**Political Participation in Western Europe**

**Compilation of jurisprudence from United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms**

(most recent references)

**Relevant provisions**

**UDHR Article 21**

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

 (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

 (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

**ICCPR Article 25**

Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions:

1. To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;
2. To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;
3. To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.

**CESCR Article 8**

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure:

1. The right of everyone to form trade unions and join the trade union of his choice, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned, for the promotion and protection of his economic and social interests. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public order or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others;
2. The right of trade unions to establish national federations or confederations and the right of the latter to form or join international trade-union organizations;
3. The right of trade unions to function freely subject to no limitations other than those prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public order or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others;
4. The right to strike, provided that it is exercised in conformity with the laws of the particular country.

2. This article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces or of the police or of the administration of the State.

3. Nothing in this article shall authorize States Parties to the International Labour Organisation Convention of 1948 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize to take legislative measures which would prejudice, or apply the law in such a manner as would prejudice, the guarantees provided for in that Convention.

**CEDAW Articles 7 & 8**

**Article 7**

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

1. To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;
2. To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;
3. To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

**Article 8**

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations.

**CERD Article 5(c)**

In compliance with the fundamental obligations laid down in article 2 of this Convention, States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the following rights:

(c) Political rights, in particular the right to participate in elections-to vote and to stand for election-on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service;

**CRPD Article 29**

States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake to:

1. Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, inter alia, by:
2. Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;
3. Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate;
4. Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;
5. Promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:
6. Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;
7. Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.
8. **ANDORRA**

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2013** CEDAW/C/AND/CO/2-3

13.While noting that article 6 of the Constitution of the State party includes a definition of discrimination in conformity with article 1 of the Convention, the Committee is concerned about the fact that the absence of a comprehensive law on gender equality continues to be a challenge for the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and gender equality (…).

14. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a comprehensive gender-equality and anti-discrimination law in line with the provisions of the Convention. (…).

15.While noting that the Ministry of Health and Welfare coordinates all policies on equality and non-discrimination, the Committee is concerned about the continuous restructuring of the national machinery for the advancement of women and the lack of a coordination mechanism with other bodies dealing with women’s issues. It is also concerned about the absence of a national strategy to integrate the Convention throughout national legislation and public policies. In this regard, the Committee notes that the National Plan of Action for Equality does not address all areas covered by the Convention and that assessment of its implementation has been delayed.

16. In line with its general recommendation No. 6 on effective national machinery and publicity, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide its central and local institutions and bodies, such as the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Health and Welfare Assessment Council and the parish councils, with adequate human, technical and budgetary resources with a view to achieving gender equality;

(b) Consider adopting a national action plan on gender equality with time-bound targets that covers all areas of the Convention;

(c) Proceed with the assessment of the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Equality, in cooperation with civil society, in particular women’s organizations, and widely disseminate and include in its next periodic report information on the outcome of the assessment.

25.While noting that the State party has achieved **parity between women and men** in its parliament, the Committee notes that women continue to be underrepresented in legislative bodies at the local level, in decision-making positions in the Government and public administration and in the judiciary. The Committee is concerned by the absence of specific measures, including temporary special measures, to ensure that women are able to participate on an equal basis with men in political and public life.

26. In line with general recommendation No. 23 on women in political and public life, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt temporary special measures aimed at advancing women in political life and in leadership positions and ensure that such measures are swiftly implemented;

(b) Provide incentives for political parties to nominate equal numbers of women and men as candidates and strengthen targeted training and mentoring programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and potential women candidates;

(c) Provide training and capacity-building for women to enable them to enter public office and enhance campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of women’s full and equal participation in political and public life, including activities targeting leaders of political parties;

(d) Periodically assess the representation of women in the higher level of public administration with a view to identifying and removing barriers to their equal participation;

(e) Provide training for politicians, journalists, teachers and local officials, especially men, to promote understanding of the right of women to equal participation in political and public life.

**CRC Concluding Observations 2012** CRC/AND/CO/2

24.The Committee welcomes the establishment of the **National Equality Commission** in 2010 to address anti-discrimination issues and the initiative to develop a National Action Plan for Equality. However, the Committee is concerned that the State party has not prioritized the work of the Commission since its establishment in 2010 and that little progress has been made, including on the development of the National Action Plan for Equality.

**UPR Recommendations 2015** A/HRC/30/9

84.48 Ensure that further steps are taken to address anti-discrimination issues and ensure that the National Plan of Action for Equality addresses all areas of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

84.50 Adopt a comprehensive law on gender equality and against discrimination, consistent with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Nicaragua);

84.52 Continue to develop legislation and policies to promote gender equality, placing particular focus on the participation of women in politics (Spain);

84.62 Adopt a law on access to information in order to fully promote the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and freedom of opinion (Canada);

139.57 Eliminate discrimination against Roma and other minorities, including Muslims in law and practice, and protect their rights (Pakistan);

1. **AUSTRIA**

**Human Rights Committee Views**

*Karakurt v. Austria* CCPR/C/74/D/965/2000, 29 April 2002

Non-applicability of Article 25 to private employment matters

8.2 As to the State party’s argument that the claim is, in truth, one under article 25 of the Covenant, the Committee observes that the rights protected by that article are to participation in the public political life of the nation, and do not cover private employment matters such as the election of an employee to a private company’s work-council. It accordingly finds article 25, and any adverse consequences possibly flowing for the author from it, not applicable to the facts of the present case.

**Human Rights Committee Concluding observations 2015** CCPR/C/AUT/CO/5

13.The Committee notes with concern that, despite the measures taken by the State party to promote gender equality and increase the representation of women in publicly elected bodies, women remain underrepresented in political decision-making positions, especially at the Länder and municipal levels.

14. The State party should expand its efforts to increase the participation of women in political decision-making positions, especially at the Länder and municipal levels.

17.The Committee is concerned that, despite action taken by the State party, immigrants, foreigners and ethnic minorities, including the Roma minority, continue to face intolerance and discrimination. The Committee also regrets the low representation of ethnic minorities in political and public life, including in the legislative and executive bodies.

18. The State party should intensify measures to ensure that immigrants, foreigners and ethnic minorities, including the Roma minority, do not suffer from discrimination. The State party should step up its efforts to encourage the participation of persons who are members of minority groups in publicly elected bodies.

**CRPD Concluding Observations 2013** CRPD/C/AUT/CO/1

The Committee commends the State party for upholding article 29 of the Convention by allowing all persons, including persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, to vote. However, it appears that many polling booths are not fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

The Committee recommends that the State party step up its efforts to ensure that voting is fully accessible to all persons, irrespective of disability, and that voting information is provided in all accessible formats.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2013** CEDAW/C/AUT/C/7-8

20.The Committee commends the results obtained by the State party in increasing the participation of women in the federal civil service and as judges and prosecutors but remains concerned at the persistence of the under-representation of women in decision-making positions in the private sector and education as well as their low level of political participation, especially at the provincial level.

30.The Committee appreciates the progress made in the representation of women at the federal level and the modification of the Federal Equal Treatment Act raising the quota for women in the civil service to 50 per cent. The Committee is, however, concerned that women continue to be significantly underrepresented in certain fields, including diplomatic services and sports associations. Furthermore, the Committee does not share the view that the participation of women in European and provincial elections is solely the responsibility of political parties.

31. The Committee calls upon the State party to take measures, such as quotas, and support the provinces taking these measures with benchmarks and concrete timetables, to guarantee the rapid increase of the representation of women in elected and appointed positions in provincial governments and in the parliaments, including in the European parliament, as well as in political parties, the diplomatic service and sports associations.

48.The Committee appreciates the adoption of a far-reaching National Action Plan on Disability for 2012–2020 and the inclusion therein of a chapter on women with disabilities. It is, however, concerned that women with disabilities continue to suffer multiple forms of discrimination in education, employment and political participation.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party pursue its efforts under the current National Action Plan on Disability to address the multiple forms of discrimination suffered by women with disabilities in education, employment and political participation.

**UPR Recommendations 2015** A/HRC/31/12

139.38 Take measures to combat inequality between men and women and to improve the representation of women in economic and political life (France);

139.39 Rectification of the underrepresentation of women in public services (India);

141.64 Invest further efforts in political empowerment of representatives of minority communities with a view to encourage their meaningful participation in political processes at the local, regional and national levels, and thus provide for their better integration in the society (Serbia).

1. [**BELGIUM**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/blg.html)

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2010** CCPR/C/BEL/CO/5

10.The Committee expresses concern that access to certain rights set forth in the Covenant may be hindered by the decisions taken by the community authorities in Flanders concerning issues such as the purchase of communal land, access to services and housing, entitlement to certain social services and exercise of **the right to be elected** and requiring that persons speak or learn Dutch, which leads to discrimination against certain groups within the population (arts. 2, 17, 25 and 26).

The State party should, in accordance with article 50 of the Covenant, ensure that decisions taken by the community authorities concerning linguistic requirements do not lead to discrimination against certain groups within the population in the exercise of certain rights set forth in the Covenant. It should also foster awareness and the exercise of the right to challenge such decisions among the relevant population groups.

11.The Committee is concerned by the fact that discrimination against persons with disabilities persists in the State party and hinders the full integration of those persons into political, social and economic affairs (art. 2).

The State party should intensify its efforts to combat discrimination, **further the integration of persons with disabilities into political**, social and economic affairs and adopt measures to facilitate such persons’ access to the labour market.

12.Despite various steps taken by the State party to promote equality between men and women, the Committee notes with concern that discrimination against women remains strong and that unequal treatment persists within the socio-economic sphere, society and the labour market and in access to decision-making and promotion to certain posts (art. 3).

The State party should implement all the measures that it has adopted in this sphere, including legislative measures, and evaluate them in order to achieve tangible progress in combating stereotypes, in **ensuring the balanced participation of men and women in decision-making** and equal treatment and access to employment for women.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2014** CERD/C/BEL/CO/16-19

The Committee also recommends that the State party regularly review its policies on Roma in consultation with them.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2014** CEDAW/C/BEL/CO/7

14.The Committee welcomes the existing temporary special measures to **increase the parliamentary participation of women** and on the management boards of companies and autonomous public enterprises. The Committee remains concerned, however, about the **persistent underrepresentation of women, in particular women belonging to minority communities, at decision-making levels in political and public life** and in the private sector. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of temporary special measures aimed at addressing inequalities faced by disadvantaged groups of women, such as rural women, older women, women with disabilities and migrant women.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party evaluate the application of existing temporary special measures and develop additional temporary special measures in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 on the subject as a necessary strategy to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality between women and men, in particular to enhance the rights of minority women, in all areas where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged.

28.The Committee welcomes the results achieved in the **participation of women** in the legislative bodies at all levels of the State. It remains concerned, however, about the unequal representation of men and women, in particular that of women belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, in appointed positions in the federal Government and in the governments of the federated entities. The Committee is also concerned that women continue to be underrepresented in the diplomatic service and in international organizations. It is further concerned that the measures envisaged for the private sector are limited and that their evaluation is planned to be conducted only in 2023, which would not allow for corrective measures to be taken should they be needed.

29. The Committee calls upon the State party to take measures, such as statutory quotas, to **guarantee the equal representation of men and women, in particular that of women belonging to ethnic and minority groups, in appointed positions in the federal Government and in the governments of the federated entities, as well as in the diplomatic service and in international organizations**. The Committee recommends that the State party reinforce the mechanisms that it has established for the private sector in order to better address the underrepresentation of women in all types of enterprises.

**CRPD Concluding Observations 2014** CRPD/C/BEL/CO/1

5. (…) little attention is paid to the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities, in policymaking processes.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party proceed to bring its domestic legislation into line with all its obligations under the Convention, adopt and implement a plan for persons with disabilities, and ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and disabled persons’ organizations in these processes.

**Report of the Working Group on People of African Descent 2006** E/CN.4/2006/19/Add.1

72. The experts welcome the adoption and implementation of integration policies and encourage the competent authorities to put additional emphasis on strategies encompassing integration, participation, awareness, mutual exchange and fostering greater harmony and tolerance between the persons of foreign origin and the mainstream society.

73. The experts welcome the diversity plan enacted by the police in its recruitment strategy and the training programmes for police officers which put also emphasis on diversity, anti-discrimination and anti-racism. They also take note of the projects enacted to build trust with the various communities of foreign background and encourage the furtherance and enhancement of such confidence-building measures.

**UPR Recommendations 2016** A/HRC/32/8

138.54 Increase efforts to promote gender equality in the economic and political fields (Japan);

138.109 Encourage the participation and representation of citizens in all sectors of the society regardless of their origin or religion (Saudi Arabia);

139.19 Ensure a supported decision-making mechanism for people with disabilities (Israel);

1. [**DENMARK**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/den.html)

**CEDAW Views**

*N.M. v. Denmark* CEDAW/C/67/D/78/2014, 2017

No breach of the Convention.

3.4 [The author] further claims a violation of her rights under article 7 of the Convention, under which she is entitled to freely participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of her country since she is not able to choose her own political affiliation. The Ethiopian authorities consider her to be a member of the Ogaden National Liberation Front only because of her marriage, in violation of article 7 (c), which can also be understood as the **right not to participate in non-governmental organizations**. She does not have the same opportunities to freely participate in non-governmental organizations and she cannot enjoy her human rights on an equal basis with men.

8.4 The Committee notes the author’s claims that her rights under articles 3, 5 and 7 of the Convention were violated in relation to her inability to choose her own political affiliation and the fact that, if returned to Ethiopia, she would be persecuted on the basis of her husband’s affiliation with the Ogaden National Liberation Front. The Committee observes that there is no claim that the State party directly violated the provisions of the Convention invoked but that, in fact, the violation claimed by the author in relation to the State party is that, in returning her to Ethiopia, she would face serious forms of gender-based violence at the hands of the Ethiopian authorities owing to discrimination based on these provisions.

8.6. (…) The issue before the Committee is therefore whether there was any irregularity in the decision-making process regarding the author’s asylum application to the extent that the State party’s authorities failed to properly assess the risk of serious gender-based violence in the event of her return to Ethiopia. (…) The Committee notes that nothing on file demonstrates that the examination by the authorities of the author’s claims suffered from any such irregularities as would lead to the conclusion that the State party failed to assess the risks faced by the author.

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2016** CCPR/C/DNK/CO/6

13. The Committee is concerned that the State party’s anti-discrimination legislation does not cover discrimination on all the grounds set forth in the Covenant, thus preventing some individuals or groups from fully exercising their rights. In particular, the Committee is concerned that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and persons with disabilities cannot report to, or lodge complaints before, the Board of Equal Treatment in matters not related to the labour market. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in the Faroe Islands (arts. 2 and 26).

14. The State party should revise its anti-discrimination legislation to ensure that it covers all grounds set forth in the Covenant and all areas of life. The State party should improve the accessibility of effective remedies for any form of discrimination, including by considering expanding the mandate of the Board of Equal Treatment to all forms of discrimination and to all groups and individuals, in particular lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and persons with disabilities, for matters not related to the labour market. The State party should expand the anti-discrimination legislation in the Faroe Islands. Gender equality

15. While noting measures taken by the State party to improve gender equality, the Committee remains concerned at the underrepresentation of women in political and public life, particularly in locally elected and executive bodies, including in Greenland and in the Faroe Islands. The Committee is also concerned that, despite the adoption of new rules governing gender representation on the company boards of the largest limited liability companies and State-owned companies, the representation of women in management and on boards remains low (arts. 2, 3 and 26).

