



**Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women**

**Information received from the Russian Federation on  
follow-up to the concluding observations on its ninth  
periodic report\***

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



**Paragraph 13 (c)**

1. In the judicial system, organizational support for the further professional education of federal court judges is provided by the Judicial Department under the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation in accordance with the regulation on professional retraining and advanced training for federal court judges, approved by a ruling of the Presidium of the Supreme Court dated 18 April 2018.
2. The implementation of further training programmes for first-time judges of federal courts and advanced training for judges is carried out by the Russian State University of Justice as part of the State's mission to provide State services.
3. The procedure for training personnel and improving their professional skills in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, including training under additional programmes, is set forth in Federal Act No. 342-FZ of 30 November 2011 on service in the internal affairs bodies of the Russian Federation and the introduction of amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation, and in Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Order No. 275 of 5 May 2018 on approval of the procedure for organizing personnel training to fill positions in the internal affairs bodies of the Russian Federation.
4. Particular attention is paid to professional (initial) training programmes for first-time recruits. For example, over 40,000 young specialists received such training in 2022.
5. Higher and secondary educational establishments of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs train students in the following disciplines: international law and constitutional law, covering the topics of equality of human rights and freedoms; and criminal law and administrative law, disclosing the conditions of liability for unlawful acts in the relevant area established by law.
6. A set of measures is being implemented in the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs system, encompassing measures to raise well-integrated and socially responsible individuals based on the spiritual and moral values of the peoples of Russia, with the aim of developing a polite and considerate attitude towards citizens, including the prevention of any forms of discrimination, including those arising from prejudices about unequal rights due to differences based on gender.
7. The educational programmes of the penal system include the following disciplines and (or) topics: international legal standards (recommendations) in the treatment of suspects, accused and convicted persons; practices of intergovernmental bodies for the protection of human rights; foreign experience in ensuring proper conditions for the detention of suspects and accused persons; requirements of international legal acts for prison staff; and the legal basis and procedure for the use of physical force, special equipment and firearms.
8. Students study the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the relevant international human rights treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party. Students are also familiarized with the peculiarities of the legal status, conditions and procedure for the detention of suspects and accused and convicted persons in penal institutions.
9. Gender equality is addressed in the application of criminal law provisions on combating violence against women and in the conduct of related investigative procedures, as part of the advanced training and retraining of prosecutors.
10. The protection of women's rights, the prohibition of discrimination against women and compliance with criminal law provisions prohibiting violence against women were included in the training and retraining plans for prosecutors. These

issues are covered under the following disciplines: supervision by the public prosecutor of investigative, inquiry and intelligence-gathering activities; compliance with the established procedure for the investigation of crimes and the enforcement of laws; compliance of legal acts with the law; and the observance of human and civil rights.

11. An important role in the prevention of domestic violence is assigned to the internal affairs agencies, which are involved as a matter of priority in resolving interpersonal conflicts in families. Departmental acts oblige local police officers to pay special attention to persons prone to committing domestic offences and to carry out preventive measures with them.

12. The investigative bodies are focused, on an unconditional and priority basis, on ensuring criminal law protection of the life and health of women and children who are victims of domestic and other violence, and on taking timely and sufficient measures to ensure the enjoyment of their rights.

13. The investigation of offences against the sexual inviolability and sexual freedom of women, including minors, is a priority area of the work of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

14. Procedural checks and investigations of criminal cases involving offences committed against women are carried out in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation.

15. In the event of a report of family violence, a thorough investigation of the actual circumstances of the incident is carried out, the existence of similar reports by the complainant or close relatives of criminal acts against family members is verified, and a lawful and reasoned decision is taken.

16. Special importance is attached to work on psychological assistance and support for victims, including women. Psychologists function as separate staff of the investigative bodies, providing legal protection for the individuals concerned, supplementing individual procedural actions, using visual psychodiagnostic methods and applied psychology to activate memory, drawing portraits and analysing the behaviour of participants in criminal proceedings.

17. During the investigation of criminal cases, if there is evidence of a threat to the life and health of participants in criminal proceedings, the investigative authorities promptly decide on the application of security measures in accordance with the law.

18. The heads of the investigative departments systematically make personal appointments to meet with citizens, including visits to remote settlements.

19. Both men and women seek legal assistance from investigative units. The oral and written complaints mechanism allows women to freely assert their rights at the pre-trial stage of criminal proceedings. There are no incidents of women being prevented from submitting statements or making complaints because of discriminatory attitudes towards them.

20. The investigation of high-profile criminal cases of violence against women is entrusted to the most experienced investigators, with the creation of investigative teams and the involvement of operational units.

