



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Thirty-third session 5-22 July 2005

Concluding comments: Israel

1. The Committee considered the third periodic report of Israel (CEDAW/C/ISR/3) at its 685th and 686th meetings, on 6 July 2005.

Introduction by the State party

2. In introducing the report and up-to-date information, the representative indicated that these were the result of a collaborative effort by various government bodies, together with inputs from non-governmental organizations. Equality and the promotion of women's rights were of the utmost importance to the Government and society. The representative emphasized that Israeli women were a vibrant, vocal, integral part of every aspect of society, which they shape and take part in as members of every profession. Drawing attention to progress in many areas, the representative noted remaining gaps still to be addressed. Since the submission of the previous report, concerted efforts had been made, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to promote equality between men and women, Jews and non-Jews of all ethnic and religious backgrounds alike. The representative emphasized that Israeli women awaited the day when they and Palestinian women, especially under the new Palestinian leadership, will no longer know the grief of loss but only the joy of equality, building and progress.

3. Efforts to eliminate discrimination against women in the legislative arena had been wide-ranging. Recent laws complemented one another, representing a new approach of "women's legislation". These laws covered a variety of issues including women's equal rights, sexual harassment, stalking, governmental responsibility for gender equality, the rights of women victims and prevention of discrimination in the private sector. They provided a broad vision of social change and complete transformation of gender power and relations. Measures had also been taken to guarantee implementation.

4. The Government had taken steps, including affirmative action, to eliminate

Concluding comments of the Committee

Introduction

9. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the State party for its third period

25. The Committee remains concerned that the State party continues to retain its reservations to articles 7 (b) and 16 of the Convention. The Committee is particularly concerned at the State party's statement that such reservations are "unavoidable at this point in time" and its position that laws based on religious values cannot be reformed.

26. The Committee urges the State party to consider withdrawing its reservations to articles 7 (b) and 16, be

trafficked women and girls have adequate support to be in a position to provide testimony against their traffickers.

31. While noting the increase in the number of women in the Knesset, the Committee remains concerned about the low level of representation of women in decision-making positions in local authorities. It is also concerned that the number of women in high-level positions in the civil service and foreign service remains low. The Committee is further concerned about the low level of representation of Israeli Arab women in these areas.

32. The Committee encourages the State party to take sustained measures, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25, and to establish concrete goals and timetables so as to accelerate the increase in the representation of women, including Israeli Arab women, in elected and appointed bodies in all areas of public life.

33. The Committee is concerned about the State party's temporary suspension order of May 2002, enacted into law as the Nationality and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Order) of 31 July 2003, which suspends the possibility, subject to

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37. The Committee is concerned about the number of incidents at Israeli checkpoints which have a negative im

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