

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

REFERENCE: AL  
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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 Suriname, 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, legislation in Suriname discriminates against women in that those children born abroad in wedlock acquire Surinamese citizenship by descent if their father is a Surinamese citizen but not if their mother is.

In this regard, the Working Group wishes to recall CEDAW's Concluding Observations on Suriname (CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/3), in which the CEDAW Committee expressed continued concern about provisions in the domestic law that discriminate against women, including provisions in the Nationality and Residence Act. The Committee urged the State party to repeal discriminatory provisions in the Nationality and Residence Act, give high priority to reform and increase its efforts to sensitize Government officials on the need for reform.

The Working Group would also like to recall the recommendations made in the context of the Universal Periodic Review of Suriname, which are under consideration or are supported by Suriname, which called for Suriname to review national legislation, in particular the Nationality and Residence Act, so as to repeal provisions that could facilitate discrimination with regard to acquisition of nationality, effectively promote, repeal all discriminatory provisions against women in domestic legislation and fully incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into the national legal framework (see recommendations in 73.12, 73.22 & 73.23 A/HRC/18/12).

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