21. Russia has a network of social service organizations providing services to citizens (families with children, women and minors), including victims of family violence and abuse.

22. The work of such institutions is regulated by Federal Act No. 442-FZ of 28 December 2013 on the basic principles of social services for citizens in the Russian Federation.

23. Taking into account that, as a rule, it is women and children who are the victims of violence, crisis centres (departments) have been established to provide support to women in difficult life situations and to victims of family and psychophysical violence.
24. Work with this category of citizens is also carried out at comprehensive social service centres, at family and children's assistance centres and at established inpatient units that serve as crisis centres. In addition, the social service system includes organizations designed for temporary accommodation.
25. The constituent entities of the Russian Federation also have regional helplines and hotlines at crisis centres and shelters for women who find themselves in extreme psychological and social conditions, where specialists provide psychological assistance.
26. Leaflets, information notes and booklets on the prevention of family violence are developed and distributed as part of prevention, awareness-raising and outreach efforts, and information is posted on information boards and official websites of organizations on the Internet and in the media.
27. Work with families in crisis involves actively making use of interdisciplinary technologies and an integrated approach, including:
- Social media technologies: "family club"
  - Psychosocial technologies: short-term family therapy, individual and family crisis counselling, and group training sessions
  - Art technologies
28. Rehabilitation is based on comprehensive programmes developed in each institution.
29. The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has a helpline, a "child in danger" hotline and an Internet front desk.
30. All constituent entities of the Russian Federation have a "children's helpline", which can be called for advice not only by children and adolescents, but also by their parents and by citizens in need of urgent professional assistance.

### **Paragraph 29 (f)**

31. Presidential Decree No. 809 of 9 November 2022 approved the Basis of State policy for preserving and strengthening traditional Russian spiritual and moral values.
32. Traditional values include life, dignity, human rights and freedoms, high moral ideals and a strong family.
33. One of the most important areas of the State's work is to improve the ways in which children and young people are raised and educated, in accordance with the State's policy goals of preserving and strengthening traditional values.
34. The Ministry of Science and Higher Education piloted a programme of interactive classes for children, adolescents and young people on non-violent methods of dispute and conflict resolution in 2021.
35. The programme is an effective tool for creating a safe space for the full development and socialization of children and adolescents, including the prevention of deviant behaviour, which includes the prevention of sexual exploitation of women and trafficking in persons. More than 7,500 people in total have participated in the programme.

36. Higher education institutions conduct research on equal rights, improving the social status of women and countering the sexual exploitation of women and trafficking in persons.

37. An analysis of media publications shows that, in 2021–2023 in Russia, there were many educational and awareness-raising activities aimed at combating all forms of subordination and objectification of women. These include a round table, organized by the Committee on Family, Women and Children Issues of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, on the topic “Legislative support for the national strategy of action for women for 2023–2030 and proposals for an action plan for its implementation”; an event, held by Russian Federation Public Chamber, entitled “The national strategy of action for women for 2023–2030: from social inclusion to women’s civic and social service”; and an initiative of the Commissioner (Ombudsperson) for Human Rights in Moscow, entitled “The code of the modern woman: status, rights, social status and opportunities”.

### **Paragraph 41 (b)**

38. In accordance with article 19 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the State guarantees equality of human and civil rights and freedoms, regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, property or official status, place of residence, religion, beliefs, membership of community associations or other circumstances. All forms of restrictions on civil rights on the basis of social, racial, national, linguistic or religious grounds are prohibited. Men and women have equal rights and freedoms and equal opportunities for their enjoyment.

39. The right of everyone to health care and medical assistance is enshrined in article 41, paragraph 1, of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

40. In accordance with article 5, paragraph 2, of Federal Act No. 323-FZ of 21 November 2011 on the basis for protection of the health of citizens of the Russian Federation, the State protects the health of citizens regardless of sex, race, age, nationality, language, ill-health, wealth, origin, property and official status, place of residence, attitude to religion, beliefs, membership of community associations or other circumstances.

41. Article 10 of Federal Act No. 323-FZ stipulates that accessibility to and quality of care are ensured by organizing health care based on the principle of proximity to the place of residence, place of work or education, and the opportunity to choose a medical facility and a doctor.

42. The law does not discriminate against persons with disabilities in the accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services. According to article 13 of Federal Act No. 181-FZ of 24 November 1995 on social protection for persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation, qualified medical care for persons with disabilities is provided on a general basis under the programme of State guarantees for the provision of free medical care for Russian citizens. Women with disabilities in Russia have equal access to sexual and reproductive health services.

