

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

REFERENCE: OL  
IRN 24/2015:

17 December 2015

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.

On behalf of the Working Group, I would like to thank you for your letter of 27 October 2015 in response to our communication IRN 15/2015 of 24 August 2015. The Working Group appreciates receiving the additional clarifications about the national legal provisions relating to gender equality in Iranian marital legislation, especially the Iranian Civil Code.

The Working Group welcomes the spirit of the letter which presents evidence on recent developments introduced to integrate gender equality in some aspects of women's marital status, especially with regard to the age of marriage, consent for marriage, the right to divorce, children custody and wife obedience. The Working Group understands that these developments are also linked to changing social practices and to recent progressive judicial rulings. The Working Group notes that your Excellency's Government seems to regard these developments positively.

While taking note of these clarifications, the Working Group would appreciate receiving additional details on measures taken to advance the reform of marital status legislation, including the Iranian Civil Code. In its communication IRN 15/2015, the Working Group expressed specific concerns regarding discrimination against women, including inequality between spouses, temporary marriages and inheritance, on which the letter does not provide information. The Working Group wishes to remind your Excellency's Government that States have the obligation under international law to make sure that the constitutional and legal framework guarantees equality in all aspects of women's marital status.

The Working Group would wish to continue this dialogue with your Excellency's Government and would appreciate receiving a response within 60 days.

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.

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