

## **1 THE LAW: CEDAW said the UK Government should:**

***'... in the light of the proposed introduction of a new Equality Bill for England, Scotland and Wales ... utilize this important opportunity to ensure the incorporation of all provisions of the Convention.'***

**The UK Government said:**

The UK '... rejects this recommendation on the basis that such an approach would create a separate, parallel regime within the Equality Bill that incorporates all the elements of CEDAW that are, to the extent that the UK is obliged to comply with them, already covered by or present in other areas of UK law. ...

### **Questions**

- 1. How would the approach mentioned create a 'separate, parallel' regime?**
- 2. Are '...all the elements...' already 'covered or present' in UK law?**
- 3. What does the UK mean by saying that the Bill incorporates all the elements of CEDAW 'to the extent that the UK is obliged to comply with them'? The UN Convention is legally binding on States that have both signed and ratified it (as the UK has done).**
- 4. What steps can the UK Government take to comply with the CEDAW recommendations?**
- 5. Any other comments?**

## **UK Government response to Committee recommendations in Paragraph 263**

**21. 263: Recommendation: The Committee [...] calls for the development and enactment of a ... national strategy and policy for the implementation of the [CEDAW] Convention throughout the United Kingdom ... It calls upon the State party to undertake all necessary measures ... including through the establishment of an effective coordination and monitoring mechanism on implementation, and to provide comprehensive information on steps and measures taken in this regard in its next periodic report.**

22. The UK government considers the recommendations contained within the CEDAW concluding observations to be part of a *constructive dialogue* between the UK and the UN....

23. After extensive cross-departmental discussions, the Government Equalities Office (GEO), which is responsible for overseeing the UK's commitments to CEDAW, concluded that due to the broad-based nature of CEDAW, the development of an all-encompassing national strategy would risk both duplicating existing policy frameworks and diluting the substance of the recommendations.

## **HOW THE UK GOVERNMENT IS INCORPORATING CEDAW RECOMMENDATIONS**

24. GEO Ministers are ensuring incorporation ... into existing policy frameworks by:

- Allocating individual recommendations to relevant departmental policy leads ... [for] due consideration when formulating, planning, implementing and/or reporting on their Department's forward work programme.
- [Developing] ... a matrix plan of the CEDAW recommendations to record activity... [ensuring] continued departmental engagement with the recommendations.
- GEO has included clear references to the UK's obligations under CEDAW in the GEO 2009/10 Business Plan.
- The GEO works closely with policy leads in the devolved administrations ... and through the 'Gender Directors Network'... a working group of the senior gender policy managers from GEO and the devolved administrations, established in response to the call from CEDAW for a greater joined-up approach to implementing CEDAW. The network meets quarterly ... to work on CEDAW, and other EU and International issues.

26. In Scotland, the Equality Unit engages with relevant policy areas across Scottish Government regarding progress in implementing the CEDAW recommendations.