

10/20/2008

**Oral statement by Zanaa Jurmed:  
Shadow report on CEDAW by Citizens' Alliance, National Centre  
against Violence, Centre for Human Rights and Development**

My name is Zanaa Jurmed and I represent findings of three NGOs submitted in a shadow report in regard to the most challenging issues in Mongolia facing women such as Trafficking of women and girls, sexual violence and Domestic violence and lack of political rights of women.

Particularly, on the issue of discrimination and violence against women:

High rates of unemployment and poverty among young women make women more vulnerable and they easily become targets and victims of trafficking and sexual harassment. Furthermore, discrimination against, and violence on, disabled women, Kazakh and reindeer women remains rampant and without redress. Mongolia has not till date criminalized the crimes against women such as marital rape, incest and date rape.

On the issue of domestic violence:

Although the Law to Combat Domestic violence was in force for over 3 years, only 20 cases have been prosecuted under the law, while the National Centre Against Violence provides legal and psychological support and counseling to 6 women per day, and provides sheltering to over 150 women per year whose lives are endangered by the violence they face at home. Furthermore, no budget for the implementation of the law has been allocated in the past 3 years, indicating inexistent levels of implementation of the Law.

On the issue of trafficking in women and girls:

Although trafficking is criminalized in the Section 113 of the Criminal Code of Mongolia, it is not enforced by the State and unknown numbers women and young girls continue to be trafficked within Mongolia and outside Mongolia.

On the political rights of women:

Women remain to be underrepresented in the legislature and higher echelons of power both in public and private sectors and are precluded a meaningful support in their parties to be elected to the office.

On the issue of gender mainstreaming to ensure women's human rights:

Legislators do not make *ex-ante* gender-sensitive evaluation on proposed law bills in terms of their potential impact on gender equality, women's rights and thus currently enacted laws induce direct and indirect discrimination against women. There is a strong case to ensure better gender evaluation of laws and legal instruments to ensure they do not counteract the enjoyment of women's human rights.

Due to lack of systematic and appropriate actions from the Government to address the elimination of THE DISCRIMINATION against women in political, social, economic and cultural spheres the situation of Mongolian women has not improved.

With the renewal and resurgence of nationalist sentiments, the status of women is regressing as traditional notions of female inferiority or secondary status begin to prevail once more in Mongolian society.

Poor implementation of CEDAW may be explained by abolishment of National Program on Advancement of Women's Status which was aimed at ensuring women's and young girls' human rights and freedoms. The program possessed distinct conceptual aspects different from the National Program on Gender Equality, and was a well-developed policy document with government target activities, budgets and measures to address women's and underage girls' rights in line with the Beijing Platform for Action and Nairobi Declaration.

Finally, it is observed and concluded from Government's report that Mongolian Government has not consciously considered its obligations and duties to implement the CEDAW in line with core concepts and key principles of human rights, women's rights and freedoms, and failed to monitor, make evaluation and report on its consequent outcomes and impact. In addition, Government falls short in national knowledge-base and capacity to elaborate CEDAW reports in accordance with due requirements. Thank you for your attention.