16. The State party should step up its efforts to promote the equal representation of women and men in public and political life at all levels, particularly in locally elected and executive bodies in Greenland and in the Faroe Islands.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2015** CEDAW/C/DNK/CO/8

23. The Committee acknowledges the adoption of the parliamentary bill on the promotion of gender balance on the boards of private and public companies in 2012. The Committee welcomes the results achieved in increasing the participation of women in the parliament of Denmark, but remains concerned at the low representation of women in the parliaments of Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the underrepresentation of women in municipal councils and executive bodies.

24. The Committee calls upon the State party to take measures, including temporary special measures such as statutory quotas or incentives for political parties to include an equal number of women and men in their electoral lists, especially at the municipal level and in Greenland and the Faroe Islands, to accelerate the equal representation of women in political and public life. In doing so, the State party should pay particular attention to the representation of women in legislative and executive bodies at the municipal level and in Greenland and the Faroe Islands, including in decision-making positions. The Committee also urges the State party to closely monitor the implementation of the parliamentary bill on the promotion of gender balance on the boards of private and public companies, adopted in 2012.

**CRPD Concluding Observations 2014** CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1

11. The Committee recommends that the Governments of the Faroe Islands and of Greenland adopt dedicated disability policy action plans to effectively implement the Convention. It also recommends that the Government of Greenland support the work of organizations of persons with disabilities to ensure their effective participation in consultations on and implementation of the Convention.

60. The Committee is concerned that under the Constitution, the Parliamentary Elections Act and other electoral laws, and the Guardianship Act (section 6), persons under guardianship are not allowed to vote or to stand for election in parliamentary, municipal, regional or European Parliament elections, or referendums. The Committee is also concerned that election materials are reportedly rarely accessible to blind persons or to persons with learning and intellectual disabilities, that polling stations are often not physically accessible, that ballots may not be accessible to blind persons, and that persons under guardianship may not be able to freely choose the kind of voting assistance that they would wish to use.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the relevant laws, including the Parliamentary Elections Act and other laws governing municipal, regional and European Parliament election s, so that all persons with disabilities can enjoy the right to vote and stand for election regardless of guardianship or other regimes. It also recommends that the State party ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of ballots and election materials, and of polling stations, and that it ensure that freely chosen, adequate and necessary assistance is provided in order to facilitate voting by all persons.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2010** CERD/C/DNK/CO/18-19

11. The Committee notes with concern that applicants to the police service from ethnic backgrounds other than Danish fail the police recruitment test in disproportionate numbers, and also account for the high drop-out rates from police colleges.

The Committee urges the State party to adopt specific measures to establish the main reasons why applicants from ethnic backgrounds other than Danish fail the police recruitment test and drop out of police colleges. The State party should strengthen its efforts in promoting people from ethnic backgrounds other than Danish to serve as police officers in order to achieve a racially balanced police service.

**UPR Recommendations 2016** A/HRC/32/10

120.27 Amend the relevant laws so that all persons with disabilities could vote and stand for election (Albania);

120.28 Amend laws to ensure that all persons with disabilities could vote and stand for election (Maldives);

120.56 Build on existing inclusion strategies by implementing public awareness campaigns and education programmes to promote diversity and tolerance, while condemning racism and xenophobia (Canada);

120.57 Increase efforts to promote tolerance and intercultural understanding with the aim of eliminating discrimination against minorities and non-citizens (Japan);

1. [**FINLAND**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/fin.html)

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2013** CCPR/C/FIN/CO/6

16. While noting that the State party has committed to ratifying the International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, and established a working group in August 2012 to strengthen the rights of the Sami to participate in decisions on the use of land and waters, the Committee remains concerned that **the Sami people lack participation and decision-making powers** over matters of fundamental importance to their culture and way of life, including rights to land and resources. The Committee also notes that there may be insufficient understanding or accommodation of the Sami lifestyle by public authorities and that there is a lack of legal clarity on the use of land in areas traditionally inhabited by the Sami people (arts. 1, 26 and 27). The State party should advance the implementation of the rights of the Sami by strengthening the decision-making powers of Sami representative institutions, such as the Sami parliament. The State party should increase its efforts to revise its legislation to fully guarantee the rights of the Sami people in their traditional land, ensuring respect for the right of Sami communities to engage in free, prior and informed participation in policy and development processes that affect them.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2017** CERD/C/FIN/CO/23

14. The Committee notes the concern expressed by the Sami Parliament that, under the recent Nordic Sami Convention, the Government of Finland retains the power to define who is Sami. The Committee further observes that the Supreme Administrative Court has the power to determine the eligibility of individuals to vote in Sami Parliament elections. The Committee notes the State party’s commitment to improving its compliance with the principle of free, prior and informed consent in reviewing its policies on these issues (art. 5).

15. In line with its general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on the rights of indigenous peoples, the Committee reiterates its recommendation that, in defining who is eligible to vote for Members of the Sami Parliament, the State party accord due weight to the rights of the Sami people to self-determination concerning their status within Finland, to determine their own membership and to not be subjected to forced assimilation (see CERD/C/FIN/CO/20-22, para. 12).

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2014** CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/7

22. The Committee commends the State party for the high percentage of women in the State party’s parliament (43 per cent), Government (47 per cent) and among the State party’s representatives in the European Parliament (62 per cent). The Committee remains concerned, however, at the low number of women in decision-making positions in the private sector. The Committee is also concerned that migrant women, women with disabilities, women from ethnic minorities and Roma women are underrepresented in political and public life and notes the lack of statistical data on their situation. The Committee is further concerned that the legislation on data collection prohibiting the collection of information on certain grounds may impede the State party’s efforts to address the discrimination affecting certain groups of women.

23. In line with its general recommendation No. 23 on women in public life, the Committee encourages the State party to adopt temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and with the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 on temporary special measures, so as: (a) To ensure that the representation of women in leadership positions in the private sector reflects the full diversity of the population; (b) To ensure the representation of women from disadvantaged groups, such as women with disabilities, women from ethnic minorities, Roma women and migrant women in political and public life; (c) To consider amending its legislation to enable the collection of statistical data needed for programmes and policies aimed at overcoming discrimination against women belonging to the groups mentioned above; (d) To provide disaggregated information on the representation of women in political and public life in its next periodic report, including on the women belonging to the groups mentioned above.

**Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples 2016** A/HRC/33/42/Add.3

54. The status of the Sami as an indigenous people is recognized in the 1999 Constitution, which indicates that the Sami have a right to cultural autonomy and linguistic and cultural self-governance within their native region, covering the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki, as well as the area of the reindeer owners’ association of Lapland in Sodankylä. The Sami Parliament Act establishes the **Finnish Sami Parliament** with the mandate to protect the Sami language and culture and matters relating to their status as an indigenous people. The Act also affirms that **State authorities should negotiate with the Sami Parliament “all far-reaching and important measures that may directly or indirectly affect the Sami’s status as an indigenous people”**, including matters relating to the management, use, leasing and assignment of State lands, conservation areas and wilderness areas.

55. Finland is also home to a distinct Sami group, the Skolt Sami. A separate law, the Skolt Act, includes provisions on their rights in the Skolt native area, a part of the Sami native area in the municipality of Inari. The Act recognizes the **Skolt Sami Village Council** as the representative body of the Skolt Sami and requires that it be consulted in matters that could affect the rights of the Skolt Sami.

56. **Despite the strong statutory affirmations of the Sami Parliament Act and the Skolt Act, the Finnish Sami Parliament and the Skolt Sami Village Council have limited decision-making power**, in particular with respect to land and resource rights. Representatives of the Finnish Sami Parliament reiterated the concern they had shared with the previous Special Rapporteur that most of their proposals and comments to the State went unanswered by the Government.

85. The Special Rapporteur encourages the Government to reopen negotiations with the Sami Parliament on amendments to the Sami Parliament Act and to jointly develop a final and mutually acceptable proposal that addresses the full range of issues, including those relating to identification of a person as Sami for the purpose of **registering on the electoral register**.

88. In order to ensure that the human rights of the Sami people are not eroded by the implementation of the Finnish Forest and Park Enterprise Act, **the Sami Parliament and the Skolt Sami Village Council, as well as affected Sami communities, should be ensured a strengthened voice in related processes. At a minimum, the membership of the municipal boards provided for in the Act should have full and effective representation of the Sami people** and a clearly defined mandate to assess any potential impacts of activities on the Sami people’s rights to maintain and develop their own language and culture prior to approving any permits, to refrain from granting such permits if the activities risk undermining conditions for Sami or Skolt livelihoods and culture, or if they will cause considerable harm to reindeer herding.

**UPR Recommendations 2017** A/HRC/36/8

100.85 Continue efforts to guarantee the representation in political and public life of women belonging to disadvantaged groups like women with disabilities, ethnic minorities, Roma people and migrants (Colombia);

100.95 Continue the action aimed at the promotion of gender equality in all public and private activities (Angola);

100.138 Continue consultations on the rights of persons with disabilities with a view to implementing non-discriminatory policies and legislation (Maldives);

100.140 Consider introducing incentives for better political participation of minorities and immigrants with a view to upholding their integration into society (Serbia).

1. [**FRANCE**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/fra.html)

**Human Rights Committee**

**Views**

*Crippa et al v.* France, CCPR/C/85/D/993-995/2001, November 2005

Inadmissibility decision

6.13 Concerning the alleged violation of article 25 of the Covenant raised by Mr. Crippa, the Committee, having taken note of the State party’s arguments and the authors’ assertion that the Constitutional Council’s ruling represents a violation of the right to be elected and to organize an election campaign freely, recalls its jurisprudence on this matter under article 25 of the Covenant, namely that **the right to vote and to be elected is not an absolute right, and that restrictions may be imposed on it provided they are not discriminatory or unreasonable**. The Committee considers that the authors have not substantiated the elements of their complaint in respect of the restrictions placed on their right to be elected, which are alleged to be contrary to article 25 of the Covenant, and therefore declares their complaint to be inadmissible under article 2 of the Optional Protocol.

*Gillot et al v. France*, CCPR/C/75/D/932/2000, 21 July 2002

No violation

13.5 In relation to the authors’ complaints, the Committee observes, as the State party indeed confirms, that the criteria governing the right to vote in the referendums have the effect of establishing a restricted electorate and hence a differentiation between (a) persons deprived of the right to vote, including the author(s) in the ballot in question, and (b) persons permitted to exercise this right, owing to their sufficiently strong links with the territory whose institutional development is at issue. The question which the Committee must decide, therefore, is **whether this differentiation is compatible with article 25 of the Covenant**. The Committee recalls that **not all differentiation constitutes discrimination** if it is based on objective and reasonable criteria and the purpose sought is legitimate under the Covenant.

13.10 (…) the Committee considers that the criterion used for the 1998 referendum establishes a differentiation between residents as regards their relationship to the territory, on the basis of the length of “residence” requirement (as distinct from the question of cut-off points for length of residence), whatever their ethnic origin or national extraction. The Committee also considers that the authors’ arguments lack details concerning the numbers of the above-mentioned groups - whether or not they represent a majority - within the 7.67 per cent of voters deprived of their right to vote.

13.11 The Committee therefore considers that the criterion used for the 1998 referendum did not have the purpose or effect of establishing different rights for different ethnic groups or groups distinguished by their national extraction.

13.17 Furthermore, in the Committee’s view, the restrictions on the electorate resulting from the criteria used for the referendum of 1998 and referendums from 2014 onwards respect the criterion of proportionality to the extent that they are strictly limited ratione loci to local ballots on self‑determination and therefore have no consequences for participation in general elections, whether legislative, presidential, European or municipal, or other referendums.

13.18 Consequently, the Committee considers that the criteria for the determination of the electorates for the referendums of 1998 and 2014 or thereafter are not discriminatory, but are based on objective grounds for differentiation that are reasonable and compatible with the provisions of the Covenant.

14.7 Noting that the length of residence criterion is not discriminatory, the Committee considers that, in the present case, the cut-off points set for the referendum of 1998 and referendums from 2014 onwards are not excessive inasmuch as they are in keeping with the nature and purpose of these ballots, namely a self-determination process involving the participation of persons able to prove sufficiently strong ties to the territory whose future is being decided. This being the case, these cut-off points do not appear to be disproportionate with respect to a decolonization process involving the participation of residents who, over and above their ethnic origin or political affiliation, have helped, and continue to help, build New Caledonia through their sufficiently strong ties to the territory.

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2015** CCPR/C/FRA/CO/5

6. While welcoming the measures taken by the State party to highlight national cultural and linguistic diversity, the Committee regrets that the State party still does not recognize the existence of minorities in France. The Committee notes the position of the State party regarding the unconstitutional nature of the collection of data disaggregated by ethnic or racial origin and the national development of various tools based specifically on self-identification. However, it regrets the lack of statistics in the report that would permit it to fully appreciate the enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Covenant by indigenous peoples and minorities (arts. 2, 26 and 27).

The State party should reconsider its position on the official recognition of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. It should continue considering the development of tools to allow it to assess and ensure the effective enjoyment by indigenous peoples and minorities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It should also make use of such data for planning and evaluation purposes.

14. The Committee welcomes the adoption by the National Assembly of the bill to repeal the Act of 1969 that requires Travellers to hold a permit (livret de circulation), which the Committee considered a breach of article 12 of the Covenant (Ory v. France, communication No. 1960/2010). The Committee nonetheless remains concerned about forced evictions from unlawfully occupied land, which take place despite the insufficient number of reception areas made available to Travellers. It is also concerned about the practical barriers to the exercise of their right to vote and of their children’s right to an education (arts. 7, 12, 25 and 26).

The State party should repeal the Act of 1969 and abolish the permit system, ensure implementation of the objectives set by the law on reception areas (Besson Act) and halt evictions until a sufficient number of reception areas are made available. It should also ensure that Travellers enjoy fully and without discrimination the same rights as all French citizens, particularly the right to vote and the right to an education.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2016** CEDAW/C/FRA/CO/7-8

16. The Committee welcomes the fact that the exhaustive and detailed legal framework promoting gender parity in the electoral system for all assemblies, high - level jobs in the civil service and in the private sector and the participation of women on boards of directors for companies listed on the stock exchange is not a temporary special measure. The Committee remains concerned about the vulnerable situation of women and girls belonging to disadvantaged groups in political life, education, employment and health.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party use temporary special measures to address the urgent needs of women belonging to disadvantaged groups in fields such as political life, education, employment and health.

