



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

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## Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

### List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Romania\*

#### General

1. Please provide information and statistics, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity (e.g., Roma), age and urban and rural areas, on the current situation of women in the State party and their enjoyment of human rights with respect to all areas covered by the Convention. In the light of the Committee's previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/ROM/CO/6, para. 11),<sup>1</sup> please also provide information on the steps taken to monitor, through measurable indicators, the impact of laws, policies and action plans and evaluate progress achieved towards the realization of women's de facto equality.
2. Please indicate whether lawyers, judges, prosecutors, police officers and all other actors of the justice system are systematically provided with capacity-building training on the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto.

#### Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework

3. Please provide information on the current status of implementation of Law No. 202/2002 on equal opportunities between women and men and its subsequent amendments (para. 5). Please also provide information on the measures taken to adequately address all intersecting forms of discrimination against women belonging to disadvantaged groups, including Roma and migrant women, through a holistic approach.

#### Access to justice

4. With reference to the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 13), please provide information on measures taken to ensure that women in the State party are aware of new laws and policies aimed at preventing and

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*Note:* The present document is being circulated in English, French and Spanish only.

\* Adopted by the Committee at its sixty-fourth session (4-22 July 2016).

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, paragraph numbers refer to the Committee's concluding observations on the State party's sixth periodic report (CEDAW/C/ROM/CO/6).



eliminating discrimination against women, as well as their rights under the Convention. Please also provide information on whether they are able to invoke those rights, including by lodging complaints through the legal system, and to seek remedies for violations of their rights as well as on cases on discrimination against women brought before the courts and the National Council for Combating Discrimination. Please indicate the outcome of those cases and whether the Convention has been invoked before the courts. Please also provide information on legal aid currently available to support women who are victims of discrimination, including violence.

#### **National machinery for the advancement of women**

5. Following the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 17), please update the Committee on the current status of the national machinery for the advancement of women in effectively integrating gender equality across all branches and sectors of Government, at both the national and local levels. Please also indicate whether the new department responsible for promoting equal opportunities for women and men has the mandate and the financial, human and technical resources to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government policies across all ministries, at the national and local levels. Please indicate whether the national machinery for the advancement of women collaborates with civil society, including non-governmental organizations and associations of women's rights defenders, and whether proposed branches of the national machinery at the county level have been set up (para. 6).

6. Please indicate whether a new strategy for gender equality is currently in place. If so, please provide information on its content and on whether it is supported through targeted budget allocations and sufficient personnel and includes a monitoring system.

7. Please inform the Committee of any steps taken or envisaged to enable the Romanian Institute for Human Rights to fully comply with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and as to whether it has a specific mandate to address women's human rights. Please also clarify its competencies as compared to those of the Ombudsman and the National Council for Combating Discrimination.

#### **Temporary special measures**

8. Please indicate whether any temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on the subject, have been adopted to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality between women and men in areas covered by the Convention. Please include information, including statistical data, on the inequalities that those measures are aimed at addressing, on whether the measures are enforced and monitored and on the results achieved.

#### **Stereotypes and harmful practices**

9. Please provide information on measures taken to address gender stereotypes that discriminate against women, including through education, as well as a review of textbooks, awareness-raising campaigns and the sensitization of the media.

Please also include information on the prevalence of child and forced marriage in the State party, as well as measures taken to address such harmful practices.

### **Violence against women**

10. In the light of the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 21), please provide information on the measures taken to enhance the effective enforcement of the State party's domestic violence legislation, as well as efforts to address all forms of violence against women in the light of the Committee's general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women. Please provide details on the means of redress and protection available to women who are victims of violence, including resources allocated in this regard, and in particular, information on the number of protection orders requested and issued during the reporting period and the availability and geographical distribution of safe shelters funded by the Government. Please also update the Committee as to whether a free hotline for victims of all forms of violence, operating 24 hours a day/7 days a week, has been established and if so, on the results that have been achieved since its establishment.

### **Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution**

11. Following the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 23), please describe the measures taken to address the root causes of trafficking, including by improving the socioeconomic situation of women, in particular in rural areas, so as to eliminate their vulnerability to traffickers. Please provide details of the measures taken to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation to prevent women and girls from being trafficked, to ensure the protection of victims and to facilitate the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators. Please also provide information on measures taken to provide adequate assistance and protection, including temporary shelter, rehabilitation and reintegration services. In this regard, please also specify the measures taken to ensure sensitivity and awareness in the treatment of women who are victims of trafficking, to prevent their revictimization and to protect witnesses.

12. Please provide information on the applicable legal framework and on the measures taken to prevent the exploitation of women and girls in prostitution. Please also indicate whether measures exist to support women who wish to leave prostitution, including access to alternative means of livelihood.

