

# V. International Gender Workshop

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## **Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in Russia: history, analysis and expectation**

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Article 19 of the Constitution of Russian Federation:

*“ 1. All people shall be equal before the law and court.*

*2. The State shall guarantee the equality of rights and freedoms of man and citizen, regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, property and official status, place of residence, religion, convictions, membership of public associations, and also of other circumstances. All forms of limitations of human rights on social, racial, national, linguistic or religious grounds shall be banned.*

*3. Man and woman shall enjoy equal rights and freedoms and have equal possibilities to exercise them.”*



# Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)



**Committee**

**CEDAW**

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**Russian Federation**



## Gender policy

# CEDAW obligation vs. Russian reality

### Anti-discrimination legislation

Definition of gender equality, definition of discrimination against women – special law

No definitions, no special laws

### Legal mechanisms for submission and consideration of complaints

Real access to justice (procedures and mechanisms of consideration of complains on discrimination against women (including investigation, punishment and compensation)

Absence of complain system. The absence of suitable legal regulation, the low level of awareness among judges, the high burden of proofs, and the overall extremely low level of compensation. Neither Prosecutors office, nor the Ombudsmen have not received any complaints on gender-based discrimination

### National machinery

Public body in the Governmen(with clear mandate, adequate and sustainable financial resources, as well as staff with the necessary technical capacity, in order to fully enable it to implement programmes and projects to promote gender equality and the advancement of women )

Coordination Council for Gender Issues of the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development (now Ministry of Labour of the RF). These councils are advisory bodies to the executive branch and do not have any powers and authority; nor do they have financial or staff support. This council are advisory body to the executive branch and does not have any powers and authority; nor does it have financial or staff support.

# Domestic violence in Russia

- absence of special legislation
- private prosecution as an ineffective and discriminatory mechanism
- decriminalization of battery, threats of killing

*In 2012, the working group of the Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection's Coordination Council for Gender Issues developed a draft federal law 'On the prevention of family-domestic violence'.*

***The draft law has not yet been adopted***



# Follow up observations of the CEDAW Committee

The Committee has recommended that the State party:

- Proceed, within a clear timeframe, with the establishment of a high-level Commission on women's rights, provide it with a clear mandate, adequate and sustainable financial resources, as well as staff with the necessary technical capacity, in order to fully enable it to implement programmes and projects to promote gender equality and the advancement of women;
- Ensure effective coordination and develop a gender mainstreaming strategy which includes gender responsive budgeting, and which can be applied in all policies and programmes at all levels to address various aspects of women's lives
- Adopt comprehensive legislation to prevent and address violence against women, including domestic violence, introduce ex officio prosecution of domestic and sexual violence and ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished.

