

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

REFERENCE: AL
QAT 3/2014:

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 Qatar, 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 Qatar discriminates against women in that they are not permitted to transfer their nationality to their children under any circumstances even if this would result in statelessness.

In this regard, the Working Group wishes to recall CEDAW's Concluding Observations on Qatar (CEDAW/C/QAT/CO/1, in which the CEDAW Committee expressed concern the non-permissibility for women to transmit their Qatari citizenship to their children under the Nationality Law. The Committee recommended the State systematically review its laws and regulations, and to modify or repeal, without delay and within a clear time frame, discriminatory legislation, including provisions in the Nationality Law.

The Working Group would also like to recall the recommendations made in the context of the Universal Periodic Review of Qatar, which are under consideration or are supported by Qatar, which called for the State to strengthen measures to ensure gender equality, particularly in the transmission of nationality to the children of women married to non-citizens (see recommendations 22.36 & 124.36 in A/HRC/27/15).

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like to draw to your attention the existence of good practices by States in your region, which, in recent years, have repealed legislative provisions that discriminate against women in the matter of nationality.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