



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE:GH/fup-120

8 August 2017

Excellency,

In my capacity as Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee, I have the honour to refer to the follow-up to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 7 and 15 of the concluding observations on the report submitted by Iceland (CCPR/C/ISL/CO/5), adopted by the Committee at its 105th session in July 2012.

At its 116th session, held in March 2016, the Committee evaluated the information provided by the State party and requested additional information on the implementation of the recommendations selected for the follow-up procedure.

On 8 July 2016, the Committee received the reply of the State party. At its 120th session, held in July 2017, the Committee evaluated this information. The assessment of the Committee and the additional information requested from the State party are reflected in the Report on follow-up to concluding observations (see [CCPR/C/120/2](#)). I hereby attach a copy of the relevant section of the said report (advance unedited version).

The Committee considered that the recommendations selected for the follow-up procedure have not been fully implemented and decided to request additional information on their implementation. The Committee requests the State party to provide this information in the context of its next periodic report due on 27 July 2018.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the State party on the implementation of the Covenant.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mauro Politi
Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations
Human Rights Committee

His Excellency Mr. Högni S. Kristjánsson
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
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Report on follow-up to concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee, [CCPR/C/120/2](#):

Assessment of replies¹

- A Reply/action largely satisfactory:** The State party has provided evidence of significant action taken towards the implementation of the recommendation made by the Committee.
- B Reply/action partially satisfactory:** The State party has taken steps towards the implementation of the recommendation, but additional information or action remains necessary.
- C Reply/action not satisfactory:** A response has been received, but action taken or information provided by the State party is not relevant or does not implement the recommendation.
- D No cooperation with the Committee:** No follow-up report has been received after the reminder(s).
- E Information or measures taken are contrary to or reflect rejection of the recommendation**
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Concluding observations:	CCPR/C/ISL/CO/5 , adopted 24 July 2012
Follow-up paragraphs:	7 and 15
First reply:	CCPR/C/ISL/CO/5/Add.1 , 14 July 2015
Committee's evaluation (see CCPR/C/116/2):	Additional information required on paragraphs 7[B2] and 15[C1][B1]
Second reply:	8 July 2016
Committee's evaluation:	Additional information required on paragraphs 7 [B][C] and 15 [A][C]

Paragraph 7:

The State party should continue to take steps, in particular through the Centre for Gender Equality and a speedy adoption of equal salary standards, to continue to address the persistent and significant wage gap between women and men, guaranteeing equal pay for work of equal value. It should also introduce measures to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions, in particular in the Foreign Service, the judiciary, and academia.

Follow-up question (see [CCPR/C/116/2](#))

[B2]: The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts to implement the Committee's recommendation, including the adoption in October 2012 of the plan of action on gender equality regarding wages. Additional information is required on:

- (i) The progress of the executive committee on gender wage equality in developing a plan of action and in reducing gender-based wage discrimination;
 - (ii) The impact of the plan of action on gender equality regarding wages and
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¹ Full assessment available from [CCPR/C/119/3](#) and http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/INT_CCPR_FGD_8108_E.pdf

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its task force;

(iii) The findings of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs Committee and of the Government audit of Icelandic companies;

(iv) The efforts by the State party to introduce measures to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions, in particular the foreign service, the judiciary and academia.

Summary of State party's reply

(i): The State party reiterates the information from its follow-up report ([CCPR/C/ISL/CO/5/Add.1](#), para. 5) on the plan of action on gender equality regarding wages, the task force of the executive committee and on its mandate. In May 2015 the task force published the findings of two studies – one on the gender pay gap in the labour market and another on the standing of women and men on the labour market – showing that the gender pay gap was 7.6 percent for the labour market as a whole (7.8 percent in the private and 7 percent in the public sector). The analysis also showed that the unexplained pay differential constituting a gender pay gap in its purest form was 5.6 percent in 2008-2013, and 5 percent in 2011-2013.

(ii): The Action Group on Equal Pay was extended until the end of 2016. The findings of the two studies published on 20 May 2015 will be used in drawing up two action plans: one on the integration of family and working life, and another on ways of breaking up gender-based choices in education and careers. The Equal Pay Systems Standard that represents a managerial tool enabling institutions to adopt procedures that ensure equal remuneration for equal work or work of equal value was implemented as an experimental project before its adoption.

(iii): The State party reiterates information provided in its periodic report ([CCPR/C/ISL/5](#), para. 78) regarding the Public Limited Companies Act, No. 2/1995 of March 2010 and the Private Limited Companies Act, No. 138/1994.

(iv): No specific measures have been taken to promote the representation of women in parliament or local governments. Some political parties ensure an equal number of male and female candidates on their lists. Due to new changes in the government in 2016, the cabinet was made up by 5 men and 5 women. More women than men serve as permanent secretaries in the Ministry Offices (5 women to 3 men). In 2015, 26 women (as opposed to 74 men), were serving as city mayors, directors of local councils or municipal governments. The State party repeats information from its periodic report ([CCPR/C/ISL/5](#), para. 78) on gender proportion under the Gender Equality Act, No. 10/2008.

