

of employment and public service; the non-availability of shelters for women which also provide victims with counselling services; the persistent traditional, stereotyped roles and attitudes towards women and girls; the fact that domestic violence is rampant; the lack of research on the real situation concerning prostitution and trafficking in women; the low participation of women in political parties and as candidates for election; the failure to include women's human rights in the school curriculum; the very high rate of teenage and pre-teen pregnancy, which sometimes forced children to be mothers with very serious, negative consequences for their future, in particular, the interruption of their education; the very high rate of unemployment among women, which increased their vulnerability to domestic violence, and the failure to make use of affirmative action to redress the problem; the feminization of migration; the fact that women must seek spousal consent for tubal ligation; provisions in law that preclude safe abortion and prevent women from taking control of their reproductive health; and, the high rate of female migration outside Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the consequences it creates in the society.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ review all domestic laws with the aim of identifying those in need of amendment and areas where new laws need to be enacted to ensure that women fully enjoy all the rights provided for under the Convention;
- ▶ provide in future reports information on the implementation of the Committee's general recommendations and on the concluding observations of the Committee as well as follow-up programmes for implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;
- ▶ indicate in the next report any special measures that have been taken by the government and political parties to close the gap between *de jure* and *de facto* equality, particularly in the area of political decision-making and employment;
- ▶ provide in the next report more detailed information on prostitution and trafficking;
- ▶ introduce gender-sensitive reproductive and sexual health education, information and counselling in order to curb the very high rate of pre-teen and teenage pregnancy and integrate reproductive and sexual health services, including family planning, into primary health care;
- ▶ review the law on abortion with a view to removing the penal provisions and guarantee safe abortion and safe motherhood; and,
- ▶ work towards creating job opportunities to help keep women in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines so that they can better contribute to the development of the society in general.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 20 September 1993; ratified: 26 October 1993.

The initial report of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was due 24 November 1995.

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SURINAME

Date of admission to UN: 4 December 1975.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Suriname has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.39) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic data and information on the economy, literacy, religion, Suriname's history, the general political structure and the legal framework for the protection of human rights.

The framework for the protection of human rights is set out in the Constitution and responsibility for ensuring respect for human rights is placed with the High Court of Justice, the Public Prosecutor's Office and other judicial bodies and officials. Remedies for violations are stipulated in the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Civil Code and the Code on Civil Procedure. The enjoyment of human rights can be limited only by the Constitution itself and in exceptional cases where public order is jeopardized. Most human rights instruments are incorporated into national legislation and there is a National Institution for Human Rights which is a semi-governmental body.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 28 December 1976.

Suriname's second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 28 December 1976.

Suriname's second through fourth periodic reports were due 2 August 1985, 1990 and 1995 respectively.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 28 December 1976.

Racial Discrimination

Succeeded: 15 March 1984.

Suriname's initial and second through seventh periodic reports were due 14 April 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1997 respectively.

At its August 1997 session the Committee reviewed implementation of the Convention in the absence of a report from the government. The Committee's concluding observations (CERD/CRP.1/Add.19) noted the internal difficulties in Suriname and referred to the fact that the multi-ethnic composition of the population, and the existence of indigenous communities, make implementation of the Convention particularly important. The Committee suggested that the government may want to request technical assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the drafting and submission of its initial report.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 1 March 1993.

Suriname's initial report was due 31 March 1994.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 1 March 1993.

Suriname's initial report was due 31 March 1995.