28. The Committee commends the State party on the numerous legislative and constitutional measures taken to ensure gender parity in political and public life. It notes that parity has been achieved in the Cabinet and in regional and departmental councils. It welcomes the sharp increase in the representation of women in the regional and municipal councils following the local elections held in 2014. The Committee notes that the legislation promoting gender parity was completed in 2014 for all levels of the State (central, regional, departmental and local). It remains concerned, however, about the low representation of women in the National Assembly and the Senate, given that some political parties appear to prefer to be fined rather than to nominate women candidates for elections, and in the presidencies of subnational councils, such as mayors (16 per cent) or presidents of departments (approximately 10 per cent), or of regions (17.6 per cent). The Committee also notes the progress made in the representation of women on boards of directors.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Evaluate the impact of the penalties currently applied with respect to elections to the National Assembly and the Senate and, if necessary, adopt stronger measures, including a revision of the electoral system; (b) Develop innovative models for the presidencies of subnational councils; (c) Pursue its efforts to ensure equal representation in decision-making positions on boards of directors and in various areas of public administration; (d) Intensify awareness-raising campaigns for politicians, journalists, teachers and the general public, to enhance the understanding that the full, equal, free and democratic participation of women on an equal basis with men in political and public life is a requirement for the full implementation of the human rights of women.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2010** CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19

12. The Committee takes note of article 1 of the Constitution of the State party, whereby France is an indivisible republic and ensures the equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction on grounds of origin, race or religion, which is the reason given by the State party for not taking a population census based on ethnic and racial indicators. The Committee repeats its view that the purpose of gathering statistical data is to make it possible for States parties to identify and obtain a better understanding of the ethnic groups in their territory and the kind of discrimination they are or may be subject to, to find appropriate responses and solutions to the forms of discrimination identified, and to measure progress made. The Committee therefore recommends, in line with its general recommendations Nos. 24 (1999), on article 1 of the Convention, and 30 (2005), on discrimination against non-citizens, that the State party take a census of its population based on anonymous and purely voluntary ethnic and racial self-identification by individuals.

16. The Committee remains very concerned at the difficulties faced by travellers, particularly regarding their freedom of movement, exercise of the right to vote and access to education and decent housing. In this respect, the Committee notes with concern that, despite the recommendations formulated in its previous concluding observations, the State party has still not provided travellers with the necessary number of encampment areas, as provided for in the Act of 5 July 2000 known as the “Besson Act”. The Committee is also concerned at the legal requirement for travellers to hold a travel permit, which has to be renewed periodically. The Committee urges the State party to ensure equal treatment for travellers in respect of the right to vote and access to education. The Committee recommends that the Besson Act be implemented swiftly to ensure that illegal encampment areas are no longer an issue. The Committee also recommends that travel permits for travellers be abolished to ensure equal treatment for all citizens of the State party (arts. 2 and 5).

**SR on the rights of persons with disabilities** (October 2017 visit. Report not available as of 30 January 2018)

**SR on the rights of indigenous peoples (situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia) 2011** A/HRC/18/35/Add.6

24. Self-determination for indigenous peoples entails, in addition to maintaining their own autonomous institutions of authority, the right to participate fully in the life of the State, as affirmed by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (art. 5). The Nouméa Accord provides for the establishment of a Congress of New Caledonia made up of representatives of the three Provincial Assemblies, with 59 per cent of representatives from South Province, 28 per cent from North Province and 13 per cent from Loyalty Islands Province, reflecting the population distribution. In total, Kanak representatives make up roughly 48 per cent of Congress. It is apparent that most Kanaks support proindependence political parties affiliated with FLNKS, the national liberation movement of the 1970s and 1980s, while most New Caledonians of European descent favour loyalist or non-independist parties. Under the Accord, Congress appoints the Government of New Caledonia, also with proportionate representation, led by a chief executive as President of the Government of New Caledonia.

25. Under the framework of the Nouméa Accord, Kanaks also have broader participation in the political life of the territory through the Customary Senate, an advisory body made up of 16 senators, two from each of the eight customary areas of New Caledonia. Congress must consult the Customary Senate on all issues affecting Kanak identity, although in the event of a stalemate between the two bodies, the position of Congress shall prevail. The Customary Senate has the power to propose and call for a vote on new laws related to Kanak identity. In addition, members of the Customary Senate sit on the Economic and Social Council, an advisory body that must be consulted whenever Congress debates any issues of economic or social character.

26. While the Special Rapporteur heard a great deal of support for the Customary Senate, he also heard broad frustration that there is **no obligation on the part of Congress to take up proposals made by the Customary Senate, that it lacks binding decision-making powers**, and that its ability to support activities is hampered by limited funding. Additionally, Kanak representatives expressed concern that the influence of the Customary Senate will be diminished as powers are transferred from France to New Caledonia, and decentralized to provincial and communal authorities.

27. While Kanaks enjoy significant representation in political bodies and through the Customary Senate, their participation at administrative levels of government remains low. Some efforts are being made to address this situation. The “400 cadres” programme for managers, referred to in the Nouméa Accord (art. 4.1.2) has trained between 600 and 750 Kanak management professionals, representing roughly 75 per cent of programme graduates; the programme now requires 80 per cent Melanesian participation. However, increased efforts are needed to ensure Kanak representation in public administration, especially among higher level positions. According to data provided by the Customary Senate, while there are 528 Kanaks in the civil service today (out of a total of 3,660), only 57 are in positions of middle or upper management.

28. A final challenge to Kanak political participation emerges from the voting process. The Special Rapporteur was informed that as many as 1,500 Kanaks, for a variety of reasons, are not registered on the proper electoral list. The Special Rapporteur notes with approval the efforts underway to rectify this situation in order to ensure that all Kanak citizens can exercise their right to vote, not only in the post-2014 referendum, but in all national and provincial elections. Voting rights are also hampered by regulations requiring citizens to vote in the province in which they are registered. Many Kanaks who are registered to vote in North or Loyalty Islands provinces have migrated to greater Nouméa, and given the cost of travel, these voters are effectively disenfranchised.

**Independent expert on minority issues 2008** A/HRC/7/23/Add.2

72. Although minorities in France account for an estimated 12 per cent of the population, according to the Institute Montaigne, an independent French institute, only 2 of the 555 members of the lower house elected in metropolitan (non-overseas) France come from the country’s black, Asian and North African minorities.In the 2007 elections, France’s governing political party, the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP), had only seven minority candidates running for election while the opposition Socialists had 20 candidates, mostly in the Paris region. A total of 7,639 candidates stood for 577 seats, including France’s overseas possessions.

73. The legitimate interests of minorities are not fully considered within political institutions that do not reflect the diversity of French society. Parliamentary debates on key issues relevant to minorities, including policy to combat racism and discrimination and to promote equality and immigration issues, are being conducted without representatives of minorities, who are frequent victims of discrimination. **Lack of minority representation constitutes an extremely serious problem of underrepresentation in the legislative and at all levels of political structure**. A significant sector of French society feels excluded from the organs of power, as a result of which those deliberative bodies suffer a deficit in the absence of their views. This raises **issues of legitimacy and a legislative process that is not fully informed**.

**UPR Recommendations 2013** A/HRC/23/3

No specific recommendation apart from general ones towards fighting discrimination.

1. **GERMANY**

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2012** CCPR/C/DEU/CO/6

8. While noting **progress made by the State party to promote equality between women and men, such as in Parliament and the Judiciary**, the Committee is concerned that the representation of women in leading positions in the private sector remains low. It is also concerned at the persistent wage gap between women and men in the State party (arts. 2, 3, and 26).

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2017** CEDAW/C/DEU/CO/7-8

31. The Committee welcomes the measures adopted by the State party to advance the participation of women in political and public life. Nevertheless, it remains concerned that structural barriers to and discriminatory stereotypes relating to women’s engagement in political and public life continue to exclude women from decision-making positions in both elected and appointed positions in public office and within political parties, the judiciary and academia. The Committee is also concerned that, under the Federal Equality Act, specific deadlines are missing from gender equality plans. It also notes with concern the restricted scope of sanctioning powers and the legal standing in court proceedings of equal opportunities officers.

32. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendations (see CEDAW/C/ DEU/CO/6, para. 32) that the State party strengthen its efforts to increase the number of women in elected decision-making bodies at the federal and state levels and in appointed positions at the municipal level, with a view to achieving the equal representation of women and men in political and public life. It also recommends that awareness-raising campaigns be developed to enhance the understanding that the full, equal, free and democratic participation of women in political and public life is a requirement for the full implementation of women’s human rights.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2015** CERD/C/DEU/CO/19-22

N/A

**CRPD Concluding Observations 2015** CRPD/C/DEU/CO/1

9. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are not guaranteed meaningful and effective participation in decision-making related to their lives, and that accessible communication is insufficient. It is also concerned at the lack of clarity about the roles and responsibilities regarding the implementation of the Convention.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party develop frameworks for the inclusive, comprehensive and transparent participation of organizations representing persons with disabilities, including those experiencing intersectional discrimination, regarding the adoption of legislation, policies and programmes for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention. It also recommends that the State party provide resources to facilitate the participation of such organizations, especially smaller self-advocacy organizations.

53. The Committee is concerned about the exclusion of persons with disabilities from the electoral rights stipulated in section 13 (2–3) of the Federal Electoral Act and equivalent Land legislation, as well as about practical barriers preventing persons with disabilities from exercising the right to vote on an equal basis with others.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all laws and regulations that deprive persons with disabilities of the right to vote, as well as reduce barriers and put in place appropriate support mechanisms.

**Working Group on people of African descent 2017** A/HRC/36/60/Add.2

90. The Government should consider **granting migrants the right to vote in local elections**, thus improving the representation of migrant communities in city councils and other municipal bodies.

**Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism 2010** A/HRC/14/43/Add.2

75. The Special Rapporteur noted during the mission that, **as a consequence of naturalization rules in Germany, persons with a migration background have been underrepresented in the political process, both as voters and as representatives**. Such underrepresentation has a major impact on the power of such communities to influence policymaking and to have a say in the decisions taken in their local communities, as well as at the federal level. Many migrant communities have also pointed to what they consider to be an unfair practice, whereby European Union citizens who have resided in Germany for more than six months are allowed to vote in local elections, whereas foreign citizens who have resided in the country for many years are not granted a similar right. **Granting migrants who have lived in Germany for a certain period of time the right to vote in local elections** would not only improve their representation in local political institutions, but also increase the sense of ownership of these communities over the political process and government decisions.

85. The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government consider recognizing the right of migrants who have resided in Germany for a reasonable period of time to vote in local elections, thus improving the representation of these communities in city councils and other municipal bodies.

**UPR Recommendations 2013** A/HRC/24/9

124.75. Continue its efforts in combatting discrimination of women, particularly in its public policies for immigrant women and refugee women as well as those belonging to minorities, which CEDAW pointed out may be A/HRC/24/9 19 subject to multiple forms of discrimination in respect of education, heath, employment and social and political participation (Paraguay);

124.119. Take effective legal measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children, in particular those who belong to ethnic and religious minorities including Muslims who still face multiple forms of discrimination with respect to education, health, employment and social and political participation (Iran (Islamic Republic of)).

1. [**GREECE**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/gre.html)

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2015** CCPR/C/GRC/CO/2

7. While noting the minimum one-third quota for women candidates, the Committee notes with concern that women remain underrepresented in decision-making positions in legislative and executive bodies. The Committee is also concerned about the disproportionate impact on women of the economic crisis and the austerity measures adopted, in particular the high unemployment rate of women, which exceeds 28 per cent (compared with 21.5 per cent for men) (arts. 2-3 and 26).

8. The State party should step up its efforts to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions in legislative and executive bodies within specific time frames. The State party should also strengthen its efforts to address the impact of the economic crisis on women and to expand existing programmes aimed at addressing unemployment among women.

39. While the Committee notes the State party’s expressed intention to proceed with the registration of associations of groups claiming minority group status, in accordance with European Court of Human Rights decisions of 2008 and 2015, the Committee expresses concern about the pace of implementation of those decisions (art. 22).

40. The State party should expedite its measures to register associations of distinct communities, including those claiming minority group status, in accordance with article 22 of the Covenant.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2016** CERD/C/GRC/CO/2

N/A

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2015** E/C.12/GRC/CO/2

15. Despite the steps taken to promote equality between men and women, the Committee is concerned about the persistent and significant wage gap between women and men and women’s overrepresentation in part-time employment. It remains concerned that women are still underrepresented in all levels of political and public life, including in decision-making positions. The Committee is concerned that in the election of September 2015 the representation of women in the Hellenic Parliament reached only 19 per cent and that the new Government has seven women in the Cabinet, despite the one-third quota for women candidates (art. 3).

16. In the light of the Committee’s previous recommendations (see E/C.12/1/Add.97, para. 13) and general comment No. 16 (2005) on the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights, the Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Take proactive measures to provide men and women with equal career opportunities by promoting the pursuit of education and training in fields that are traditionally dominated by either sex; (b) Take measures to close the gender wage gap, including efforts to combat horizontal and vertical occupational sex segregation in the labour market; (c) **Promote women’s access to high-level positions in the public** and private sectors, including by adopting and implementing temporary special measures, and address obstacles to their career advancement; (d) **Systematically implement the one-third quota of women candidates and ensure that women enjoy equal rights in political and decision-making positions**.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2013** CEDAW/C/GRC/CO/7

14. The Committee is concerned that women non-governmental organizations were not present during the consideration of the State party’s report, although it notes the important contribution of non-governmental organizations to the advancement of women.

15. The Committee urges the State party to collaborate with non-governmental organizations and involve them, in particular, women’s associations, in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and measures aiming at the advancement of women in all areas covered by the Convention, as well as in the process of reporting to the Committee.

24. While noting that during the National Elections in June 2012, the one-third quota of women candidates was upheld by all political parties, and that the representation of women in Parliament reached 21 per cent, as well as the appointment of a number of women as Ambassadors, the Committee is concerned at the **underrepresentation of women at all levels of political and public life, in particular in regional and municipal legislative bodies**. The Committee is also concerned that **the quota system is not functioning effectively** in the State party, including for the civil service boards, and that no temporary special measures have been envisaged in order to remedy this situation. The Committee is further concerned that systematic barriers such as negative cultural attitudes, insufficient capacity-building for potential candidates and limited financial resources impede women’s equal participation in political life.

25. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

(a) Consider the use of temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendations No. 23 (1997) and No. 25 (2004) , study the international examples of quota systems, analyse the best practices in other countries and **establish adequate quotas with the aim of accelerating the equal representation of women in all areas of public and professional life, especially in decision-making positions, in Parliament and in the local administration**;

(b) Systematically implement the 30 per cent quota in the civil service boards and ensure that women enjoy equal opportunities to participate in political and public life, including in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies and local community projects;

(c) Provide training on gender equality for politicians, journalists, teachers, local officials and civil society leaders, especially men, to enhance the understanding that full, free and democratic participation of women on an equal basis with men in political and public life is a requirement for the full implementation of the Convention.

**Independent Expert on minority issues 2009** A/HRC/10/11/Add.3

76.In Western Thrace, community representatives highlight that no members of the Muslim minority are represented in senior public posts, as public prosecutors, in the police or in the judiciary. They claim that, despite the election of two Muslim Members of Parliament in the opposition party, no Muslims hold senior posts in ministries. They discussed a lack of trust that exists between the minority and the Greek authorities which must be overcome for relations to improve.

77.Political participation of minorities, particularly the Roma community is generally very poor. In areas where Roma are well integrated, some Roma do achieve local government office. Such cases have demonstrated the positive outcomes achieved when Roma have a role in decision making. However Roma are extremely poorly represented even at the Municipal level and are unrepresented in National Parliament. ASPIDA-ROM, is a political party established by Greek Roma in 2006 to campaign for the rights of the Roma and better representation in Parliament and local government.

