

para 227: ...Provision of human rights education is essential for promoting an understanding of the human rights of women, including knowledge of recourse mechanisms to redress violations of their rights. It is necessary for all individuals, especially women in vulnerable circumstances, to have full knowledge of their rights and access to legal recourse against violations of their rights.

para 230: (e) Create or strengthen independent national institutions for the protection and promotion of these rights, including the human rights of women, as recommended by the World Conference on Human Rights; (f) Develop a comprehensive human rights education programme to raise awareness among women of their human rights and raise awareness among others of the human rights of women; (o) Taking into account the need to ensure full respect for the human rights of indigenous women, consider a declaration on the rights of indigenous people for adoption by the General Assembly within the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and encourage the participation of indigenous women in the working group elaborating the draft declaration, in accordance with the provisions for the participation of organizations of indigenous people.

para 232: (b) Provide constitutional guarantees and/or enact appropriate legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex for all women and girls of all ages and assure women of all ages equal rights and their full enjoyment; (i) Provide gender-sensitive human rights education and training to public officials, including, inter alia, police and military personnel, corrections officers, health and medical personnel, and social workers, including people who deal with migration and refugee issues, and teachers at all levels of the educational system, and make available such education and training also to the judiciary and members of parliament in order to enable them to better exercise their public responsibilities; (n) Strengthen existing or establish readily available and free or affordable alternative administrative mechanisms and legal aid programmes to assist disadvantaged women seeking redress for violations of their rights;

para 233 (a) Translate... publicize and disseminate laws and information relating to the equal status and human rights of all women...; (d) Include information about international and regional instruments and standards...; (e) Make widely available and fully publicize information on the existence of national, regional and international mechanisms for seeking redress when the human rights of women are violated; (f) ...implement programmes in human rights education to make women aware of their human rights; (h) Promote education in all countries in human rights and international humanitarian law for members of the national security and armed forces...;

Recommendations

The Canadian government:

1. Support programs and projects which focus on legal reform to protect women's rights (para 205(c)), help women achieve legal literacy (para 233), strengthen women's ability to exercise their rights (para 217-219) and assist women in ensuring their rights are enforced (para 227). These projects would include the development of legislation to prohibit discrimination (para 232(b)), the development of independent national institutions to protect human rights (para 230(e)), human rights education programs (para 230(f)), gender-sensitive human rights education and training for the police and judiciary (para 232(i)), and legal aid programs for disadvantaged women (para 232(n)).
2. Reverse the position it has taken in the Commission on Human Rights' Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on the elaboration of a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to include the use of the word "Peoples" in recognition of the plurality and distinct identities of Indigenous Peoples and their right to self-determination. Furthermore, Canada should loosen its rigid criteria for Indigenous Peoples who appear before the Inter-sessional working group to enable broad participation. Para 230(o), urges the adoption of a declaration within the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