The percentage of female ambassadors has risen considerably since 1991, with 13 women serving as ambassadors abroad in January 2016, as opposed to 29 men (a gender ratio of 31/69).

Female judges at the district court account for 42 percent, compared to 38 percent in 2008. In June 2013, seven men and one woman were employed as district court chairperson. As of June 2016, two women, compared to 8 men, serve as Supreme Court justices (one holds a temporary appointment).

There are only 2 women serving as rectors of one of the 7 universities.

Committee's evaluation

(i) (ii) [B]: The Committee notes the information provided but regrets the absence of concrete information on the progress made in developing a plan of action and reducing gender-based wage discrimination. The Committee therefore reiterates its request in that regard. The Committee requires clarifications on whether the two action plans on the integration of family and working life and on ways of breaking up gender-based choices in education and careers have been adopted and, if so, on their implementation in practice and on the interim results achieved. The Committee also welcomes the experimental implementation of the Equal Pay Systems Standard and requires information on the preliminary evaluation of such implementation and on whether this standard is being

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applied.

(iii) (iv) [C]: The Committee regrets that the State party provided no information on the findings of the Ministry of Finance Committee and of the Government audit of Icelandic companies, and reiterates its request. The Committee also takes note of the information provided, including the statistical data on representation of women in different fields. It regrets however that the State party appears to have taken no measures since the adoption of the concluding observations to increase the number of women serving in decision-making positions, in particular as district court chairpersons, as Supreme Court justices and as rectors of universities. The Committee therefore reiterates its recommendation and requires updated information, including relevant statistics, on measures taken to increase the representation of women in these fields.

Paragraph 15:

The State party should take urgent steps to ensure that all cases of sexual abuse of children are effectively and promptly investigated, and that perpetrators are brought to justice. It should take steps to establish Government-coordinated measures aimed at prevention of sexual abuse of children. The State party should also ensure that education about child sexual abuse and prevention become a formal part of the curriculum in faculties training teachers and other professionals working with children, as well as for faculties training health professionals, lawyers and police officers.

Follow-up question (see [CCPR/C/116/2](#))

[C1]: The Committee notes that the State party has not provided further information on measures taken to ensure that all cases of sexual abuse of children are effectively and promptly investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice. The Committee requests additional information on:

- (a) Complaint mechanisms available;
- (b) The number of complaints received in the past three years;
- (c) The number of cases brought before courts in the past three years, convictions and acquittals.

[B1]: The Committee notes the training conducted for the police force on investigation and prosecution of sexual abuse of children, and welcomes the efforts made by the State party regarding education about child sexual abuse. Additional information is required on the State party's plans to make education about child sexual abuse and prevention a formal and permanent part of the curriculum for professionals working with children, and on measures taken to ensure sufficient funding for those activities. Information is also required on the consultative group established to evaluate the situation of sexual abuse of children and how the recommendations of the group are being implemented, as well as on any other steps taken by the State party since July 2015 to establish government-coordinated measures aimed at preventing child sexual abuse.

Summary of State party's reply

(a): Everybody can report a crime to the police which is also required to start an investigation ex-officio if suspicion of criminal activity arises. Everyone who has information about or suspicion regarding sexual assault against children has an obligation to report it to the Government Agency for Child Protection, under threat of punishment. The police have an obligation to investigate such cases but can dismiss an investigation at any time only exceptionally in cases concerning suspicion of sexual violence against children, mainly if the statute of limitation has expired, if the defendant is not criminally liable or if the investigation has not revealed any suspicion of criminal activity. Such decisions can be appealed to the public prosecutor. When an investigation has been concluded, the District Prosecutor decides whether or not to issue an indictment, and an appeal against such decision can be lodged to the Director of Public Prosecution.

(b): The State party provided information on the number of complaints concerning sexual



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offences against children from 2013 to 2015, and on their outcome (see [follow-up reply](#)).

(c): The State party provided statistics on cases brought from 2013 to 2015 under arts. 200 and 201 (sexual relations with one's child or other descendants between the ages of 15 and 17), and under arts. 202 and 204 (reduced punishment if the perpetrator was unaware of the age of the victim) of the Penal Code (see [follow-up reply](#)).

Committee's evaluation

(a) (b) (c) [A]: The Committee appreciates the information provided on the reporting of sexual abuse against children and of the statistics on the number of complaints concerning sexual offences against children and of cases brought before courts from 2013 to 2015.

[C]: The Committee regrets the lack of information on plans to make education about child sexual abuse and prevention a formal and permanent part of the curriculum for professionals working with children, on the consultative group established to evaluate the situation of sexual abuse of children and on how the recommendations of the group are being implemented, as well as on any other steps taken by the State party since July 2015 to establish government-coordinated measures aimed at preventing child sexual abuse. The Committee reiterates its request.

Recommended action: A letter should be sent informing the State party of the discontinuation of the follow-up procedure. The information requested should be included in the State party's next periodic report.

Next periodic report: 27 July 2018
