



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

71st Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

22 October – 9 November 2018

Excerpts from the Concluding Observations on the 6th periodic report of Macedonia: relevant to and potentially impacting sex workers, collated by NSWP.

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the consideration in 2013 of the State party's combined fourth and fifth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/MKD/4-5) in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of the following:

(b) National strategy and the national action plan for combating trafficking in persons and illegal migration for the period 2017–2020;

Legislative framework and protection from discrimination

12. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/MKD/CO/4-5, para. 11) and recommends that the State party:

(d) Develop a plan for targeted implementation of the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, ensuring a focus on Roma, rural, migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee women, women in prostitution and women with disabilities;

National machinery for the advancement of women

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(f) Ensure formal and permanent consultation processes and cooperation between the national machinery and civil society organizations, including those representing the interests of Roma, rural, migrant and refugee women, women with disabilities and women in prostitution.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the effective enforcement of anti-trafficking legislation, including by providing judges, prosecutors, border police, immigration authorities and other law enforcement officials with mandatory training in its gender-sensitive application;

(b) Allocate appropriate human, technical and financial resources to implement the national strategy and the national action plan for combating trafficking in persons

and illegal migration for the period 2017–2020 and evaluate the impact of its implementation;

(c) Increase the coverage of the mobile teams for the identification of trafficking, along with strategies for the identification and referral of victims, and accelerate the adoption of mechanisms to provide restitution and compensation to victims of trafficking;

(d) Effectively investigate and prosecute all cases of trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls and ensure that the sentences imposed on perpetrators of trafficking-related crimes are commensurate with the gravity of those crimes;

(e) Strengthen the human, technical and financial resources of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the unit for trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants of the Department for Criminal Investigations.

27. The Committee notes with concern the information it has received about cases of gender-based violence against women in prostitution, including physical and verbal violence, harassment, ill-treatment and arbitrary detention, by the police. It also notes with concern that women in prostitution face barriers to access to shelters for victims of violence and limited access to health care. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of exit programmes for women who wish to leave prostitution.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Combat violence against women in prostitution and adopt measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and adequately punish such violence;

(b) Ensure that health-care and social protection programmes are available to women in prostitution, strengthen income-generating opportunities for women and provide exit programmes for women who wish to leave prostitution.