

11 May 2005

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**Committee**

LIST OF ISSUES

Question no. 1	3
Question no. 2	3
Question no. 3	3
Question no. 4	4
Question no. 5	4
Question no. 6	5
Question no. 7	6
Question no. 8	7
Question no. 9	8
Question no. 10	9
Question no. 11	10
Question no. 12	11
Question no. 13	12
Question no. 14	13
Question no. 15	14
Question no. 16	14
Question no. 17	16
Question no. 18	17
Question no. 19	18
Question no. 20	19
Question no. 21	20
Question no. 22	22
Question no. 23	23
Question no. 24	23
Question no. 25	23
Question no. 26	24
Question no. 27	25
Question no. 28	26
Question no. 29	26
Question no. 30	26

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## **Constitution, legislation and national machinery for the advancement of women**

1. *In its previous concluding comments, the Committee recommended that “the Government of Israel should ensure that the Convention was implemented throughout the territory under its jurisdiction.” Please provide information on whether the Convention has been implemented throughout the territory under its jurisdiction, if it is directly applicable, and if it has been invoked before the courts.*
  - 1) The Convention is implemented by the Government throughout the State of Israel.
  - 2) According to the Israeli legal system, international conventions do not apply directly, but through national legislation. Such is the case with the CEDAW which is implemented through a wide range of legal instruments, such as basic laws, laws, orders and regulations, municipal bylaws, and court rulings.
  - 3) In its 3<sup>rd</sup> periodic Report, Israel did not include details on the implementation of the CEDAW in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for several reasons, ranging from legal considerations to practical reality.
  - 4) It is Israel’s position that the Convention does not apply beyond its territory, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and it was never the intention of the Government when it ratified the CEDAW that it would so apply.
  - 5) The ongoing armed conflict and daily situation of violence, suicide bombings and terrorism against Israel and its citizens, the lack of enforcement of public order and the rule of law by the Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the concomitant necessity for Israel to defend itself - only amplify the fact that the law of armed conflict is the only logical and applicable regime to ensure humanitarian protection for all involved; and that a normal peacetime human rights regime, of which the CEDAW is clearly a central component, cannot be considered applicable

- 1) The Reservations entered by Israel to the convention are related to the very fabric of the Israeli society, comprised of many religions, each with varying degrees of autonomy with regards to certain religious practices.
  - 2) In light of the complexity of the religious fabric of communities in Israel, accompanied by unique sensitivities - Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Druze, Circassian and many fragments amongst them, these reservations are unavoidable at this point in time.
4. *In its previous concluding comments, the Committee strongly suggested that the Government take necessary steps to eliminate forced marriages, female genital mutilation, honour killings and polygamy. Please provide statistical data on those practices, as well as on measures taken by the Government for their elimination.*

1) There are no known cases of forc

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supervising the implementation of the law and regulations in their respective regions as well as conducting training programs. The Prison Service is also working towards implementing the law and its regulations, and a VOC officer was already nominated and is providing the relevant information to interested parties.

- 4) The Prison Service is in the final stages of developing a nation-wide computerized call center to provide victims of crimes with the relevant information. Information pamphlets, detailing the rights of victims of offences, have been placed, in centers for the prevention of domestic violence, police stations, emergency rooms, the offices of the Department of Police officers Investigations and the Pardons Department in the Ministry of Justice. It should also be noted that the Department for Pardons in the Ministry of Justice, as a matter of policy, has integrated the basic principles of this law in every aspects of its activities. This includes meeting with victims and their families and being attentive to the needs and perspectives of the victims throughout the pardon process.
- 5) The *Prevention of Stalking Law* mentioned in our 3<sup>rd</sup> periodic report was enacted in October 2001. The Law is intended to protect a person from harm to his peace, privacy, freedom or body, by another person, acting in a manner constituting stalking (e.g. intimidating harassment) or bodily harm. The court may issue a protective injunction against a person who engages in stalking, or impose

police guidelines in this field, there are also yearly seminars for new investigators joining the system. Furthermore, domestic violence (as well as sex offences) workshops are held

with disabilities. Another shelter is undergoing the required arrangements to accommodate women with disabilities. The shelters are located all over Israel; all receive women on a 24 hours basis.

- 3) Lastly, there are currently 18 “transitional apartments”, intended to assist women in their transition back to life outside the shelter. 50 women and 90 children





finds jobs for women who are deemed ready to work wh

- 4) It is a matter of Police policy to encourage victims of trafficking to testify against traffickers, and to try to ensure that traffickers will be prosecuted and will not subject additional women to abuse. According to estimates of the Intelligence Division of the Police from 2004, traffickers have begun to realize that the Police are exerting great efforts to encourage women to testify in order to c
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- 5) On December, 2000, the Council for Higher Education, the State institution responsible for higher education, including teaching and research appointed a special committee, which was requested to formulate a general overview on the advancement of higher education among the Arab population in Israe





employee who received a lower salary than her male counterparts (La. 1576/99 *Simmy Niddam V. Rally Electricity and Electronic*)

perform their role with the utmost equality, and support for female participants in all courses, especially those previously considered “masculi



## Population, by population Group over 65, Religion, Sex and Age, 2003 (by thousands)

<b>Religion</b>									
<b>Age</b>	<b>Christians total</b>			<b>Moslems</b>			<b>Jews</b>		
	<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Total</b>
65-69	2.4	1.8	4.3	6.1	5.5	11.6	95.3	79.3	174.6
70-74	1.9	1.3	3.2	4.2	3.3	7.5	85.0	65.7	150.7
75-79	1.4	0.8	2.2	2.6	1.9	4.5	78.8	53.6	132.5
80-84	0.7	0.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	2.4	50.7	36.3	87.0
85-89	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.2	24.3	14.7	39.0
90+	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.8	13.8	8.0	21.8

<b>Age</b>	<b>Religion unclassified</b>			<b>Druze</b>		
	<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Total</b>
65-69	3.5	2.4	5.9	0.9	0.7	1.6
70-74	1.8	1.2	3.0	0.7	0.6	1.2
75-79	1.6	0.7	2.3	0.4	0.4	0.





- 1) The following paragraphs focus on the Bedouin community in the southern Israeli Negev desert. There are approximately 145,000 Bedouins living in the Negev, approximately 83,000 of them in seven Bedouin towns and the rest in illegal villages throughout the Negev.
- 2) The Bedouin population has a high rate of unemployment and low socio-economic state. Several measures are being implemented to change these statistics. One example is a business entrepreneurship course for Bedouin women in cooperation with the Center for Fostering Entrepreneurship and



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- 4) Inheritance and adoption – the Family Courts have the main jurisdiction, the Religious Courts jurisdiction is subject to the consent of al