

- ▶ in its next report, include information on the socio-economic situation of members of the indigenous communities and ethnic minorities, particularly related to their participation in the political and economic life of the country and representation in the federal and provincial governments;
- ▶ develop indicators to evaluate policies and programmes for the protection and promotion of the rights of vulnerable population groups;
- ▶ declare any form of racial discrimination-including dissemination of and propaganda for racist ideas, incitement to racial discrimination, racial violence and the establishment of racist organizations-to be an offence punishable by law;
- ▶ in its next report, include a comprehensive section on the question of land transfers to indigenous communities;
- ▶ in its next report, include information on the number and situation of refugees and immigrants and on the legal regime applicable to them;
- ▶ expedite proceedings with regard to anti-Semitic attacks;
- ▶ in the next report, provide detailed information on remedies filed, rulings handed down and compensation granted for acts of racism; and,
- ▶ take all necessary steps to provide training and education of law enforcement officials, teachers and students on human rights and the prevention of racial discrimination.

#### Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 15 July 1985.

Argentina's fourth periodic report is due 14 August 1998.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 1 of article 29.

Argentina's second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ARG/2; CEDAW/C/ARG/2/Add.1; CEDAW/C/ARG/2/Add.2; CEDAW/C/ARG/3) were considered at the Committee's July 1997 session. The reports prepared by the government included demographic and statistical data as well as information on, *inter alia*: laws related to equality and non-discrimination; the Directorate General for Women's Affairs; the Coordinating Council for Public Policies on Women; provincial mechanisms mandated to address women's rights and programming; temporary measures aimed at accelerating equality between women and men; elimination of stereotypes; remedial measures to eliminate discrimination; violence against women; legal measures addressing traffic in women and prostitution; women in political and public life; education; labour laws and their affect on women; "black labour", the informal work sector and microenterprises; health; the proposal to establish a Permanent Commission on Women and AIDS; social security; rural women; equality before the law; matrimonial and family rights; and property rights.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CEDAW/C/1997/II/L.1/Add.9) noted factors hindering implementation of the Convention such as the adverse consequences on women of economic reforms and recent amendments to the labour and social-security laws, as well as the persistence of stereotypes with regard to the social roles of women and men.

The Committee welcomed: the fact that the Constitution recognizes the competence of the National Congress to adopt affirmative action laws in order to guarantee equality of opportunity and treatment for women; the increase in the number of women parliamentarians which has resulted from the effective application of the Quota Act; the constitutional recognition of the right to take speedy *amparo* proceedings against acts or omissions that harm or threaten rights recognized by the Constitution; and, the creation of the Federal Women's Council and the National Women's Council, bodies entrusted with the promotion and coordination of policies of equality.

The principal areas of concern identified by the Committee were: that the reform of the Penal Code to bring it into line with the Convention was still pending; the continuing low percentage of women pursuing technical careers; the lack of data and analysis in the government's report concerning the situation of women who are subjected to slavery and exploitation for the purposes of prostitution; the very low number of women who occupy managerial posts in the private sector; the fact that the rate of unemployment for women (20.3 per cent) is five percentage points higher than that for men (15.7 per cent); the absence of regulations governing the labour relations of domestic employees; the lack of regulations to penalize sexual harassment in the workplace in the private sector; the fact that, despite Argentina's level of economic and social development, maternal mortality and morbidity due to childbirth and abortion remain high; and, the fact that women in rural areas have less satisfactory living conditions than those in urban areas.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ reform the Penal Code as soon as possible in order to bring it in line with the Convention, the Committee's general recommendations and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women;
- ▶ pursue and strengthen plans for equality and evaluate their results in a more systematic way;
- ▶ sustain and reinforce programmes designed to eliminate stereotyping of the social roles of women and men;
- ▶ make an effort to increase the number of women who pursue technical careers and occupy positions considered to be the preserve of men and ensure that men share with women the task of caring for children;
- ▶ increase and regulate services for the care of young children who have not yet begun compulsory schooling;
- ▶ maintain and strengthen programmes to increase awareness by the police, judges and healthcare professionals about the gravity of all forms of violence against women;
- ▶ in the next report, include legal and sociological information relating to article 6 of the Convention (trafficking in women and prostitution);
- ▶ in the next report, provide information on measures taken to avoid, in both the public and private sectors, discrimination in access to employment, and enforce ILO Conventions No. 100 on equal remuneration and No. 156 on family responsibilities;