78.Those claiming minority Macedonian identity are represented by the Rainbow political party. This party does not have a seat in the national Parliament. The party is active in Macedonia and participates freely in Greek political life but has not obtained sufficient support to obtain a seat in Parliament. Representatives note difficulties in establishing the party and continuing hostility towards it due to its support for political recognition of the Macedonian minority in Greece, and the preservation of its culture, language and customs.

79.Two members of the Muslim minority are currently in National Parliament both from the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) party and actively advocate for the rights of the Muslim minority. In 2006 Municipal and Prefectural elections approximately 280 Muslims were reportedly elected to municipal and prefectural councils, including as mayors and a vice-prefect. The Muslim minority is always represented at the Hellenic Parliament. However representation at the most senior government levels has not been achieved. Notwithstanding the woman vice‑Mufti in Xanthi, women’s political participation is poor within the Muslim minority. Only the male head of households are permitted to vote in community elections for Muftis, which are not recognized by the State.

95. The appointment by government of religious officials, such as Muftis, infringes on the right of persons belonging to the Muslim minority to effectively participate in the decision ‑ making processes that affect their daily lives. It is also an infringement on freedom of religion. On the other hand, it is also not an option to impose Shari’a Law in a fashion that violates the right to equality of women guaranteed in the constitution and under international law. Religious leaders should be chosen by their religious communities, but must be restricted to religious duties that do not infringe fundamental rights.

**UPR Recommendations 2016** A/HRC/33/7

134.95 Continue its efforts to increase the participation of women in political life and in decision-making positions (Cuba);

134.96 Adopt and implement necessary legislative and administrative measures to promote the effective participation of women in the public and political life of the country (Mexico).

1. [**ICELAND**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/ice.html)

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2012** CCPR/C/ISL/CO/5

7. While welcoming the adoption of the Gender Equality Act and the establishment of the Centre for Gender Equality, the Committee is concerned that there is a significant, and an again increasing, wage gap between women and men. It is also concerned that women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making positions, in particular in the Foreign Service, the judiciary and academia (arts. 2 and 3).

The State party should continue to take steps, in particular through the Centre for Gender Equality and a speedy adoption of equal salary standards, to continue to address the persistent and significant wage gap between women and men, guaranteeing equal pay for work of equal value. It should also introduce measures to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions, in particular in the Foreign Service, the judiciary, and academia.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2016** CEDAW/C/ISL/CO/7-8

15. The Committee is concerned about: (a) The limited use of temporary special measures to accelerate the substantive equality of women and men, in particular as regards the representation of women in decision-making positions at the local level, in academic institutions and in the justice, foreign policy, private and law enforcement sectors;

25. The Committee commends the State party on the high percentage of women in Parliament (43 per cent) and welcomes the fact that the Ministry of the Interior has taken measures to increase the representation of women in the police. The Committee is nevertheless concerned about the very low number of women police officers and the underrepresentation of women on the Supreme Court and in decision-making positions in the foreign service (ambassadors) and in local government.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Take prompt targeted measures, including temporary special measures, with clear time frames, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25, to rapidly increase the representation of women in the police force, on the Supreme Court and in decision-making positions in the foreign service (ambassadors); (b) Take measures, including temporary special measures, to increase the participation of women in political and public life, especially in legislative and executive bodies at the municipal level, such as financial incentives for political parties to include an equal number of women and men in their electoral lists or a zipper system for the appointment of women and men to public offices.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2010** CERD/C/ISL/CO/19-20

4. The Committee notes with satisfaction that the four-year plan (2007-2011) for the police in the State party puts a special emphasis on staffing the police with people who reflect the multicultural cross-section of society.

**Working Group on discrimination against women 2014** A/HRC/26/39/Add.1

12. A legal and policy framework on gender equality has been developed over the past 35 years and has provided a sound basis for achieving full equality between men and women. This was made possible due to the vibrancy of the women’s movement in Iceland, the high-level of voluntarism of civil society, coupled with recognition by the Government of its role in shaping policy, and a strong tradition of participatory policymaking.

15. Article 1 of the Gender Equality Act (…) introduces, inter alia, a minimum quota of 40 per cent in governmental (State and municipal) committees and councils, when such bodies consist of more than three members.

The Working Group recommends to “(i) Provide additional support for organizations which enable persons of foreign origin, particularly women, to participate fully in economic, social, public and political life”.

**UPR Recommendations 2016** A/HRC/34/7

115.63 Promote the political participation of women in public positions of power (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

115.64 Continue its policies and efforts to further promote and protect women’s rights (Armenia).

1. **IRELAND**

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2014** CCPR/C/IRL/C0/4

7. [The Committee] expresses concern that, despite the adoption of the Electoral (Amendment) Political Funding Act 2012 which encourages political parties to establish a quota for female candidates, women continue to be underrepresented in both public and private sectors, particularly in decision-making positions.

The State party should (…) further encourage greater participation of women in both public and private sectors, including by providing stable and sufficient funding for institutions established to promote and protect gender equality.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2017** CEDAW/C/IRL/CO/6-7

22. The Committee commends the State party for its efforts to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality, such as through the Equality for Women Measure 2008-2013, which made funding available to foster the engagement and advancement of women in a number of sectors focusing on access to employment, developing female entrepreneurship and fostering women’s participation as decision makers. The Committee also commends the State party for the 2012 amendment to the Electoral Act of 1997 (see para. 34 (b) below), which sets out sanctions for political parties that do not meet the requirement of at least 30 per cent women and 30 per cent men as candidates for elections. However, the Committee is concerned that temporary special measures under the Electoral Act do not extend to local government elections and there are no measures in other areas such as in higher education.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party increase the use of temporary special measures, including **statutory quotas**, in all areas covered by the Convention in which women are underrepresented, such as in local government elections, decision-making positions in public administration, private companies and academia. The Committee recommends that such measures should include specific targets and time frames, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, in order to ensure the achievement of substantive equality of women and men in all areas of the Convention where women are disadvantaged or underrepresented.

34. The Committee notes that the State party has made commendable advances around women’s participation in some sectors, especially in the judiciary, where the representation of women in the Supreme Court stands at 44 per cent and a woman is the Chief Justice. The Committee also notes that the Office of the Attorney General is held by a woman. The Committee further commends the State party for its efforts to increase the number of women appointed to State boards following the introduction of the State Boards Alerts system. However, the Committee is concerned at: (a) The **low number of women** in Dáil Éireann (lower house of parliament), the High Court, ministerial positions, State boards, and senior academic and foreign service positions; (b) The fact that the Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act of 2012 **does not extend to local government elections**; (c) The **low level of participation of Traveller, Roma and migrant women** in political and public life.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Continue to take targeted measures to further increase women’s representation in political and public life, particularly in Dáil Éireann (lower house of parliament), the High Court, ministerial positions, State Boards, and senior academic and foreign service positions; (b) Introduce temporary special measures, including quotas, which should be used in conjunction with such other policy measures as civic education programmes, mentoring and training programmes, childcare and eldercare, and financial support to women who aspire to decision-making positions, so as to ensure de facto change; (c) Consider extending the Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act of 2012 to local government elections; (d) Take concrete measures, including temporary special measures, to promote the participation of Traveller, Roma and migrant women in political and public life.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2011** CERD/C/IRL/CO/3-4

14.The Committee recalls its previous concluding observations (CERD/C/IRL/CO/2) and general recommendation No. 32 (2009) on the scope and meaning of special measures in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and regrets that the State party has not adopted a programme on affirmative action to improve the representation of the Traveller community in political institutions or taken adequate measures to encourage the Traveller community to participate in the conduct of public affairs. (art. 5(c))

The Committee reiterates it s previous concluding observation s (CERD/C/IRL/CO/2) and draws th e attention of the State party to general recommendation No. 32 , and recommends that the State party adopt affirmative action programmes that seek to improv e the representation of Travellers in political institutions , particularly at the level of *Dáil Eireann*( Lower House of Parliament)and/or *Seanad Eireann* (Upper House of Parliament) . The State party should further adopt measures aimed at encouraging the Traveller community to participate in the conduct of public affairs**.**

**UPR Recommendations 2016** A/HRC/33/17

135.65 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and prioritize measures to further strengthen the existing framework, including to increase the meaningful participation of the persons with disabilities in policy making (Indonesia);

135.92 Continue to make efforts to ensure women’s participation in political life and in decision-making (Pakistan);

135.94 Scale up effective measures to further increase women’s representation and their meaningful participation in decision-making level in the public and private sectors (Indonesia).

1. **ISRAEL**

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2014** CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4

8. The Committee is concerned that, despite the steps taken by the State party, Israeli citizens of Arab origin continue to be underrepresented in the civil service, in particular in decision-making positions (arts. 2, 25 and 26).

The State party should step up its efforts to achieve equitable representation of Israeli citizens of Arab origin in the civil service, in particular in decision-making positions in legislative and executive bodies, including the Knesset and the Government.

9. The State party should:(…) (d) Ensure the participation of Bedouins in the Negev in any process concerning their relocation; ensure that any proposed plans for their relocation take due account of their traditional way of life and, where applicable, their right to ancestral land, and are carried out in accordance with relevant international human rights standards, in particular the principle of non-discrimination, the rights to be informed and consulted, to an effective remedy, and to the provision of adequate relocation sites, and withdraw the discriminatory Bill for the Regulation of the Bedouin Settlement in the Negev (the Prawer-Begin Bill).

**CERD Concluding Observations 2012** CERD/C/ISR/CO/14-16

16. The Committee (…) regrets the adoption of the 2009 Special Amendment No. 6 to the Regional Councils Law (Date of General Elections) (1994), which could considerably restrict the political participation of non-Jewish minorities (arts. 2 and 5 of the Convention).

The Committee recommends that the State party abrogate all discriminatory laws and rescind all discriminatory bills so as to ensure non-Jewish communities’ equal access to work and social benefits as well as the right to political participation enshrined in the Convention.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2011** CEDAW/C/ISR/CO/5

14. The Committee is aware that the persistence of conflict and violence hinders the full implementation of the Convention. In this regard, it welcomes the fact that the State party has recognized the importance of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security in various domestic and international forums, and that the 1951 Equal Rights for Women Law was amended in 2005 following this resolution to include section 6C1, mandating that there must be equal representation for women in bodies that shape national policy, including peacebuilding negotiations.

15. With reference to its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/ISR/CO/3, para. 22), the Committee calls on the State party to strengthen its efforts towards conflict resolution, in line with relevant United Nations resolutions, and to **fully involve all women concerned in all stages of the peace process, including through their equal opportunity and participation in the decision-making processes**.

32. The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to enhance women’s participation in political and public life, including Government Resolution No. 1362 (2007) determining that equal gender representation shall be achieved in the boards of Government corporations, within two years of the Resolution, as well as the creation of a list of women qualified to serve as directors in Government corporations and other public bodies, including Israeli Arab women. While welcoming the increase in the number of women in the Knesset and the fact that women now constitute the majority of judges in the judiciary, the Committee is concerned that gaps remain between women’s and men’s representation in certain areas of political and public life, including in local councils/authorities, academia and the foreign service. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned at the continued low level of representation of Israeli Arab women in these areas. In this respect, the Committee notes with interest the two bills on the funding of political parties and on local authorities (elections).

33. The Committee recommends that the State party pursue sustained policies aimed at the **promotion of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making in all areas of public, political and professional life**. It recommends that the State party fully utilize the Committee’s general recommendation No. 23 and calls upon the State party to adopt temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25, in order to **accelerate the full and equal participation of women in public and political life**. To this end, the Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Establish concrete goals and timetables so as to accelerate the increase in the representation of women, including Israeli Arab women, in elected and appointed bodies in all areas of public life, where parity has not yet been reached; (b) Implement awareness-raising activities on the importance of the participation of women in decision-making for society as a whole and develop targeted training and mentoring programmes for women candidates and women elected to public office, as well as programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders; (c) Carefully monitor the effectiveness of measures taken and results achieved and that it inform the Committee thereof; and (d) Provide information, in its next report, on the status and content of the two Bills on the funding of political parties and on local authorities (elections).

**Special Rapporteur on violence against women 2017** A/HRC/35/30/Add.1

Recommends to:

f) Adopt a National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 with participation of all the women comprising Israeli society;

j) Take effective measures to improve the situation of Bedouin women and girls with regard to their access to shelters and other protection and empowerment measures, health care, education and employment and ensure their participation in any process concerning their situation.

**Special Committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights of Palestinians 2017** A/72/539

42. The Committee was briefed on the permit system in East Jerusalem, in which Palestinians must obtain residency status from Israel in order to live in East Jerusalem. Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem are not considered citizens, and thus may not vote in national elections, although they may vote in local elections.

**UPR Recommendations 2013** A/HRC/25/15

136.53. Provide equal rights for all citizens of Israel regardless of their origin and confession, allowing them equal access to employment, education and other socio-economic rights as well as participation in political processes (Russian Federation);

136.81. Continue to further promote women’s participation in all aspects of public life and especially in political life (Greece);

136.91. Enhance its efforts to further promote the human rights of minorities, including citizens of Arab origin, by promoting their participation in politics, the economy and various sectors of society as well as by ensuring their equal access to education, health care and other social services (Japan);

136.92. Strengthen the protection of rights of persons belonging to nonJewish minorities and to ensure an effective participation of all citizens in political and public affairs (Czech Republic).

1. [**ITALY**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/ita.html)

**Human Rights Committee Views**

*M.A. v. Italy*, Communication No. 117/1981, 1984

Decision on inadmissibility

13.3.(…) it would appear to the Committee that the acts of which M.A. was convicted (reorganizing the dissolved fascist party) were of a kind which are removed from the protection of the Covenant by article 5 thereof and which were in any event justifiably prohibited by Italian law having regard to the limitations and restrictions applicable to the rights in question under the provisions of articles 18 (3), 19 (3), 22 (2) and 25 of the Covenant. In these respects therefore the communication is inadmissible under article 3 of the Optional Protocol, as incompatible with the provisions of the Covenant, *ratione materiae*.

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2017** CCPR/C/ITA/CO/6

N/A

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2017** CEDAW/C/ITA/CO/7

31.The Committee notes the State party’s legislative measures to increase the participation of women in political and public life, including **mandatory quotas** for national, local and European elections and for boards of publicly listed and State-owned companies, which have resulted in a **progressive increase in the proportion of women representatives** in the national parliament (30.1 per cent), regional governments (35 per cent) and the European Parliament (39.7 per cent), as well as on boards of publicly listed and State-owned companies (27.6 per cent). The Committee remains concerned, however, that:

(a)Women in the State party are still underrepresented in the parliament and on regional councils, as well as in ministerial positions, in the judiciary, on boards of directors and in senior positions within the public administration, including in the diplomatic service;

(b)Women in politics are often targets of sexist attacks and harassment because of their gender and face negative cultural attitudes and gender stereotypes within political parties and the media and among voters.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Strengthen the representation of women in decision-making positions in political life**, including in ministerial positions, in the judiciary, on boards of directors and in senior positions within the public administration, including in the diplomatic service, and to that end adopt measures, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee ’ s general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, such as a gender parity system for accelerated recruitment and appointment of women to senior positions in the public administration;

(b) **Introduce gender parity for both chambers of the parliament** in the reform of the electoral law;

(c) Intensify awareness-raising campaigns for politicians, journalists, teachers and the general public to enhance the understanding that the full, equal, free and democratic participation of women on an equal basis with men in political and public life is a requirement for the full implementation of the human rights of women;

**CERD Concluding Observations 2017** CERD/C/ITA/CO/19-20

22. (…) the Committee recommends that the State Party (…) (e) Ensure that the national strategy for the inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Camminanti communities for the period 2012-2020 leads to concrete and tangible improvement of the enjoyment of their rights by Roma, Sinti and Camminanti, including by eliminating statelessness, and ensuring that (a) Roma, Sinti and Camminanti communities are able to participate effectively in the development and implementation of the strategy.

