

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO JAMAICA

### **BELGIUM**

- Is the Government of Jamaica considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under the human rights conventions to which it is already a State party, including reconsidering its withdrawal to the First Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- Is the Government of Jamaica considering ratifying the optional protocols to the Conventions it has ratified, including the First Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- Is the Government of Jamaica considering ratifying the Convention against Torture?
- Is the Government of Jamaica considering ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court?
- A considerable number of reports from Jamaica to the treaty bodies are overdue. What measures has Jamaica taken to remedy this?
- The CRC has expressed concern about the low legal age of criminal responsibility (12 years) and has recommended that Jamaica raise it to an internationally accepted age. Has the Government of Jamaica undertaken steps to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility?
- The CRC was also concerned at the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, including street children, and the lack of adequate laws and policies in this regard. It formulated a number of concrete recommendations to Jamaica. Has the Government of Jamaica taken concrete steps to implement these recommendations?
- In 2006, CEDAW has expressed concern about extensive delays amounting to more than 15 years, and the lack of priority afforded to legal reforms to eliminate discriminatory provisions against women, close legislative gaps and enact laws to bring the country's legal framework fully into compliance with the Convention. Have any measures been taken to address this concern?
- The CEDAW has also urged Jamaica to put in place a comprehensive strategy to modify or eliminate negative cultural practices and stereotypes that discriminate against women, and to undertake such efforts in coordination with a wide range of stakeholders. Has the Government of Jamaica put in place such a comprehensive strategy?
- The CEDAW has expressed concern about the extent, intensity and prevalence of violence against women, especially sexual violence, possibly due to the prevailing gender stereotypes and patriarchal culture. It urged Jamaica to design and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat and eradicate violence

against women. Has the Government of Jamaica designed such a comprehensive strategy?

- CEDAW was also concerned about the low level of participation of women in public and political life at the highest levels of decision-making, and the lack of concrete steps taken to address the underlying causes. How has Jamaica addressed this concern?
- Is the Government of Jamaica considering issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures?
- Has the Government of Jamaica amended its domestic legislation to include the crime of torture in accordance with CAT, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture?
- Recently, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture has also expressed concern about the rise in fatal shootings by the police, which were often alleged to amount to extrajudicial killings, as well as the apparent lack of investigation and accountability for those responsible. He made several concrete recommendations to address his concern. Is the Government of Jamaica considering acting upon these recommendations?

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

- We should be grateful if you would provide information on the extent to which civil society in Jamaica was consulted in the preparation of your national report.
- Please could you inform us whether an independent national human rights institution exists in Jamaica and operates in accordance with the Paris principles designed to guide the practice of such institutions.
- We are concerned at the increase in fatal shootings carried out by the Jamaica Constabulary Force. Please could you elaborate on what measures you are taking to reduce the number of killings by the police?
- We are aware that the government has recruited an Independent Commissioner of Investigations. Could you please tell us how the government intends to resource and provide support for this new organisation?
- We were concerned at the events in May 2010 in Tivoli Gardens and the resulting deaths of almost 70 people. Could you let us know whether there are plans to hold a full and independent enquiry into this incident?
- Could you elaborate on how the Jamaican Government is working to develop awareness of, and reduce the incidence of, violence against women? And can you indicate why the Sexual Harassment Bill has yet to be passed by the Jamaican Parliament?

- Could you indicate whether the Government has plans to decriminalise consensual LGBT sex and remove legal provisions which discriminate in any way against LGBT persons?
- Given your de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty during recent years, could you consider consolidating your position on this issue to a more formal basis and also voting in favour of the UNGA resolution on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty, or at least moving to an abstention?

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