43. Organizations of any form of ownership that provide medical care are obliged to ensure that all infrastructure is accessible to persons with disabilities, in accordance with the procedure for ensuring accessible conditions for persons with disabilities to State, municipal and private health-care system facilities and the provision of health-care service and necessary assistance to them, approved by Order No. 802n of the Ministry of Health dated 12 November 2015.

44. Under article 51 of Federal Act No. 323-FZ, all citizens have the right, on medical grounds, to consultations without charge on matters of family planning and

on the medical and psychological aspects of family and marital relations, as well as medical and genetic and other consultations and examinations in medical facilities of the State health-care system in order to prevent possible hereditary and congenital diseases in their descendants.

45. In accordance with article 52 of Federal Act No. 323-FZ, women are provided with medical care at medical facilities during pregnancy, and during and after childbirth, under the programme of State guarantees for the provision of free medical care to citizens.

46. The State guarantees the protection of reproductive rights in accordance with article 5 of the model law of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on safeguarding the reproductive rights and reproductive health of citizens. At the same time, restrictions on the reproductive rights of citizens are possible only in order to protect their lives, the lives and health of other citizens, morality and public safety.

47. Having a disability is not a contraindication to the use of assisted reproductive technologies. In addition, all organizations providing medical care in any field, including urology, obstetrics and gynaecology (including the use of assisted reproductive technologies) are obliged to ensure that all infrastructure is accessible to persons with disabilities.

48. Measures for the sexual and reproductive rehabilitation of persons with disabilities are included in clinical recommendations and the programme of State guarantees for the provision of free medical care to Russian citizens.

49. No discrimination against people living with HIV is allowed. At the same time, Federal Act No. 38-FZ of 30 March 1995 on preventing the spread of HIV in the Russian Federation prohibits restricting the rights of persons who are HIV positive.

50. Under article 4, paragraph 1, of Federal Act No. 38-FZ, the State guarantees the provision of medical care to HIV-positive Russian citizens in accordance with the programme of State guarantees for the provision of free medical care to citizens. Russian legislation in this area applies to all HIV-positive patients, regardless of their age and gender.

51. Work has been organized in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation to prepare and implement regional interdepartmental HIV prevention programmes and to conduct information and communication campaigns on the prevention of HIV infection and associated diseases.

52. Article 17 of Federal Act No. 38-FZ prohibits dismissal from work, refusal of employment, refusal of admission to organizations engaged in educational activities or medical organizations, or restriction of other rights and legitimate interests of HIV-positive persons on the basis of their disease.

53. Educational organizations do not have the right to require applicants for employment or study to undergo HIV testing and provide the relevant medical report, or otherwise force them to declare their HIV status or the HIV status of their loved ones.

54. Federal Act No. 323-FZ guarantees the right to confidentiality of personal information, in particular regarding state of health, diagnosis and other confidential medical information. Actions by the heads of educational organizations for the preservation of personal data of students and employees, as well as their families, are regulated by Federal Act No. 152-FZ of 27 July 2006 on personal data.

55. Russia ensures unconditional respect for the medical confidentiality of female patients with mental and behavioural disorders, as well as equal opportunities with men to receive medical assistance in diagnosis and treatment.
56. Medical facilities rigorously protect women from violence, discrimination and stigmatization when providing drug dependency treatment.
57. In accordance with Russian Federation Act No. 3185-1 of 2 July 1992 on psychiatric care and guarantees of citizens' rights as patients, Russian citizens have equal rights to medical care for mental and behavioural disorders and their enjoyment of this right does not depend on such factors as gender, age or place of residence.
58. Foreign citizens and stateless persons present in the territory of Russia enjoy all the rights established by Act No. 3185-1 to the provision of psychiatric care on an equal footing with Russian citizens. The rights and freedoms of persons suffering from mental disorders are not restricted by receiving a psychiatric diagnosis, being under outpatient care or staying in a relevant medical facility.
59. Drug addicts are guaranteed drug treatment and social rehabilitation under article 54, paragraph 1, of Federal Act No. 3 of 8 January 1998 on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
60. All Russian citizens have the right to receive medical care in the field of psychiatry and drug addiction, regardless of gender.
61. In accordance with the procedure for the provision of medical care in the field of psychiatry and drug addiction, approved by Order No. 1034n of the Ministry of Health dated 30 December 2015, medical facilities of the State and municipal health-care systems provide all citizens of the Russian Federation with treatment for drug addiction on medical grounds, free of charge and on a voluntary basis (except for cases established by law).
62. From 2017 to 2022, the number of women seeking drug dependency treatment decreased by 13.7 per cent, reflecting a general downward trend in the number of patients with drug dependence disorders throughout the country. The proportion of women with drug dependence disorders among patients seeking drug dependency treatment remained stable at 13.5 per cent and 13.6 per cent, respectively, from 2017 to 2022.
63. Subject matter experts from the V.P. Serbsky Federal Medical Research Centre of Psychiatry and Narcology of the Russian Ministry of Health conduct field trips to study the status of medical care in the field of psychiatry and drug addiction within the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, in accordance with the national project entitled "Health care: 2019–2024" and the federal project entitled "Development of a network of national medical research centres and the introduction of innovative medical technologies". No cases of gender-based stigmatization of women using drugs were identified during these field visits.
64. Russia regularly improves the conditions of detention for women in penal institutions, including those who are pregnant or have a child.
65. In 2019, an occupancy rate of at least four-square metres was established for each child under 3 years of age in a cell with his or her mother, and provisions were introduced to separate women with children under 3 years and pregnant women from other suspects and accused persons.
66. In 2020, women with children under 3 years and pregnant women were legally given the opportunity to apply for conditional release from serving their sentences and to replace the unserved portion of the sentence with a milder form of punishment, after having served at least one quarter of the sentence imposed for a minor offence.

