



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

Distr.: General
26 August 2019

Original: English
Arabic, English, French and
Spanish only

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

**Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of
Jordan**

Addendum

**Information provided by Jordan on follow-up to the
concluding observations***

[Date received: 18 May 2019]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



Translated from Arabic

Response of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the sixth periodic report of Jordan

Paragraph 63 of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women requests the State party to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 26 (a) and 34 (a), (b) and (c).

I. Steps taken to implement the recommendation contained in paragraph 26 to further strengthen the institutional capacity of the national machinery for the advancement of women and provide it with the mandate, decision-making power . . .

1. Allocations for the Jordanian National Commission for Women in the State budgets were increased in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, and now amount to 700,000 Jordanian dinars, or the equivalent of \$1 million. With that support, the Commission is able to provide its staff with the necessary qualifications to carry out its functions under the 2006 Cabinet decision.

2. The Jordanian National Commission for Women has put forward a proposal for institutionalizing its work under legislation that would strengthen its decision-making authority through a regulation for the Jordanian National Commission for Women. It has been submitted to the Prime Minister for adoption in accordance with the national legal system.

3. In accordance with Prime Minister's Decision No. 2703 of 2016, the Higher National Committee for Sustainable Development has been restructured in the wake of the adoption by Jordan of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The Jordanian National Commission for Women was added to the membership of the Higher Committee. In addition, when the sectoral teams were put together, a sectoral team was added to monitor gender diversity and equality between the sexes, headed by the Secretary-General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women. The Commission also took part in drafting the Government's 2016–2019 implementation plan for mainstreaming gender and gender equality in the Government's implementation programme.

4. The Secretary-General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women, along with other relevant Ministers, is also a member of the Ministerial Committee for Women's Empowerment, which ensures the political will to carry out the Government's commitments with regard to gender equality and women's empowerment by coordinating, taking the lead and ensuring accountability on women's affairs-related matters across Government sectors.

5. On 28 October 2018, the Prime Minister formed a high-level committee headed by the Minister of Justice. Its members are ministers and officials from national institutions, the legislative and judicial branches, and unions, including the Secretary-General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women. The committee's purpose is to analyse the regimes provided for in international human rights agreements and determine the need for intervention to amend, change or introduce laws to bring national legislation into line with the requirements of international agreements.

II. The recommendation contained in paragraph 34

- (a) *Repeal, without further delay, all remaining discriminatory provisions of the Penal Code condoning gender-based violence against women, in particular articles 97 to 99, 308 and 340, and ensure that rapists and perpetrators of crimes committed in the name of so-called "honour" are prosecuted and punished adequately without benefiting from any mitigating or exculpatory provisions*

In order to ensure that rapists and perpetrators of so-called honour crimes are prosecuted and punished adequately, the Penal Code was amended in 2017 to include a number of achievements. Article 308 was rescinded, so that perpetrators can no longer escape punishment by marrying the victim. Article 98 was amended, so that the perpetrator can no longer benefit from mitigating circumstances when a crime is committed against a female on the grounds of protecting honour. Consequently, the punishment cannot be lightened in the case of waiver of personal rights by a family member. The same is the case with article 99. A reduction to the minimum sentence is no longer required when the court finds mitigating circumstances. Penalties have been increased to create a greater deterrent. Article 306 penalizes sexual harassment in all its forms, and has introduced community-based rehabilitation alternatives (community service) rather than penalties involving deprivation of liberty. The law provides for equality between mother and father with respect to guardianship and medical care of a sick child in the case of surgery or medical treatment; protection of persons with disabilities whether men or women; and stiffer penalties for crimes committed against women and children with disabilities.

- (b) *Amend the Crimes Prevention Act (1954) with a view to abolishing the practice of administrative detention, in particular the holding of women and girls who are at risk of becoming victims of gender-based violence in "protective custody"*
- (c) *Immediately release women and girls arbitrarily placed in "protective custody", establish appropriate shelters and mechanisms for their protection throughout the country and ensure that they consent to any protection measure extended to them*

To address the issue of administrative detention and protect such women, Regulation No. 171 of 2016 concerning the shelter for women at risk was issued to ensure that women are included in any measures designed to protect them and to find out their own views on such measures. The regulation provides that the shelter should do the following: (a) provide protection and temporary shelter to a beneficiary until her difficulty is resolved or the threat to her has passed; (b) provide social care and subsistence, psychological, health, counselling, cultural and legal services required by the beneficiary; (c) create a database of beneficiaries. In order to achieve its objectives, the shelter undertakes the following: It takes in those at risk and provides them with shelter, adequate food and clothing, and support services for beneficiaries that include training, rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery, health awareness and guidance, and legal assistance. It works to resolve their difficulties in a manner consistent with human rights principles. It provides suitable work opportunities to beneficiaries, as well as entertainment and psychological well-being programmes. Article 10 of the Regulation provides that beneficiaries will not be taken in forcibly, but should enter the shelter of their own free will.

On 31 July 2018 a safe house for women at risk was opened. It has capacity to take in 30 beneficiaries. To date, some 19 cases of women at risk have been transferred to the safe house. Three such cases were turned over to their families. Intervention measures were completed and they were returned to their families safely. Arrangements are being made with the Ministry of the Interior for the safe house to take in 18 administrative detainees who are being held at the Juweidah Women's Correction and Rehabilitation Centre.