**CRPD Concluding Observations 2016** CRPD/C/ITA/CO/1

7. The Committee is concerned about the lack of consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations and by the fact that the National Observatory on the Status of Persons with Disabilities is not a permanent consultative body. It is also concerned by the **failure to prioritize the input of organizations of persons with disabilities** by treating all stakeholder views equally and thereby limiting the input of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, in direct decision-making processes.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a permanent consultative body that **effectively and meaningfully consults with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of all laws, policies and programmes**, and that it ensure that a broad range of persons with disabilities that reflect the diversity of people’s backgrounds, including age, sex, faith, race, sexual orientation, migrant status and impairment groups, meaningfully participate in an inclusive and accessible manner in direct decision-making processes that affect the lives of persons with disabilities at all levels and within all sectors of the State party.

73. The Committee is concerned that persons with intellectual disabilities and/or psychosocial disabilities **do not receive adequate support in order to exercise their right to vote**, and that article 48 of the Constitution, which restricts the right to vote based on “civil incapacity”, is inconsistent with the Convention. The Committee is concerned about the inability of persons with disabilities to vote wherever they choose due to legal restrictions imposed on them. It is also concerned that the regulation on assistance for persons with disabilities in order to cast their vote is not consistent with the Convention.

74. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal article 48 of the Constitution and **provide support and facilitation services to ensure all persons with disabilities can exercise their right to vote, including persons with intellectual disabilities and/or psychosocial disabilities**. It also recommends that the State party repeal law No. 62/04, which restricts persons with disabilities to vote at polling stations of their choice. It further recommends that the State party harmonize its regulatory framework on assistance for persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote in compliance with the Convention.

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2015** E/C.12/ITA/CO/5

22. The Committee notes with appreciation the **adoption of various laws and policies aimed at increasing women’s representation in political affairs**, including Act No. 120/2011 on equal access to boards of directors and boards of statutory auditors of publicly listed companies and Act No. 215/2012 on provisions to promote gender balance and equality in local governments and regional councils. However, it remains concerned that gender role stereotypes persist and that **women’s representation in the national Parliament, the judiciary and senior positions within the public administration remains unsatisfactory. It is also concerned that Roma women and women from the south are nearly absent from the public scene** (art. 3).

23. Recalling its general comment No. 16 (2005) on the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights, the Committee recommends that the State party step up its efforts to combat gender stereotypes and that it embark on national awareness-raising campaigns, including by increased use of the media, aimed at modifying the population’s mindset as regards gender roles. It also recommends that the State party **take effective measures to enhance women’s participation in all areas of public life, and that it consider the adoption of temporary special measures including quotas, paying particular attention to Roma women and women from the south**.

**Working Group on People of African Descent 2016** A/HRC/33/61/Add.1

87. (…)As regards the centre for Sudanese refugees, the Working Group encourages the municipality of Rome to respect the residents’ right to information, full consultation and participation.

**UPR Recommendations** A/HRC/28/4

145.56 Continue to intensify its ongoing efforts to strengthen women’s representation in leadership roles and decision-making positions (Cyprus);

145.148 Follow up regularly the implementation of the strategy by actively involving representatives of the communities concerned and based upon the findings from the follow-up of the strategy to make necessary revisions to the strategy in order to improve the living conditions of the Roma, Sinti and Travellers communities (Finland).

1. **LIECHTENSTEIN**

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2017** CCPR/C/LIE/CO/2

15.The Committee notes with concern the downward trend in female representation in the political sphere in national and municipal elections since 2009 (art. 25).

16. The State party should:

(a) Dedicate sufficient funding to ensure that the gender equality commission, the steering committee for gender mainstreaming, the working group on gender equality in national administration positions and the equal opportunities unit are fully staffed as a matter of priority, so that they can fulfil their mandate of wider outreach to enhance female representation;

(b) Strengthen its efforts to increase the participation of women in the public and private sectors, particularly in decision-making positions, including by adopting, if necessary, temporary special measures.

17.While the Committee notes that the State party has made progress in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, it is concerned that persons with disabilities still face challenges in gaining access to justice, education, employment and political participation, and also by the permissible distinctions regarding wages under current legislation (arts. 2 and 26).

18. The State party should:

(a) Take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities are not discriminated against in the enjoyment of their rights;

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2017** E/C.12/LIE/CO/2-3

15.While noting the efforts to promote gender equality pursued by the Equal Opportunity Unit before its dissolution in 2016 and the introduction of related legislative amendments, the Committee is concerned about the absence of a specific mechanism for the promotion of gender equality. It also notes with concern that traditional gender roles and stereotypes of women and men in the family and society persist and the low representation of women in political and decision-making positions (art. 3).

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(…) (d) Continue to assess the underlying causes of the underrepresentation of women in political and decision-making positions and take appropriate measures, including through strengthening the system of quotas and other temporary special measures, to close this gap.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2011** CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/4

16.The Committee reiterates its concern about the State party’s limited application of article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, in particular the lack of temporary special measures to promote women’s participation in political and economic life and to eliminate de facto discrimination against disadvantaged groups of women.

17 . The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the use of temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 (2004) , in all areas covered by the Convention in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged. To that end, it recommends that the State party :

(a) Based on existing data and studies, set time-bound targets and allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of strategies, such as outreach and support programmes, the creation of incentives, quotas and other proactive measures aimed at achieving substantive equality of women and men in those areas

28.The Committee remains concerned that women continue to be significantly underrepresented in Parliament, municipal councils, government, national commissions and advisory councils and senior positions in the public administration, including in the diplomatic service. It is also concerned that there are currently no women mayors and that there is no special committee of Parliament dealing with gender equality. It takes note of the State party’s explanation that women are often too burdened with professional and family duties to take part in political life.

29 . The Committee re commends that the State party :

(a) Adopt temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25, such as statutory quota, a gender parity system for nominations for Government bodies, and conditioning the financing of political parties on equal representation of women in their internal bodies and on candidate lists, to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions in elected and appointed political bodies ;

(b) Provide training on gender equality to civil servants and politicians, especially men, with a view to enhancing the understanding that full and equal participation of women and men in political and public life is a requirement for the full implementation of the Convention, and thus creating a more favourable environment for women’s participation in political and public life.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2007** CERD/C/LIE/CO/3

17. The Committee notes with concern that, pursuant to the Act on Facilitated Naturalization (2000), Liechtenstein citizenship is granted on the basis of 30 years of permanent residence, which, in the Committee’s view, is excessively lengthy. The Committee is also concerned that the fast-track procedure, which requires five years of permanent residence and a favourable outcome of popular vote in the local municipality in which the applicant is resident, may be discriminatory due to the absence of objective criteria against which such decisions are made (art. 2).

In light of its general recommendation 30 (2004) on discrimination against noncitizens, the Committee recommends that the State party consider amending the Act on Facilitated Naturalization (2000) with a view to **reducing the required period of residence in the naturalization procedure, and ensure that particular groups of non-citizens are not discriminated against with regard to access to citizenship**. The Committee also urges the State party to take the necessary measures to ensure that outcomes of municipal popular votes in relation to the naturalization applications of non-citizens are subject to legal review and that the right to appeal against decisions is guaranteed.

**UPR Recommendations 2013** A/HRC/23/14

94.40. Continue their efforts to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions (State of Palestine);

94.42. Continue its efforts to improve the representation of women in politics and also to ensure the best possible equality in the labour market (Libya);

94.63. Take further steps to improve the integration of persons belonging to different minority groups and adopt a comprehensive policy to ensure effective implementation of the principles of equality and non-discrimination (Norway);

94.64. Further examine methods to promote greater representation of members of minority groups in the government and parliament (United States of America);

94.65. Enforce the principle of equality before the law with regard to immigrants living in Liechtenstein on the same footing as to its citizens (Slovakia).

1. [**LUXEMBOURG**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/lux.html)

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2003** CCPR/CO/77/LUX

8.The Committee remains concerned that, for a large number of offences, the systematic deprivation of the right to vote is an additional penalty in criminal cases (article 25 of the Covenant).

The State party should take steps to bring its legislation into line with paragraph 14 of General Comment No. 25.

**CRPD Concluding Observations 2017** CRPD/C/LUX/CO/1

8.The Committee is concerned about the lack of a permanent coordinating mechanism equipped with sufficient human and financial resources to ensure coherence in the implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned about the lack of systematic consultations with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in the development of policies and decisions that affect them directly.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to increase cooperation and coherence on matters related to disability, that it establish a systematic mechanism to effectively and meaningfully consult with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of all laws, policies and programmes, and that it ensure that a broad range of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, participate meaningfully in an inclusive and accessible manner in public decision-making processes that affect them.

50.The Committee is concerned that the rights of persons with disabilities under guardianship to vote and be elected remain restricted by law. It is also concerned that voting procedures, facilities and materials lack accessibility. The Committee notes with concern the low rates of representation and participation of persons with disabilities in political life and public decision-making.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Take the legal and other measures necessary to enable the political and public participation of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including the right to vote;

(b) Ensure that electoral procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate and accessible for all persons with disabilities, including in sign language, Braille and Easy Read;

(c) Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political life and public decision-making.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2014** CERD/C/LUX/CO/14-17

N/A

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2008** CEDAW/C/LUX/CO/5

21. While noting the progress made with regard to presence of women in Parliament and in municipal elected bodies, the Committee expresses concern that women remain underrepresented in these bodies and progress made in representation of women in political life has been slow. The Committee is further concerned that fewer women were appointed to serve as ministers in the 2004 Government and very few women hold positions at the highest level in diplomacy. The Committee is concerned at the generally low number of women working in public administration and particularly at the low number of women holding high-ranking posts in public sectors. The Committee also expresses concern about the lack of information on the presence of immigrant CEDAW/C/LUX/CO/5 08-29820 5 women in decision-making positions in a country where immigrants account for about forty percent of the whole population.

22. The Committee calls upon the State party to evaluate the resistance and obstacles to women’s full and equal participation in public life and decision-making, especially at higher levels. It calls upon the State party to use temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendations 25 on temporary special measures, and 23 on women in political and public life. It also encourages the State party to ensure that the representation of women in political and public bodies reflects the full diversity of the population and requests the State party to provide detailed sex-disaggregated data and information on the representation of women in elected and appointed bodies and in the judiciary, including at the decision-making level, and trends over time, in its next periodic report.

**UPR Recommendations 2013** A /HRC/23/14

118.10 Continue its positive engagement in promoting equality between women and men by speeding up its voluntary programmes designed to increase the number of women on decision-making bodies (Rwanda).

1. [**MALTA**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/mlt.html)

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2014** CCPR/C/MLT/CO/2

11. While welcoming the measures taken by the State party to enhance the participation of women in the labour market and public life, the Committee is concerned about the low representation of women in political and public sectors, particularly in decision-making positions (arts. 2, 3 and 26).

The State party should strengthen its efforts to increase the participation of women in the public and private sectors, and if necessary, through appropriate temporary special measures to give effect to the provisions of the Covenant.

21. The Committee is concerned about information that persons who are blind or visually impaired are in some cases obliged to vote verbally in front of a group of people representing political parties and the electoral commissions, thereby undermining their right to privacy and to vote by secret ballots (arts. 17 and 25). The State party should ensure that it does not discriminate against persons with disabilities, particularly blind persons and persons with visual impairments by denying or preventing them from exercising their right to vote by secret ballots.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2011** CERD/C/MLT/CO/15-20

N/A

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2010** CEDAW/C/MLT/CO/4

28. While noting an increase in the representation of women at the level of the Local Councils with 19.8 per cent of women, the Committee remains deeply concerned that Maltese women are still underrepresented in the National Parliament (8.7 per cent in 2008) and are absent in the European Parliament. It is also concerned that women remain underrepresented in senior positions within the public administration, including the diplomatic service and the judiciary, as well as the private sector, thus limiting women’s participation in decision-making processes in all areas.

29. The Committee urges the State party to intensify its efforts to strengthen women’s representation in leadership roles and in decision-making positions in political bodies, including Parliament and local councils, in public administration, including the diplomatic service, and in the private sector. It recommends that the State party expand its current awareness-raising efforts and training activities to a wider range of stakeholders, including leaders of political parties, senior managers in the private sector and boards of trustees of foundations under public law. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures, in particular temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 and general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life, so as to accelerate the achievement of women’s full and equal participation at all levels and in all areas.

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2004** E/C.12/1/Add.101

11.The Committee is concerned that persistent cultural stereotypes of the role of women negatively affect the equal enjoyment of rights by both men and women. The Committee notes with concern in this regard that women remain largely underrepresented in public service and that there are no female judges in the State party.

**UPR Recommendations 2013** A/HRC/25/17

102.54. Consider putting in place temporary special measures in areas where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged and provide additional resources to accelerate the improvement of the status of women (Belgium);

102.98. Consider ways by which participation of women in political life be further increased, both in terms of absolute numbers but also in terms of quality of participation (Cyprus);

102.103. Continue its efforts to further eliminate barriers to the full and effective participation in mainstream society of disabled persons, including children, in particular with regard to education, independent living, accessibility to multimedia and full participation in political and public life (Hungary).

1. **MONACO**

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2015** CCPR/C/MCO/CO/3

N/A

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2014** E/C.12/MCO/CO/2-3

12.(…) The Committee is concerned at the fact that women continue to be underrepresented in public affairs and politics and particularly in elected bodies (representation rates of 20.8 per cent in the parliament and 26.8 per cent in the Communal Council).

In the light of its general comment No. 16 (2005) on the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(…)

(b) Increase its efforts to ensure that women are better represented in public affairs and politics, particularly within political bodies, including by taking steps to encourage women to run for office , as well as in the public and private sectors;

**CERD Concluding Observations 2010** CERD/C/MCO/CO/6

N/A

**UPR Recommendations 2014** A/HRC/25/12

N/A

1. [**NETHERLANDS**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/nth.html)

**Human Rights Committee Views**

*Debreczeny v. The Netherlands* CCPR/C/53/D/500/1992, 4 April 1995

Conflict of interest. No violation of Article 25

9.2. The issue before the Committee is whether the application of the restrictions provided for in section 25 of the Municipalities Act, as a consequence of which the author was prevented from taking his seat in the municipal council of Dantumadeel to which he was elected, violated the author’s right under article 25 (b) of the Covenant. The Committee notes that the right provided for by article 25 is not an absolute right and that restrictions of this right are allowed as long as they are not discriminatory or unreasonable.

