provide specialised assistance to victims of domestic violence in Lithuania, and that this assistance is financed from the state budget. It further reported that accommodation services and other necessary assistance, if required, can be provided to women suffering from domestic violence in almost all municipalities (50 out of 60).

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on the availability of 17 Specialised Assistance Centres and the possibility for women victims of domestic violence to request assistance in 50 out of 60 municipalities. However, the Committee considers that the State party did not take sufficient measures to provide the same protection for women victims of other forms of violence. 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 recommends that, in relation to paragraph 23 of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

1. Adopt a comprehensive strategy, which would complement the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Provision of Assistance to Victims for 2014-2020, aimed at eliminating sex- and gender-based violence against women in all its forms in public and private life, and set up an adequate coordinating and monitoring mechanism, or mandate an existing mechanism, to effectively prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women.
2. Expand the system used to collect data on cases of all forms of violence against women and girls that have been reported, investigated and prosecuted.
3. Expand the protection and assistance services of crisis and walk-in centres to women victims of all forms of violence.

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

Yours sincerely,



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