

Oral Statement before CEDAW Committee

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Thank you, madam chairperson!

We are local Vietnamese NGOs. On behalf of them, we would like to present Summary of the key issues and recommendations in NGOs report:

I. Key issues:

1.1 Women Participation in Politics:

The rate of women participation in politics is still low, it makes up under 27,3% in the National Assembly, around 22% in People's Council at all levels and only about 15% in governmental bodies. At grassroots level, the political authority resides in the hands of the men. As the results of the above mentioned context, women's voice in making and implementing the state policies in general and gender ones in particular have been limited.

1.2 Women and health:

During the past ten years, public health care services nation wide and special services for women have been reached some achievements such as programmes on health care for poor, reproductive health, medical programmes preventing social deceases, epidemic, HIV/AIDs. Health care station have been built in hamlets. However there have been many challenges: average 7 women per day died for their pregnancy and giving birth. Viet Nam is still one of five country world wide where the abortion rate is highest. The amount of women HIV carriers is increasing.

1.3 Women in education:

Viet Nam have set up a completed system with all level of education and training models nation wide. In 2000, Viet Nam met national standard in illiteracy elimination and compulsory primary education. 96% of Vietnamese men and 91% of women are literate. Gender gap in entering school is considerably increasing. The gap is bigger along higher education level. Women still have less opportunities to approach jobs and vocation training than men do.

1.4. Domestic violence :

Domestic violence in Viet Nam has happened at different level. However due to its sensitive aspect, domestic violence has been still complicatedly done in both rural and urban areas. With their own patriarchal nature, many men think they have right to control everthing in their family, to force their wife and children serving them unconditionally including their rights of beating or violating their women's dignity.

Today, women have been trafficked abroad to be forced bride or sex workers. Currently, the Vietnamese National Assembly have based the Law on Gender Equality and drafted and Law on anti Domestic Violence. The Laws are expected to more effectively contribute to working against domestic violence.

II. Recommendations to Viet Nam Government:

With the aim at strengthening CEDAW implementation, we recommend our state to raise and undertake relevant measures as follows, the Government should:

- 1.** Have a wide information, communication and Education strategy on CEDAW and Vietnam gender equality law for the people and state agencies to raise gender awareness, to eradicate gender bias and backward customs which block women's advancement. Communication and education measures
- 2.** Make a strong and effective mechanism for putting the Vietnam law on gender equality into practice.
- 3.** Early issue the law on anti – domestic violence against women.
- 4.** Put strong sanctions to severely punish individuals/organisations who violate rights of women and children with such criminal act as domestic violence, trafficking in women and children, child abuse, etc.
- 5.** Implement special measures with specific programmes to support women, concretely:
 - + Create favourable conditions for women in rural, remote and mountainous areas getting job, access to health care services and education.
 - + Create conditions for women in informal economic sectors and migrant workers from rural areas to urban ones to equally receive state issued policies on social insurance and protection.
 - + Make a training strategy for women, especially for young, potential women and put a quota aiming at increasing quantity and quality of women participating in elected bodies and government agencies, particularly at grassroots level.

- 6.** Strengthen national machinery for advancement of women to enhance the effectiveness of their work.
- 7.** Set up mechanism and policies to draw and bring into full play social organization roles in the implementation of gender equality programmes.