

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

REFERENCE: OL
JOR 2/2014:

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 Jordan, published by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in its 2014 annual note regarding **gender equality in legal provisions in nationality laws**. While noting the recent announcement on the provisions of greater access to services, like education and health for children of Jordanian mothers and non-Jordanian fathers, according to this information, current nationality law in Jordan discriminates against women in that it only allows women nationals married to foreign nationals to pass their nationality to their children in certain circumstances such as where fathers are unknown, stateless, of unknown nationality or do not establish filiation.

In this regard, the Working Group wishes to recall CEDAW's Concluding Observations on Jordan (CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/5), in which the CEDAW Committee expressed concern that under the Nationality Act, Jordanian women are not entitled to pass on their nationality to the children born to foreign fathers. The Committee urged the State to review the Nationality Act, to ensure equality between women and men with regard to nationality rights. Furthermore, the Committee recommended that Jordan remove its reservation to article 9 paragraph 2.

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Government the existence of wide spread good practices by States in your region which, in recent years, have repealed legislative provisions which discriminate against women in the matter of nationality.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