9.3. The Committee notes that the restrictions on the right to be elected to a municipal council are regulated by law and that they are based on objective criteria, namely the electee’s professional appointment by or subordination to the municipal authority. Noting the reasons invoked by the State party for these restrictions, in particular, to guarantee the democratic decision-making process by avoiding conflicts of interest, the Committee considers that the said restrictions are reasonable and compatible with the purpose of the law. (…) The Committee observes that the author was at the time of his election to the council of Dantumadeel serving as a police officer in the national police force, based at Dantumadeel and as such for matters of public order subordinated to the mayor of Dantumadeel, who was himself accountable to the council for measures taken in that regard. In these circumstances, the Committee considers that **a conflict of interest could indeed arise and that the application of the restrictions to the author does not constitute a violation of article 25** of the Covenant.

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2009** CCPR/C/NLD/CO/425

6.The Committee notes the low participation of women in public office at senior levels, particularly in the Senate and the Cabinet. The Committee notes that this is also the case in the private sector, with women occupying considerably fewer senior positions.(arts.3, 25 and 26)

While recognizing the different conditions in the public and private sectors, the State party should strengthen its efforts to increase the participation of women in political decision-making positions at all levels, as well as in senior positions in the private sector, by, inter alia, conducting awareness-raising campaigns and encouraging more intensive searches for suitable female candidates.

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2017** E/CN.12/NLD/CO/6

22.While appreciating the comprehensive data provided by the State party related to women’s participation, the Committee is concerned at the large number of women working part-time, which is considerably higher than the European Union average, the low number of women in decision-making positions, **in particular women mayors**, and the low percentage of women on company boards of directors.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party step up its efforts to achieve substantive equality between men and women. I n th at regard, i t recommends that the State party:

(…)

(b) Intensify its efforts to increase the level of representation of women in decision-making positions, in particular the number of women mayors and as members of company boards of directors.

**CESCR Concluding Observations (Antilles) 2010** E/CN.12.NDL/CO/4-5

14. The Committee is also concerned that women are under-represented in political life (art. 3).

The Committee calls on the State party, in all its constituent countries, to:

(…)

Step up efforts to increase women’s participation in political life.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2016** CEDAW/C/NLD/CO/6

19. The Committee commends the State party for the adoption of amendments to book 2 of the Civil Code in 2013, which set out a minimum target of 30 per cent representation of women on the management and supervisory boards of large companies. Nevertheless, the Committee notes with concern that temporary special measures have not been adopted to accelerate de facto equality between women and men in other areas covered by the Convention, in particular with regard to education and the participation of women in political and public life.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party increase the use of temporary special measures, including statutory quotas, in all areas covered by the Convention in which women are underrepresented, such as decision-making positions in public administration, the private sector, public companies and academic institutions. The Committee recommends that such measures include specific targets and time frames, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and its general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, to ensure the achievement of substantive equality of women and men in all areas of the Convention in which women are disadvantaged or underrepresented.

31. The Committee commends the State party for its efforts to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions, such as the development of an action plan intended to achieve at least 30 per cent representation of women in the senior civil service. The Committee also commends the State party for having achieved at least 30 per cent representation of women in both houses of parliament and at the ministerial level. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned by: (a) The low number of women mayors, professors and senior diplomats; (b) The underrepresentation of women in political and public life in high level decision-making positions in Curaçao.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Continue to take targeted steps to further increase the representation of women in political and public life, in particular in local government, academic institutions and the foreign service; (b) Introduce measures in Curaçao, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendations No. 25 and No. 23 (1997) on women in public life, to accelerate the full and equal participation of women in elected and appointed bodies, including in decision-making positions.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2010** CERD/C/NLD/CO/17-18

12.Despite the measures taken by the State party, including the Social Cohesion Initiative and the establishment of the National Diversity Management Network, the Committee takes note of information that rates of unemployment in ethnic minority groups, particularly women, are significantly higher than average. The Committee is also concerned at the **under-representation of ethnic minorities in senior positions in the public and private sectors.** (art. 5)

The Committee recommends that the State party take more effective measures to eliminate discrimination in access to employment, through, inter alia, awareness raising campaigns in the private and public sectors. The Committee urges the State party also to implement measures to achieve the equitable representation of ethnic minorities in elected bodies and other public sector services. The Committee encourages the State party to consider the use of special measures to address the above disparities, as envisaged in article 1 of the Convention, taking into account general recommendation No. 32 (2009).

**Working Group on People of African Descent 2014** A/HRC/30/56/Add.1

86. The Working Group was concerned to learn about the lack of participation of Curaçaons in the political process involved in the development of legislation of the Netherlands. It was also informed about budget cuts to Curaçao that would have helped in the fight against discrimination. Curaçaons also expressed dissatisfaction that, due to their limited political participation, their voice is not heard in the international arena, which would further cement their autonomous status.

87. The Working Group feels that the Government needs to take additional steps to change the historic underrepresentation of people of African descent in politics in the Netherlands both as political figures, as institutional figures in Curaçao, and as active participants in political processes.

89. In Curaçao, despite being better educated than men, women have limited employment opportunities. Women are limited in terms of political participation; in 2014, men held 15 of the Government seats in the National Parliament, while women occupied only 6. Women held only two of the nine cabinet posts in the Government.

**Special Rapporteur on violence against women 2007** A/HRC/4/34/Add.4

24.In the Netherlands, all women remain underrepresented in decision-making positions and the labour force in general. For example, women make up only 4 per cent of all members of boards of directors and other senior business managers. The percentage of women among senior government officials is a mere 16.7 per cent in the salary scales 14-16 and just 11 per cent in the salary scales 17 and higher. Only 9 per cent of all professors are women (compared to 30‑40 per cent of PhD students). While the Netherlands has a relatively strong representation of women in the national parliament, the percentage of women in municipal councils stagnates at around 23 per cent. In the provincial councils it is even declining.

**UPR Recommendations 2017 (3rd cycle)** A/HRC/36/15

131.33 Establish an effective arrangement for dialogue with representatives of minority groups in order to be properly informed about their problems and needs, and develop policies and programmes to improve their situation (Hungary);

131.68 Take effective measures to combat the root causes of discrimination on the basis of race and religion and against ethnic minority groups, and to consider establishing a platform for dialogue with the representatives of the ethnic minority groups in order to be properly informed of their problems and needs, and to develop, with their participation, appropriate steps to improve the situation (Kazakhstan);

131.174 Set up an effective format for introducing a dialogue with representatives of minorities, acquiring comprehensive information on their problems and needs, developing and implementing, in consultation with them, policies and programmes to improve their situation, as well as to prevent and eradicate racial discrimination against them (Uzbekistan);

1. **NORWAY**

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2011** CCPR/C/NOR/CO/6

N/A

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2013** E/C.12/NOR/CO/5

N/A

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2012** CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8

17.The Committee commends the State party for the high level of participation of women in many fields. However, the Committee regrets the decrease in the number of women represented at local government level after the 2011 municipal elections (4,115 women and 6,670 men), compared to the outcome of 2007 elections, as indicated in the delegation’s introductory statement. The Committee also reiterates its concern at the low numbers of women professors in academia and of women judges at all levels of the judiciary, and at the inadequate representation of women with minority backgrounds therein.

18. The Committee encourages the State party to:

(a) Consider further adoption and implementation of measures, either as temporary special measures or as permanent measures aimed at achieving substantive equality of women and men in all areas;

(b) Consider expanding the rules concerning gender balance on boards of public limited companies to other types of enterprises and other areas of the private sector; and

(c) Enhance programmes of capacity - building for women of minority background to encourage their participation in public and political life.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2011** CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20

11.While noting the importance of adequate command of the State language as a vehicle for social integration and participation, the Committee is concerned that the requirement in the Norwegian Nationality Act that the applicant between the age of 18 and 55 must have completed 300 hours of Norwegian language lessons **may be a barrier for access to citizenship and naturalization for certain groups**. The Committee is concerned at the dropout rate from the mandatory language instruction; that it is not of uniform quality and free of charge for all; that the introduction programme lapses after three years; that it depends on the person’s basis for residence and can be lost if the person moves to another municipality. (arts. 2 and 5)

Recalling its general recommendation No. 30, the Committee urges the State party to take appropriate measures to ensure that the free of charge language instruction programme is available to everyone who wants it and that its pedagogic methods and content are adapted to gender and to the educational and national background. In order to reduce the dropout rate and ensure that the programme is not a barrier for citizenship and naturalization, the Committee recommends that the State party monitor its implementation more closely to determine whether it is of uniform quality, is adapted to certain groups in terms of gender and origin, and that eligibility is not lost when changing residence.

**Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples 2016** A/HRC/33/42/Add.3

20. In 2005, the Sami Parliament and the Government entered into an agreement concerning consultation procedures in matters that might affect Sami interests directly, agreeing that consultations should continue as long as the Sami Parliament and State authorities considered it possible to achieve agreement. While representatives of the Sami Parliament indicate that the agreement has strengthened cooperation, they also shared the concern that its implementation remains particularly challenging in relation to energy development projects and reindeer husbandry.

76. The Special Rapporteur recommends that Norway enhance efforts to implement the right of the Sami people to self-determination and to more genuinely influence decision-making in areas of concern to them. That may to some extent be achieved through a more effective consultation arrangement, which should be extended to clearly cover budgetary decisions.

**UPR Recommendations 2014** A/HRC/27/3

N/A

1. [**PORTUGAL**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/por.html)

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2012** CCPR/C/PRT/CO/4

4.The Committee is concerned that **women are underrepresented in decision-making positions in the public sector**, including in the Foreign Service, as well as in the legislative assemblies of the autonomous regions of the Azores and Madeira. The Committee is also concerned about the significant and increasing wage gap between men and women (arts. 2, 3, 25 and 26).

The State party should **strengthen its efforts to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions in the public sector**, including in the Foreign Service, as well as in the legislative assemblies of the autonomous regions of the Azores and Madeira , if necessary, through appropriate temporary special measures . The State party should continue to take steps to guarantee equal pay for women and men for work of equal value, in line with the 2009 Labour Code. It should also take steps to address the structural difficulties identified with regard to the implementation of gender-equality policies, including insufficient human and financial resources, limited conceptions of equality in public opinion and lack of political commitment, as mentioned in paragraph 47 of the State party’s fourth periodic report.

5.The Committee is concerned that, despite considerable action taken by the State party, **immigrants, foreigners and ethnic minorities, including the Roma minority, continue to face discrimination** in access to housing, employment, education, equal wages, health care and public services, as well as **in participation in public life**. The Committee is also concerned about reports of racist and discriminatory conduct by law enforcement personnel (arts 2, 25 and 26).

The State party should intensify measures to **ensure that immigrants, foreigners and ethnic minorities, including the Roma minority, do not suffer from discrimination** in access to housing, employment, education, equal wages, health care and public services, as well as in participation in public life. The State party should also take steps to ensure that law enforcement personnel refrain from racist and discriminatory conduct, including through intensified awareness - raising efforts.

**CRPD Concluding Observations 2016** CRPD/C/PRT/CO/1

55.The Committee is seriously concerned that in the State party there are persons with disabilities, especially those who are deprived of their legal capacity or live in psychiatric institutions, who are **deprived of their right to vote or prevented from exercising this right in elections** and **that electoral processes, including political campaigns, are not accessible**. The Committee is also concerned that there are internal regulations that may require a medical document attesting to the capacity of a person with disabilities to vote if he/she has a “clear mental incapacity” recognized by the president of the polling station.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party, **in cooperation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, take the necessary measures to enable all persons with all types of disability,** including those who are under guardianship or in psychiatric institutions, **to exercise their right to vote and stand for election on an equal basis with others**, by providing accessible facilities and means of communication.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2015** CEDAW/C/PRT/CO/8-9

30.The Committee welcomes the efforts of the State party to increase the representation of women in political and public life, which have steadily reaped results. However, the Committee is concerned that the parity law of 2006 establishes a **minimum quota of 33.3** per cent for candidates of each sex on electoral lists for European, national and local elections, **whereas parity may be seen as meaning equal (50-50) representation**. In addition, the Committee notes that the parity law has had a **limited effect at the local level** and that its effectiveness is hampered by the **leniency of the sanctions** applied in the event of failure to comply with the quota. The Committee is also concerned that, despite some improvements, the **numbers of women in decision-making posts in the executive branch** of government (8 per cent in mayorships, 10-30 per cent in various executive bodies) and the **diplomatic service** remain low. While welcoming the very high proportion of women in the judiciary, the Committee regrets that only 8.2 per cent of justices on the Supreme Court of Justice are women and that a number of public bodies have fewer than 35 per cent women. Lastly, the Committee notes that Madeira will also use a parity system in future elections.

31. The Committee calls upon the State party to **increase the representation of women in political life by amending its parity law**, in order to reach 50 per cent representation of both sexes in all legislative assemblies at the European, national and local levels. The same should be done in the autonomous regions. It also recommends that the State party **reinforce the sanctions** applied in the event of failure to comply with the law, for example by envisaging the automatic nullification of the electoral lists in question. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party take targeted measures, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention, to **increase the representation of women in decision-making positions in the executive branch and the diplomatic service, on the Supreme Court of Justice and in other public bodies**.

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2014** E/C.12/PRT/CO/4

N/A

**CERD Concluding Observations 2012** CERD/C/PRT/CO/12-14

10.While taking note that the Portuguese Law on Data Protection (article 7/1 of Law No. 67/98 of 26 October 1998) expressly prohibits the treatment of personal data dealing with racial or ethnic origin, the Committee **regrets the lack of statistical disaggregated data on the ethnic composition of the population, both citizens and non-citizens**. The Committee notes that while the State party, in paragraph 2 of its periodic report, affirms that there are no ethnic minorities recognized as such, and that immigrants living in Portugal are not recognized as ethnic minorities but rather as foreigners, the State party does not deny the existence of ethnic and racial groups.

The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 8 (1990) on the interpretation and application of articles 1 and 4 of the Convention, which states that the identification of individuals as belonging to a particular racial or ethnic group shall be based on self-identification by the individual concerned.

The Committee reiterates its view that the purpose of compiling disaggregated data is to allow States parties to assess achievements and obstacles in fighting racial discrimination experienced both by citizens and by non-citizens residing on its territory. In line with its general recommendation No. 4 (1973) on reporting by States parties and paragraph 8 of the reporting guidelines (CERD/C/2007/1), it invites the State party to **compile statistical data on the demographic composition of its population based on anonymous and voluntary ethnic self-identification by those concerned**.

19.The Committee notes efforts to address **discrimination against Ciganos and Roma** peoples, including the launch in December 2011 of the Strategy for Inclusion of the Roma communities in compliance with European Union requirements and public awareness campaigns regarding non-discrimination against Roma communities. However, it expresses its deep concern that, as confirmed by the State party, Ciganos and Roma are still the most discriminated against and most vulnerable people in Portugal. In addition to housing, there are persistent and continuing concerns with regard to their right to education, health, employment, access to public services **or participation in public life** (arts. 2, 5 and 7).

The Committee urges the State party to promote the economic, social and cultural rights of the Ciganos and Roma, while respecting their culture in accordance with the principle of equality and **ensuring that all actions and policies affecting them are designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated with the full participation of Ciganos, Roma and their organizations**, bearing in mind the Committee’s general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma.