67. Order No. 100 of the Ministry of Justice dated 4 July 2022 provides for the improvement of conditions of detention for women, including those who are pregnant and have minor children. In particular, this concerns nutritional standards, staffing of cells in pre-trial detention facilities, sanitary, hygienic and material conditions, as well as the regime of their detention (walks and transfers).

68. The list of authorized items that suspects and accused persons may carry, store, receive in parcels and packages and purchase by cashless payment has been expanded, in particular, to include electronic books, children's games and prams (for women with children under the age of 3).

69. Since 2023, legislation has raised the age of children that mothers in penal institutions can keep with them to 4 years, which creates greater opportunities for respecting the rights of mothers and children.

70. There is ongoing work to improve the provision of medical care to women. There are 166 gynaecological and 45 examination rooms in the medical units of the Federal Penal Service of Russia. There are 294 obstetric and gynaecological beds in eight health-care units of the Federal Penitentiary Service, of which 84 are 24-hour facilities and 210 are daytime hospitals.

71. Women inmates and detainees are categorized as particularly vulnerable groups due to their location in facilities with a high density of HIV-infected persons. More than 7,000 women infected with HIV are currently being held in penal institutions. Providing primary and specialized medical care and ensuring public health and disease control are prerequisites for the preservation of women's health.

72. HIV-positive women in penal institutions are provided with medicines from the federal budget. Antiretroviral therapy coverage increased from 40 per cent (2017) to 95 (2022) as there was no shortage of medicines.

73. Immunological laboratories operate in 55 health-care units of the Federal Penal Service, serving 81 territorial bodies of the Federal Penal Service, and 40 laboratories carry out a full cycle of immunological research, from screening tests for HIV, viral hepatitis and concomitant and opportunistic infectious diseases to the assessment of the effectiveness of therapy.

74. Penal institutions have organized health-education activities, rented thematic films and distributed brochures.

75. Before release, women inmates are given flyers with contact information for the social protection institutions, employment services and rehabilitation centres to which they can apply for medical, social and psychological assistance.

76. In general, the range of measures carried out in the territorial bodies of the Federal Penal Service of Russia makes it possible to maintain control over the prevalence of HIV infection among suspected, accused and convicted women. Thus, in the period from 2020 to 2022, the number of HIV-positive women in penal institutions remained at the same level and amounted to 18 per cent of the total number of women held in penal institutions.

77. The medical service of the Federal Penal Service of Russia prioritizes the provision of specialized medical care to female inmates suffering from drug addiction disorders.

78. Therapeutic and preventive care for women inmates with drug addiction disorders is organized and carried out on the same legal basis as in the general health-care system, pursuant to the Constitution of the Russian Federation and Act No. 3185-1.



79. Women account for 14.5 per cent of drug users. More than 4,000 women with drug addiction, more than 2,000 women suffering from alcoholism and about 3,000 women with mental disorders are currently detained in penal institutions.

80. Health-care units have offices for substance abuse counsellors, which are equipped and furnished in accordance with the established requirements and standards in the field of drug addiction. The staffing tables of health-care units provide for 512 clinical psychiatrists and 187 addiction psychiatrists.

81. The Federal Penal Service does not allow discrimination against women in prison who are HIV-positive or who suffer from alcoholism or drug addiction. This category of persons is fully provided with the necessary medical services, including reproductive health care, antiretroviral therapy and drug treatment.

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