



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

68th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

10 February – 28 February 2020

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

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the consideration in 2012 of the State party's combined second to fifth periodic reports in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of the following:

(b) Trafficking in Persons Act, in 2014;

5. The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts to improve its institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, such as the adoption or establishment of the following:

(a) Trafficking in persons national plan of action covering the period 2019–2021, intended to operationalize the Trafficking in Persons Act and guide the implementation of related activities;

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Step up efforts to identify and protect victims of trafficking from and within the State party and refer them to appropriate services at an early stage, in collaboration with civil society organizations, and step up efforts to investigate, prosecute and adequately punish the perpetrators of trafficking-related crimes;

(b) Amend the Trafficking in Persons Act to incorporate a definition of trafficking in persons that is consistent with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

(c) Ensure the availability of State shelters for victims of trafficking in all 10 provinces and increase the financial support provided to non-governmental organizations running shelters and offering support services, including legal counselling and rehabilitation services, to women and girls who are victims of trafficking.

31. The Committee welcomes the decision by the Constitutional Court in 2015 prohibiting the arrest of women found loitering for purposes of prostitution. It notes with concern, however, the high number of women exploited in prostitution in the State party owing to poverty, the lack of data on women and girls in prostitution, the lack

of measures to address the root causes of prostitution and the absence of exit programmes for women who wish to leave prostitution.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party analyse and address the root causes of prostitution, provide women and girls who wish to leave prostitution with exit programmes and alternative income-generating opportunities and collect disaggregated data on the extent of prostitution in the State party.