The Committee would also appreciate information on the impact of public awareness campaigns regarding non-discrimination against these communities as well as **efforts by the State party to integrate persons belonging to these communities into the police or other public services**.

**Working Group on People of African Descent 2012** A/HRC/21/60/Add.1

22.The Working Group, while taking note that the Portuguese Law on Data Protection (article 7/1 of Law No. 67/98 of 26 October 1998) expressly prohibits the treatment of personal data dealing with racial or ethnic origin, regrets the lack of disaggregated statistical data on the racial or ethnic composition of the population, both citizens and non-citizens.

23.Through its many meetings with State officials and civil society representatives, the Working Group found the following issues to be the most pressing ones in Portugal as regards the participation of people of African descent in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society and in the advancement and economic development of their country.

39.In a meeting with the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Working Group was informed that the relatively low parliamentary participation by people of African descent was not due to discrimination but more to do with the low level of political participation by communities of African descent.

40.In a meeting with non-governmental organizations, the Working Group was informed that there is **no effective political representation of people of African descent** in Portugal and that there was only one parliamentarian of African descent in the Portuguese parliament. The Working Group was told that there is poor leadership among people of African descent, that there are many neighbourhood organizations of Afro-descendant communities and that some receive financial assistance from the Government but that these organizations were often manipulated by politicians for their own interests.

41.One problem that the Working Group was informed of in several meetings was the **difficulty that many people of African descent have in acquiring Portuguese citizenship**. In a meeting with non-governmental organizations, the Working Group was informed that a child born in Portugal is given Portuguese nationality provided that their parents’ situation was regularized at the time of birth. Civil society representatives suggested that the law should be changed so as to confer citizenship upon all those born in Portugal, regardless of the situation of their parents.

73. The Working Group also notes the **relatively low levels of participation and the underrepresentation in political and institutional decision-making processes** of people of African descent in Portugal, particularly at the parliamentary level.

77. [The Working Group recommended that the Government](g) **Ensure the participation of people of African descent in projects that affect them**, including appropriate forums to consult them regarding their particular needs.

**UPR Recommendations 2014** A/HRC/27/7

125.6 Continue to take measures in promoting women’s participation in political affairs (Greece);

126.53 Ensure that all measures and policies affecting Roma communities are designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated with their full participation (India).

1. **SAN MARINO**

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2015** CCPR/C/SMR/CO/3

10.The Committee notes that the **representation of women in political life remains weak**, despite measures taken by the State party to remedy the situation, such as the adoption of Qualified Law No. 1/2008, which provides that each party list of candidates running for general elections shall not include more than two thirds of candidates of the same gender. In that respect, the Committee notes with concern that only 10 of the 60 members of the Great and General Council and one of the nine Secretaries of State are women (arts. 3 and 26).

11. The State party should **strengthen its efforts to increase the representation of women in political life**, particularly in the Great and General Council and at the highest levels of the Government, if necessary, through the adoption of appropriate temporary special measures to give effect to the provisions of the Covenant. It should also intensify its efforts to eliminate gender stereotypes on the role and responsibilities of men and women in the family and society.

22.The Committee notes with concern that article 2 of the Electoral Law (No. 6/1996), as amended in 2007, excludes “persons interdicted for mental infirmity” from voting (arts. 25 and 26).

23. The State party **should revise its legislation to ensure that it does not discriminate against persons with mental, intellectual or psychosocial disabilities by denying them the right to vote on bases that have no reasonable and objective relationship to their ability to vote**.

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2008** E/C.12/SMR/CO/4

N/A

**UPR Recommendations 2014** A/HRC/28/9

79.13 Adopt measures enabling more women’s political representation (Algeria);

79.14 Ensure domestic institutions protect, promote and monitor the rights of women and girls and strengthen equality between men and women by ensuring the full participation of women in policy and decision-making processes (Canada);

79.16 Adopt measures to ensure a fair representation of women in ministerial positions of the country (Ghana).

1. [**SPAIN**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/spa.html)

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2015** CCPR/C/ESP/CO/6

11.The Committee regrets that women are still insufficiently represented in the public and private sectors, particularly in decision-making posts. It is also concerned at the substantial differences in wages between men and women (arts. 2, 3 and 26).

The State party should endeavour to increase participation by women in the public and private sectors and, where necessary, adopt appropriate special measures on a temporary basis to give effect to the provisions of the Covenant.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2015** CEDAW/C/ESP/CO/7-8

17. Recalling article 4 (1) of the Convention and its general recommendation No.  25, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Familiarize all relevant State officials and policymakers with the definition of temporary special measures and adopt and implement such measures, including time-bound goals and quotas, directed towards the achievement of de facto or substantive equality between women and men in all areas in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged;

24.The Committee welcomes the **increase in the representation of women in the parliament** to 35.5 per cent and in the legislatures of the autonomous communities to 44.6 per cent. It is concerned, however, about the **generally low participation of women in political and public life, in particular in decision-making positions at the autonomous community level (4 of the 17 presidents of autonomous communities are women), in the diplomatic service (12 of 199 ambassadors are women) and in the judiciary**.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Increase the participation of women in political and public life at all levels, including by adopting temporary special measures, such as statutory quotas**, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25;

(b) Build the capacity of and increase access to campaign financing for women candidates to enable them to compete effectively with their male counterparts;

(c) Conduct awareness-raising activities for politicians, community leaders, journalists and the general public on the importance of the participation of women in decision-making in order to promote understanding that the full, equal, free and democratic participation of women on an equal basis with men in political and public life, including in international representation, is a requirement for the full implementation of the Convention.

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2012** E/C.12/ESP/CO/5

13.The Committee is concerned that the persistence of certain stereotypes about gender roles continue to prevent women from enjoying the right to work on equal terms with men. The Committee remains concerned at the **smaller proportion of women in decision-making positions**, both in the public and the private sectors. The Committee is also concerned that, despite efforts in that regard, the gap between men’s and women’s wages is still large, which contravenes the principle of equal pay for work of equal value enshrined in the State party’s legislation and in the Covenant (arts. 3, 6, 9 and 10).

The Committee recommends that the State party redouble its efforts to combat gender stereotypes in the family and society, including by **promoting the equal representation of men and women in decision-making positions in the public** and the private sectors.

**CRPD Concluding Observations 2011** CRPD/C/ESP/CO/1

15.The Committee regrets the lack of information on the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at the regional level in designing and evaluating the implementation of legislation, policy and decision-making processes (…).

16. The Committee recommends that the State party take specific measures to **ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities in public decision-making processes at the regional leve**l (…).

47.The Committee is concerned that the right to vote of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities can be restricted if the person concerned has been deprived of his or her legal capacity, or has been placed in an institution. It is further concerned that the deprivation of this right appears to be the rule and not the exception. It regrets the lack of information on standards of evidence or grounds, and criteria used by judges when depriving persons of their right to vote. It notes with concern the number of persons with disabilities denied their right to vote.

48. The Committee recommends that all relevant legislation be reviewed to **ensure that all persons with disabilities, regardless of their impairment, legal status or place of residence, have the right to vote and participate in public life on an equal basis with others**. The Committee requests the State party to amend article 3 of Organic Act 5/1985, which allows the denial of the right to vote based on individualized decisions taken by a judge. The amendment should ensure that all persons with disabilities have the right to vote. Furthermore, it is recommended that all persons with disabilities who are elected to a public position are provided with all required support, including personal assistants.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2011** CERD/C/ESP/CO/1

N/A

**Working Group on discrimination against women 2015** A/HRC/29/40/Add.3

84. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, **with regard to the number of women in the national parliament, Spain is above both regional and world averages**. The law of 2007 on equality established a quota of 40 per cent for political representation of each sex, resulting in a significant increase in women’s participation in parliament at both the central and local levels. In the national parliament, 36 per cent are women. Total parity was achieved at one stage in the Council of Ministers when, for the first time in Spanish history, women occupied the posts of deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence. The proportion of women ministers in the Government has since dropped to only 28.6 per cent (four out of 14 members, including a deputy Prime Minister).

85. **At the local level**, the proportion of women mayors increased from 15.16 per cent in 2007 to 17.17 per cent in 2013. Four out of 17 autonomous communities have women as presidents. Women in autonomous community regional governments decreased from 39.7 per cent in 2008 to 34.2 per cent in 2013. Funding of equality institutions at the regional level have been reduced by 32 per cent. According to shadow report on the period 2008- 2013 submitted by civil society organizations to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see para. 54 above), Andalusia and the Basque Country, which have maintained their budgeting levels, are exceptions to this trend.

86. Women began to enter the **judiciary** in the late 1970s; today, there are as many women judges as men. The actual number of women at the highest levels of the judiciary remains, however, extremely low in the Supreme Court, of 70 judges, only 12 are women; there are no women presidents in the chambers of the Audiencia Nacional (National Court); and only six out of 52 presidents in the high courts of justice are women. The Working Group was informed that the low number of appointments of women to the highest levels of the judiciary was due to their late entry into the judicial hierarchy.

87. The Working Group welcomes the gender parity achieved in the composition of the General Council of the Judiciary (10 of 20 members) and the fact that the Prosecutor General is a woman.

88. Similarly, **in the Foreign Office**, there is a lower number of promotions of women to the position of ambassador, despite the fact that many are formally qualified.

97. **A quota system of gender balance has contributed to the maintenance of a high degree of representation of women in the national parliament**.

105. **The participation of women in the national parliament, at 37.5 per cent, is one of the highest in the world. This is not, however, the case in other areas of political and public life, particularly at the highest level of local, regional and national government, in the judiciary or the diplomatic service**.

111. With regard to women’s participation in political and public life, the Working Group recommends that the State apply temporary special measures to bring a gender balance in public administration, including in the highest levels of the judiciary and in the foreign services.

**Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism 2013** A/HRC/23/56/Add.2

27. (…) The State Council for the Roma People is a key institution set up to advise the Government on policies concerning the Roma and is welcomed by the Special Rapporteur. However, criticism was put forth by some NGOs regarding the Council’s **limited powers** and possibilities of action since its opinions are not binding. It was also reported that its composition was not representative of all the Roma population.

32. Several interlocutors indicated that the Roma still face obstacles regarding their effective participation in political and public life. They remain **underrepresented in decision-making processes and political parties**. It was reported that public authorities do not especially trust the Roma people as capable interlocutors in their decision-making.

70. **The effective participation of the Roma in public and political life should also be increased**. The Government should ensure constant dialogue between the Roma and public institutions, and increase efforts to make the political participation of the Roma more accessible. In this regard, the Special Rapporteur recommends, inter alia, that each autonomous community select a Roma representative for the State Council, for the Roma to ensure they are adequately represented.

**UPR Recommendations 2015** A/HRC/29/8

131.33. Close gender gaps by promoting and monitoring the equal representation of women in decision-making positions (Sierra Leone);

131.34. Promote vigorously the participation of women in decision-making positions, both in the public and private sectors (Ghana);

131.154. Continue measures to ensure the full participation of civil society representing persons with disabilities in the current reform processes of the civil code and the law of civil procedure regarding the matter of legal capacity, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mexico);

131.157. Take further action to ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities in the country’s political and public life and their access to equal opportunities (Greece).

1. [**SWEDEN**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/swe.html)

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2016** CCPR/C/SWE/CO/7

38. The Committee welcomes the commitment of the State party to further advancing the interests of the Sami people and to realizing their right to self-determination, and acknowledges the new changes in the constitutional and legal framework in this regard, including amendments to the Swedish Constitution (the Instrument of Government) that entered into force on 1 January 2011 wherein Sami have been explicitly recognized as a people. However, it remains concerned about: (…) (c) **the scope of the duty to consult** with representatives of the Sami people in connection with extractive and development projects

39. The State party should take measures (…) (c) To review existing legislation, policies and practices regulating activities that may have an impact on the rights and interests of the Sami people, including development projects and extractive industries operations, with a view to **guaranteeing meaningful consultation** with the affected indigenous communities aimed at attempting to obtain their free, prior and informed consent.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2016** CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/8-9

22. The Committee commends the State party on achieving gender parity in the cabinet and in leadership positions on the boards of State-owned companies. It also notes that the State party plans to propose legislation on quotas, if the objective of achieving a level of women’s representation on the management boards of private companies of at least 40 per cent has not been achieved by 2016. Nevertheless, the Committee remains concerned at the low number of women in leadership positions in academia, in top management positions and on the boards of private companies.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party increase the use of temporary special measures, including statutory quotas, in all areas covered by the Convention in which women are underrepresented, such as decision-making positions in high-level public administration, private and public companies and academia. Such measures should include specific targets and time frames, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, in order to ensure the achievement of substantive equality of women and men.

30. The **Committee commends the State party on the consistently high rate of representation of women in political and public life and welcomes the work on gender mainstreaming of the Sami parliament**. It also notes with appreciation the State party’s adoption of a feminist foreign policy in 2015. The Committee is concerned, however, at the slight decrease in the percentage of women in the parliament during the past two elections and the **insufficient representation of disadvantaged groups of women, including young women and women belonging to minority groups, in particular those of Roma, Sami and foreign origin, in decision - making positions**.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to take targeted measures to maintain its achievements in ensuring a high rate of representation of women in political and public life, including in the parliament, at the national, provincial and municipal levels. The Committee recommends that, in doing so, the State party pay particular attention to underrepresented groups of women.

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2016** E/C.12/SWE/CO/6

N/A

**CRPD Concluding Observations 2014** CRPD/C/SWE/CO/1

4. (…) The Committee commends Sweden for its system for ensuring the confidentiality of the vote. (…) It is pleased to learn that the State party has brought a disability policy perspective to its international cooperation work, and that it has financed the participation of representatives from the disability movement both at the most recent Conference of States Parties to the Convention and at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development.

51.The Committee is concerned at the **lack of information on accessibility and accommodation for persons with disabilities, during all stages of the electoral cycle, facilitating their exercise of the right to vote, and at the low number of persons with disabilities running for or holding public office**.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that voter education through mass media is made accessible, that information about elections is provided in accessible formats, that electoral campaigns are made fully accessible , that support at polling stations is made available, that the mechanisms put in place to facilitate voting assistance are developed in close consultation with organization s of persons with disabilities to suit their needs, and that polling assistants are trained to accommodate voters . It also recommends that the State party ensure that all persons with disabilities who are elected to a public position are provided with all required support, including personal assistants.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2013** CERD/C/SWE/CO/19-21

N/A

**Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples 2016** A/HRC/33/42/Add.3

36. Following a recent amendment, as of 1 January 2011, the Swedish Constitution recognizes the Sami as a people rather than a minority group in Sweden. The Sami Parliament Act established the Swedish Sami Parliament with the principal function of “monitoring issues concerning the Sami culture in Sweden”

37. As noted by the former Special Rapporteur, there is an **ongoing need to increase the Sami parliaments’ autonomy and self-governance authority and to strengthen their ability to participate in and genuinely influence decision-making in matters that affect the Sami people** (see A/HRC/18/35/Add.2, para. 37). Of particular concern is the structure of the Swedish Sami Parliament, which functions as both a State administrative agency and as a popularly elected body. Representatives of the Swedish Sami Parliament have expressed concern that its role as State administrative agency obliges it to implement policies and decisions made by the Swedish Parliament and government institutions, which are sometimes at odds with the policy preferences of the Sami people (see A/HRC/18/35/Add.2, para. 42). Concerns have also been raised about its **limited decision-making power**.

