

**Mandate of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice**

REFERENCE: OL  
OMN 4/2014:

14 November 2014

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/7.

The Working Group is following up on the information on Oman, published by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in its 2014 annual note regarding **gender equality in legal provisions in nationality laws**. According to this information, current nationality law in Oman discriminates against women in that although mothers can confer nationality to their children born either in their home countries or abroad if the fathers are unknown or are former Omani nationals, they do not enjoy equal rights in this respect with men.

In this regard, the Working Group wishes to recall CEDAW's Concluding Observations on Oman (CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5), in which the CEDAW Committee expressed deep concern that women and men do not enjoy equal rights to nationality in the State party. The Committee noted that that fact that Omani women cannot transfer their nationality to their children if and when the fathers are non-nationals, whereas Omani men are able to do so for their children born of foreign mothers, constitutes a clear violation of women's equal rights under the Convention. The Committee recommended that the State withdraw its reservation to article 9 of the Convention and amend its domestic laws to grant Omani women equal rights with men in regard to transmission of their nationality to their children.

The Working Group would also like to recall the recommendations made in the context of the Universal Periodic Review of Oman, which are under consideration or are supported by Oman, which called for the State to amend its Nationality Law to enable women the legal right to transmit Omani citizenship to their children (see recommendations 90.34 in A/HRC/23/8).

The Working Group would like to draw to your Excellency's Government's attention the existence of good practices by States in your region, which, in recent years, have repealed legislative provisions that discriminate against women in the matter of nationality.

In order to clarify the measures being taken by your Excellency's Government to repeal the discriminatory legislative provisions on nationality, the Working Group would be grateful if you could address the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information on the current status of the relevant legislation with regard to the right of women to pass their nationality to the children on an equal footing with men;
2. Please provide information on any measures that your Excellency's Government has taken or intend to take in order to implement the recommendations by UN human rights mechanisms, referred to above, and to bring its legislation into compliance with international human rights law.

The Working Group would appreciate a response within 60 days and remains available for any type of technical advice on legislative reform that your Excellency's Government may require.

This communication and your Excellency's Government's response will be made available in a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

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

Frances Raday  
Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice