

### *64<sup>th</sup> session of the CEDAW Committee*

Center for Legal Civic Initiatives participated in the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the CEDAW Committee, where the Fourth National Periodic Report of Albania was reviewed.

On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 the representatives of the Centre together with representatives of other NGOs presented before the Committee CEDAW, the main issues of the shadow report that they prepared with regard to property rights in a gender perspective and enforcement of court decisions for child alimony payment.

In the session held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, the Albanian government reported the progress made during 2010-2014, in compliance with the obligations of the CEDAW Convention.

#### **1. Some of the issues that attracted the special attention of the CEDAW Committee members were:**

- The measures taken for women coming from marginalized groups such as LGBT, asylum seekers, minorities etc.;
- The self-implementation of the CEDAW Convention, the position of the Convention in relation to the national legislation;
- The transparency and the limited number of beneficiaries of free legal aid, provided by the National Commission for Legal Aid;
- The need for amendments to the legislation on women's property rights;
- The impact of the decentralization reform and the judicial reform on the number of complaints concerning discrimination against women;
- The need to strengthen the Mechanism for Gender Equality and the Mechanism of coordination and referral of cases of domestic violence;
- Monitoring the effects of the temporary special measures;
- The results of awareness campaigns for gender equality and domestic violence;
- The role of NGOs in the implementation of the gender equality strategy;
- Usefulness of the concluding observations of the Committee, in relation to the eradication of stereotypes, the taken measures concerning forced marriage and honor crimes;
- More information about forced and selective abortion;
- Access to services of Roma women and women in rural areas;
- Implementation of the obligations arising from the Istanbul Convention for the Albanian government;
- Re-victimization of victims of violence in the justice system; applying strict criteria for acceptance of women in shelters; the need to strengthen the coordination of institutions at the central and local level, the need to strengthen existing mechanisms of coordination

and referral of cases of domestic violence and the establishment of NRM in the country; violation of Protection Orders / Immediate POs and their duration; Segregated data for Roma women, victims of domestic violence, women with disabilities receiving free legal aid in order to design policies; increasing the awareness of women to use their right for free legal aid;

- Medium-term monitoring by the Office of the National Strategies Coordinator for human trafficking and the results of this monitoring; funding of these services, which are run by NGOs; the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking; respecting the rights of victims during criminal proceedings and trial, facilitating the benefit of victims of the witness protection program were some of the issues on which members of the CEDAW Committee asked for more information.
- Measures regarding the education of Roma children, children with disabilities, etc. The level of information about vocational education for girls.
- Data on employment, the number of women working in the textile and footwear industry, the situation of minorities participation in the labor market, unemployment of women in the labor market.
- Disparities in access of women to reproductive health, selective abortion, the increased number of cases of HIV transmission, the involvement of civil society in the drafting of the legislation regarding health, health care for victims of domestic violence and trafficking, etc.
- Arranging children in social care institutions due to their socio-economic situation.
- Problems concerning local economic assistance;
- Social housing programs and their implementation;
- Measures taken in relation with the integration of women in rural areas;
- Steps concerning a draft-law for the elderly;
- Harmonization of the Criminal Code concerning the hate crime;
- The provisions in the Criminal Code related to forced cohabitation;
- The need for the harmonization of domestic legislation with anti-discrimination obligations;
- The way the processes of decentralization reform and legal reform have impacted women's ability to file complaints against discrimination on grounds of sex and gender;
- Legal measures relating to the eradication of harmful practices concerning gender-based violence;
- Concrete measures undertaken by the government to ensure the integration of gender equality in rural policies;

At the end of this session, the main conclusion was that despite the achievements, a lot remains to be done to achieve real equality. This requires the commitment of the Albanian government, NGOs and other stakeholders working in the field of gender equality and gender non-discrimination.



Photo from the 64<sup>th</sup> session of CEDAW, where the Fourth National Periodic Report of Albania was reviewed, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016



Photo from the non-formal meeting of NGO's representatives with members of the CEDAW Committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2016.