81. The Special Rapporteur encourages Sweden to introduce reforms to ensure that the Sami Parliament has greater independence from State institutions and authorities. To that end, she urges Sweden to review the Sami Parliament’s statutory status and functions in relation to government authority structures to **ensure its independent decision-making** **powers** and to ensure that adequate funding is allocated for the Sami Parliament to carry out its work as a popularly elected body.

83. As a matter of priority, Sweden should revise its Minerals Act to ensure that it is in compliance with international human rights standards, **including adequate consultations with affected indigenous communities and their free, prior and informed consent at all stages** of the permit process, mitigation measures, compensation and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.

**UPR Recommendations 2015** A/HRC/29/13

145.100. Consider ways to ensure the meaningful involvement of the Roma community in the implementation of the strategy and to focus more on efforts to change negative attitudes in Swedish society towards the Roma (Hungary);

145.102. Continue developing measures in order to ensure that affected Sami communities can participate actively in consultations on issues related to land rights, water and resources (Austria);

145.130. Take further measures to improve the situation of persons with disabilities in terms of participation and accessibility (Morocco).

1. **SWITZERLAND**

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2017** CCPR/C/CHE/CO/4

6. (…) while taking into account the specificities of the Swiss system of democracy, [the Committee] is nevertheless **concerned about citizens’ initiatives that could prove to be manifestly incompatible with the provisions of the Covenant**. In this regard, it is deeply concerned about an initiative on which the Swiss people are to vote, entitled “Swiss law instead of foreign judges (self-determination initiative)”, according to which, when obligations under international law contradict the Constitution, they should be modified or even denounced.

18. The Committee (…) remains concerned about women’s underrepresentation in political life.

19. The State party should: (…) (b) continue to work to promote equal representation of women in political life at all levels.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2016** CEDAW/C/CHE/CO/4-5

20. The Committee notes as positive the measures taken to advance the achievement of substantive equality in the State party; however, it remains concerned about the **underrepresentation of women in extra-parliamentary commissions and other bodies, governing bodies of companies and institutions closely connected with the Federation, as well as their underrepresentation in high-level management and decision-making positions. It is also concerned about the low numbers of women professors in academic institutions and of women judges at all levels of the judiciary**.

21. With reference to its general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (see CEDAW/C/CHE/CO/3, para. 24) and urges the State party to further adopt and implement measures, either as temporary special measures or as permanent measures, aimed at achieving the substantive equality of women and men in all areas and ensure the allocation of resources and the creation of incentives, targeted recruitment and the setting of time-bound goals and quotas, in areas in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged in both the public and private sectors.

30. The Committee notes the efforts undertaken by the State party to advance the participation of women in political and public life, but remains concerned that: (a) Women continue to be significantly **underrepresented in the Council of States and the National Council**, with the overall proportion of women in the Government continuing to be low following the most recent federal elections, in October 2015; (b) **Structural barriers and gender bias with regard to the realization of women’s engagement in political and public life** continue to exclude women from decision-making positions in both elected and appointed positions in public office, political parties, the judiciary, academic institutions and public broadcasting corporations; (c) **The application of statutory quotas for the representation of women in organs of the legislative, executive and judicial branches has been rejected by the Federal Court** under the existing legal framework.

31. The Committee reiterates it previous recommendations (see CEDAW/C/CHE/CO/3, para. 34) and calls upon the State party: (a) To strengthen its efforts to increase the number of women in elected decision-making bodies at the federal and cantonal levels, as well as in appointed positions at the local level, and to achieve the equal representation of women and men in political and public life; (b) To intensify awareness-raising campaigns for politicians, journalists, teachers and the general public to enhance the understanding that the full, equal, free and democratic participation of women on an equal basis with men in political and public life is a requirement for the full implementation of women’s human rights, and to continue its efforts to encourage the media to ensure that female and male candidates and elected representatives receive equal visibility in the media, especially during an election period; (c) To review the decision by the Federal Court and adopt proactive measures, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 (2004), to address the structural obstacles to the achievement of substantive equality of women and men in political and public life.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2014** CERD/C/CHE/CO/7-9

13. While noting that the Swiss Citizenship Act is currently being revised, the Committee expresses concern at initiatives calling for stricter criteria for naturalization, including the popular initiative adopted in Bern in November 2013, which stipulates that recipients of welfare benefits cannot become naturalized citizens. While the Committee is aware that this initiative is currently being reviewed by the Parliamentary Assembly, it is concerned that the general political climate in the State party may lead to a more discriminatory system of naturalization (arts. 1 and 5).

The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that any revision of the Swiss Citizenship Act does not have a disproportionate and discriminatory impact on certain groups. It also reiterates its previous recommendation that the State party adopt uniform standards on integration for the naturalization process, in conformity with the Convention, and take all effective and adequate measures to ensure that naturalization applications are not rejected on discriminatory grounds throughout the territory of the State party, including by establishing an independent and uniform appeals procedure in all cantons.

**UPR Recommendations 2012 (November 2017 not available as of 30 January 2018)** A/HRC/22/11

122.26. Continue taking steps so as to reinforce women’s representation in leadership and decision-making positions (Romania);

123.72. Take measures to increase the representation of women, including through temporary special measures (Norway); Adopt temporary special measures to increase the participation of women in all fields (Jordan).

1. **TURKEY**

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2012** CCPR/C/TUR/CO/1

23.The Committee is concerned that conscientious objection to military service has not been recognized by the State party. The Committee regrets that **conscientious objectors** or persons supporting conscientious objection are still at risk of being sentenced to imprisonment and that, as they maintain their refusal to undertake military service, they are practically deprived of some of their civil and political rights such as freedom of movement and **right to vote** (arts. 12, 18 and 25).

The State party should adopt legislation recognizing and regulating conscientious objection to military service, so as to provide the option of alternative service, without the choice of that option entailing punitive or discriminatory effects and, in the meantime, suspend all proceedings against conscientious objectors and suspend all sentences already imposed.

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2016** CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/7

41. The Committee is concerned about the **low participation of women at all levels of decision-making, both national and local, including within the Government and the parliament**, which is below the global average and has even decreased following

the elections of November 2015, and among the judiciary and civil service, and the lack of specific steps to address the underlying causes, including prevailing social and cultural attitudes.

42. In line with its general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25, including **quotas, benchmarks with specific time frames and training, in order to achieve the equal and full participation of women** in political and public life and in decision-making at the local and national levels, as well as among the judiciary and civil service. It furthermore recommends that the State party implement awareness-raising activities for society as a whole about the importance of the participation of women in decision-making, including the participation of women belonging to disadvantaged or marginalized groups, and offer training programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders.

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2011** E/C.12/TUR/CO/1

14.The Committee is concerned that, despite the legislative and institutional reform undertaken and implemented by the State party with regard to gender equality, women continue to be treated unequally. (…).

The Committee recalls article 3 of the Covenant and its general comment No . 16 (2005) on the equal rights of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights, and calls on the State party: (…)

(c) To adopt a quota system in various areas to accelerate women’s representation in political life and in the labour market;

**CERD Concluding Observations 2009** CERD/C/TUR/CO/3

N/A

**Special Rapporteur in the right to freedom of opinion and expression 2017** A/HRC/35/22/Add.3

58. **The space for political pluralism is shrinking**, and opposition parties face terrorism-related accusations. On 20 May 2016, the immunity of 154 members of parliament from all political parties was retroactively lifted by a temporary amendment to the Constitution. The amendment targeted primarily the parliamentary group of the People’s Democratic Party (HDP), an opposition party, which had been subject to prosecution requests for statements made that were deemed insulting to the President or other public officials, terrorist propaganda or incitement to hatred. Several HDP leaders have been imprisoned on the basis of emergency decrees, as well as charges for making “false propaganda”.

77. The Special Rapporteur urges the Government to **immediately release journalists, writers, judges and academic who are detained** pursuant to counter- terrorism legislation and emergency decrees. Nobody should be held in detention, investigated or prosecuted for expressing opinions that do not constitute an actual incitement to hatred or violence consistent with Article 20 and Article 19(3).

78. The Special Rapporteur urges the Government to adopt all appropriate measures to **ensure that press and other media, and all individuals, are able to comment on public issues and to inform public opinion without censorship or constraint**.

**UPR Recommendations 2015** A/HRC/29/15

148.129. Increase the representation of women in decision-making positions (Rwanda);

148.70. Continue its efforts for empowering women to better improve their participation at the decision-making level (Myanmar);

148.72. Accelerate efforts to increase the number of women in public life and to eliminate and prevent violence against women (Austria).

1. [**UNITED KINGDOM**](http://cdiac.ess-dive.lbl.gov/trends/emis/uki.html)

**Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations 2015** CCPR/C/GBR/CO/7

12. While noting the steps taken by the State party to increase the **representation of women in the civil service and in the judiciary**, the Committee is concerned about the currently low proportion of women in the civil service, particularly in Northern Ireland, and in the judiciary, where women are concentrated in the lower-instance courts (arts. 2, 3 and 26).

The State party should increase its efforts to achieve equitable representation of women in the civil service and in the judiciary within specific time frames, including through the consideration of temporary special measures, to give effect to the provisions of the Covenant. It should, inter alia, consider the speedy implementation of all recommendations made by the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity, in respect of England and Wales, and ensure that all existing and future gender equality strategies and policies, including the Gender Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland, identify and address effectively the barriers hindering women’s access to high positions in the civil service and in the judiciary.

25. The Committee, recalling its previous concern (CCPR/C/GBR/CO/6, para. 28), regrets the lack of progress in reviewing the State party’s **legislation denying the right to vote to any prisoner serving a custodial sentence** (art. 25).

The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CCPR/C/GBR/CO/6, para. 28) that the State party amend its legislation that denies any convicted prisoner the right to vote, with a view to ensuring its full compliance with article 10 (3), read in conjunction with article 25, of the Covenant.

**CRPD Concluding Observations 2017** CRPD/C/GBR/CO/1

60.The Committee is concerned at the **insufficient information on accessibility and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities at all stages of the electoral cycle** aimed at facilitating the exercise of the rights to vote, to vote in private and to be assisted by an assistant of one’s own choice. It is also concerned about **the low number of persons with disabilities running for or holding elected public office**.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, take appropriate measures to secure accessibility for persons with disabilities, regardless of the type of impairment, repeal provisions restricting the right of persons with disabilities to vote, and ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation to guarantee the possibility of and right to universal and secret suffrage.

**CERD Concluding Observations 2016** CERD/C/GBR/CO/21-23

25. Recalling its general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma, the Committee recommends that the State party: (…)

(c) Ensure that representatives of Gypsy and Traveller communities are adequately consulted before any measures that affect their situation (…)

**CESCR Concluding Observations 2016** E/C.12/GBR/CO/6

26.The Committee is concerned about **persistent underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions in the public** and private sectors. While noting the duty of public authorities to report gender inequalities and the implementation of the Think, Act, Report initiative, the Committee is concerned about the significant gender pay gap, particularly in Scotland (art. 3).

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Intensify its efforts to increase the level of representation of women in decision-making positions, in both the public and private sectors

**CEDAW Concluding Observations 2013** CEDAW/C/GBR/CO/7

30.While commending the State party for extending until 2030 the provision allowing political parties to adopt women-only shortlists of parliamentary candidates, and the pledge by the Government of Wales to introduce quotas, the Committee is concerned at the failure of the State party to introduce further temporary special measures to **address the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions in the public and private sectors, as well as in political life, especially in Parliament**. The Committee is particularly concerned that, notwithstanding the recommendations contained in the report of Lord Davies that more temporary special measures could be a route to achieving a significant change in the representation of women on company boards, the State party continues to use the Voluntary Search Code, which is less effective.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party evaluate the impact of the Voluntary Search Code and consider using more prescriptive temporary special measures to improve the representation of women in the public and private sectors, in particular on company boards, and in political life.

42.While noting the increase in the representation of women in the public sector, the Committee is concerned that **women continue to be significantly underrepresented in some fields, including in Parliament, in the judiciary and on public-sector boards**. The Committee is particularly concerned at **the low representation of black and ethnic minority women and women with disabilities in political life**. The Committee further recalls its previous concluding observations (…) and remains concerned at the low representation of women in the post-conflict process in Northern Ireland and the failure to fully implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

43. The Committee calls upon the State party:

(a) To continue to take specific targeted measures to improve the representation of women, in particular black and ethnic minority women and women with disabilities, in Parliament and the judiciary;

(b) To ensure the participation of women in the post-conflict process in Northern Ireland, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

**Special Rapporteur on violence against women 2015** A/HRC/29/27/Add.2

46. (…) The United Kingdom ranks eleventh among member States of the European Union in terms of female representation, and fiftieth worldwide (see CEDAW/C/GBR/7, para. 88). The Committee was particularly concerned at the low representation in political life of black and ethnic minority women and women with disabilities (see CEDAW/C/GBR/CO/7, para. 42). Black and ethnic minority women represent 5.8 per cent of the population, yet make up less than 1 per cent of councillors at the local government level (see CEDAW/C/GBR/7, para. 93).

47. In Northern Ireland, concerns were raised with the Special Rapporteur regarding the exclusion of women from the peacebuilding processes and how their experiences of violence during and after the conflict have been mostly unrecognized. (…)

48. In 2010, women constituted 24 per cent of professional judges in England and Wales and 21 per cent in Scotland. In 2012, women held 43 per cent of judicial posts in Northern Ireland, but there are no women on the High Court bench.

**Working Group on People of African Descent 2013** A/HRC/24/52/Add.1

67.People of African descent have historically been underrepresented in British politics both as political figures and as active participants in political processes. The first people of African descent to be elected as Members of Parliament (MPs) were Bernie Grant, Paul Boateng and current MP Dianne Abbott, all elected in 1987. In the 2010 elections there were 27 Members of Parliament of African and Asian descent elected. The Working Group welcomes initiatives taken to increase the number of people of African descent within national and local government. The NGO Operation Black Vote (OBV) has been working with local governments to promote participation of people of African descent in political processes. As a result of OBV activities in Liverpool, that city now has three local councillors of African descent. Particular political actors have made a significant impact on children and education through the London School’s Black Child Initiative and the Every Child Matters initiative.

92. More must be done to empower people of African descent to be represented in political structures such as parliament. Attention must be given by all political parties to improving the representation of people of African descent and to analyse their political representation at all levels. People of African descent should also be proactive in their engagement and participation in political processes. Participation of people of African descent in projects that affect them, including appropriate forums to consult them regarding their views and needs should be ensured.

**UPR Recommendations 2017 (3rd cycle)** A/HRC/36/9

134.66 Ensure the inclusion of all stakeholders in the drafting and adoption of the British Bill of Rights, in particular representatives of the poor, minorities and vulnerable groups (Haiti);

134.161 Revoke the blanket ban on prisoners’ exercise of their right to vote, in order to comply with the rulings of international courts on this matter (Czechia).