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Country:Poland

Committee:CSW (Comission on the Status of Women)

Topics: Enhance Gender Equality in New Normal



Position Paper

It’s one of the best feelings to be here as Poland. As the delegation of Poland, we are so happy to raise our voice to defend women here.

Poland was among the first countries to ratify CEDAW. For who doesn’t know what CEDAW is; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. But how much function CEDAW has in Poland is debatable. However, Poland has neither a specific law nor a strategic approach to gender equality. The law only protects against gender and gender-based discrimination in the areas of employment and access to goods and services. As the CEDAW Committee has noted, remedies to investigate gender-based discrimination and violence are ineffective (very light sentences; large numbers of applications are denied).

According to the CEDAW Committee, the National Plan of Action on Equal Treatment, implemented twice, in 2003-2005 and 2013-2016, “was not sufficient to address women's rights and their protection against discrimination”. While some controversial provisions have been in effect since Poland ratified CEDAW, in 2012 there was a Church-led anti-gender campaign against the Istanbul Convention. As a result, this campaign hampered the process of building gender equality and joined forces against liberal democracy. The CEDAW Committee was criticized for the government's unresponsiveness to the campaign against this “gender ideology”. Ultimately, the government signed the Istanbul Convention in 2012 and ratified it before the 2015 elections, hoping to achieve a better electoral outcome. While an average of 30 percent of women were subjected to domestic violence and 20 percent were raped, specialist NGOs working to help victims were deprived of ministry funds. In an extremely reactionary move, the government intended to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention. In response to harsh criticism, officials changed plans and instead made it clear that they would not implement the contract. The lack of a separate government body for gender equality policies since 2006 has been repeatedly criticized by the CEDAW Committee.

In our world, there was always an opinion that women are weaker and more powerless than men. We don't know where this opinion came from but wherever it is, men thought they are more important and indispensable than women. They thought they could outmaneuver all women by simply using their brute and physlocal strength and taking on a tough persona. We devastate to say that they have succeeded in this. They paid less to women for national or international jobs. They used violence against many women. They took away the rights of women. They hindered the education of women. They devalued women and made them feel useless. They have always silenced women by intimidating, threatening, and, manipulating them. But we will no longer allow this and we will do our best for women's rights at all costs. So let’s put an end to all of this together.