### **Participation in political and public life**

13. In its previous concluding observations (para. 18), the Committee raised concern about the persistent low representation of women in elected and appointed bodies, especially at high and decision-making levels, and the lack of effective measures to accelerate the advancement of women in this respect. Please provide updated information on the situation of women and on measures taken, including legislative measures, electoral reforms or the use of incentives or sanctions, to increase the number of women in elected and appointed bodies, particularly in decision-making positions both in the public (the judiciary, public administration, the Government, Parliament, the diplomatic service, etc.) and private sectors at the national, regional and local levels. Furthermore, please provide information on steps taken to raise awareness of the importance of the participation of women in political and public life and to offer and support training programmes for current and future women leaders.

**Education**

14. Please supply updated information and data, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity, on the situation of education for girls and women in the State party. In particular, please provide information on:

- (a) Access to education for girls and women, including disparity in access between urban and rural areas;
- (b) The enrolment and retention rates of girls and women at all levels of education and across all areas of study;
- (c) Measures taken to reduce the dropout rates among girls;
- (d) The current situation in the State party regarding violence towards and sexual harassment of girls in schools;
- (e) The integration of age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health and rights education into the curricula at all levels of education;
- (f) Measures taken to eliminate stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in textbooks, curricula and teacher training.

**Employment and economic empowerment**

15. Please provide information on the National Strategy for Employment 2014-2020 and how it integrates a gender perspective. Please describe the measures taken to ensure that all job creation programmes are gender-sensitive and to eliminate occupational segregation, both horizontal and vertical, as well as the gender wage gap, as previously recommended by the Committee (para. 29). Please further indicate the steps taken to achieve a more balanced sharing of professional and family responsibilities between women and men. In addition, please provide information on the situation of women migrant workers in the State party.

**Health**

16. Following the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 25), please provide information on the programmes and policies aimed at providing effective access for girls and women to health-care information and services, including girls in street situations, particularly in the capital. Please also provide an update on the implementation of Law No. 95/2006 reforming the health-care system, including on how a gender perspective is ensured in those efforts.

17. Please provide information on the measures taken to combat maternal mortality in the State party. Please indicate whether the State party has adopted or plans to adopt a national strategy on sexual and reproductive health, as recommended by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ([E/C.12/ROU/CO/3-5](#), para. 22), and provide details of the measures that have been taken to ensure that sexual and reproductive health services, including abortion and contraception services and information, are available, easily accessible and affordable without discrimination, including to girls. Please also describe measures taken or envisaged to address the issue of teenage pregnancies and to ensure that pregnant women and girls have access to specialized medical care, including measures to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission.

**Rural women**

18. In the light of the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 31), please describe the measures taken to ensure that all policies and programmes aimed at promoting gender equality, including those in regard to health, education, employment and the elimination of violence against women, reach the rural areas and are fully implemented at the county level. In particular, please inform the Committee about the efforts made to ensure universal access to safe drinking water, as well as access to and the quality of health-care services for rural women. Have any of the measures taken been assessed and how is effective monitoring ensured? In addition, what specific measures have been taken to empower rural women and eliminate discrimination, in line with article 14 of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women?

**Disadvantaged groups of women**

19. In the light of the Committee's previous recommendations (para. 27), please provide information on how gender equality is ensured in the implementation of the strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority for the period 2012-2020 and the sectoral action plans for its implementation. Please indicate whether the strategy establishes a monitoring mechanism to ensure evaluation of the impact of the measures taken and how the coordination between all agencies working on Roma, non-discrimination and gender equality issues is ensured. Please also provide information on the human, technical and financial resources allocated for the implementation of the strategy. In addition, please provide an update on the "Second Chance" programme and any results achieved.

20. Please provide statistical information on the status of Roma women and girls and specify the measures taken to ensure that they have effective access to education, health care, housing, employment, official identity documents and participation in political and public life, including through the use of temporary special measures. In particular, please elaborate on the measures taken to address segregation of Roma in schools, as well as the high rates of illiteracy and school dropout among Roma girls and steps taken to protect their linguistic and cultural identity. Moreover, what specific measures have been taken to address stereotypical attitudes towards Roma and gender-based violence against Roma women, including police violence, as well as their vulnerability to traffickers?

21. Please provide information about the situation of older women and women with disabilities in the State party, as requested by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (para. 32).

22. Please provide information on measures taken to protect the rights of foreign women migrant workers, particularly in the light of the findings of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences ([A/HRC/18/30/Add.1](#)). Please indicate what measures have been taken to rehabilitate and/or reintegrate Romanian women migrant workers returning from abroad.

**Marriage and family relations**

23. Single-women-headed households, particularly in rural areas, are exposed to the risk of poverty. Please provide information on the safeguards existing in the

State party against the failure by husbands and/or fathers to pay maintenance upon divorce. Please also inform the Committee as to whether there is any State-sponsored social protection and welfare programme to support women in such circumstances. Please further indicate whether both parties are afforded the same rights and responsibilities upon the dissolution of a marriage and how the rights of children are protected in such cases.

**Amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention**

24. Please indicate any progress made with regard to acceptance of the amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention.

**Additional information**

25. Please provide an update on new legislative, policy, administrative and any other types of measures of relevance to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the Committee's concluding observations since the consideration of the previous periodic report. That may include recent laws, developments, plans and programmes, recent ratifications of human rights instruments and any other information that the State party considers relevant.

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