

1998 session; the 14th periodic report is due 9 January 1999.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 23 July 1991.
The Netherlands' second periodic report was due 22 August 1996.
Reservations and Declarations: Preambular paragraphs 10 and 11.

Torture

Signed: 4 February 1985; ratified: 21 December 1988.
The Netherlands' third periodic report for Antilles and Aruba (CAT/C/44/Add.4) has been submitted and is scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its May 1999 session; the third periodic for the Kingdom was due 19 January 1998.
Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 1; declaration under articles 21 and 22.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 6 February 1995.
The Netherlands' initial report (CRC/C/51/Add.1) has been submitted and is pending for the Committee's September/October 1999 session; the second periodic report is due 6 March 2002.
Reservations and Declarations: Articles 14, 22, 26, 37, 38 and 40.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The 10th through 12th periodic reports for the Netherlands were submitted as one document (CERD/C/319/Add.2, March 1997) which was considered by the Committee at its March 1998 session.

With regard to the European part of the Kingdom, the report notes in the introduction that there is an essential difference between the terms "aliens" and "foreigners" and the term "ethnic minorities". The first two terms arise from a legal distinction between aliens and nationals. The term "ethnic minorities" refers to ethnic groups which are the subject of Dutch minorities policy. These groups include aliens and former aliens as well as Dutch nationals. The report contains information on, *inter alia*: case law relative to interpretations of term "racial discrimination"; the policy on minorities, the major cities policy (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Utrecht) and the policy on itinerants; anti-discrimination provisions in the Criminal Code and examples from case law; measures taken by the National Bureau against Racism; the work of the Advisory Council on Government Policy (WRR) vis-à-vis the situation and legal status of minorities; the Guidelines on Discrimination Cases with regard to the Public Prosecutors functions and examples from case law; provisions in the Criminal Code related to political parties and prosecution of right-wing extremist parties; the Aliens Act 1965, as amended in 1994; the

policy of the Central Manpower Services Board; the Joint Industrial Labour Council; the Act Governing the Promotion of Proportional Participation in the Employment Market for Immigrants; the Ethnic Minorities in Government plans (EMO); the Caravan Act, due to be withdrawn in January 1997, and incorporation of relevant protections in the Housing Act; the national project group on intercultural education; the multicultural society programme; and the results of annual opinion polls, conducted by the Social and Cultural Planning Office, reflecting what the general public thinks about minorities.

The second part of the report, on Aruba, contains statistics and demographic data on the foreign-born population, as well as, *inter alia*: non-discrimination provisions in the Constitution and Criminal Code; the Country Ordinance on Proscribed Associations; the Country Ordinance on Admission and Deportation; legal provisions related to, for example, equality before the law, security of person, the right to vote, equal access to public service, and freedom of movement and residence; provisions related to marriage, nationality, the right to own property and inheritance rights, the freedoms of religion, expression and peaceful assembly; the Training for Employment Scheme and freedom of association; housing and social assistance; remedy and compensation; and the education system and the language of education.

The third part of the report, on the Netherlands Antilles, contains information on, *inter alia*: constitutional provisions related to non-discrimination; the situation and status of migrants; illegal residence and immigration; statistical data related to population by, for example, nationality, place of birth, sex and age, age and marital status; the Admission and Expulsion Ordinance; employment and non-discrimination; the education system, housing, trade unions and workers' rights.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CERD/C/304/Add.46) viewed positively the concepts of multicultural society and inter-cultural education, proportional participation in employment in the army and the police, and the involvement of the civil society in activities aimed at the elimination of racial discrimination and intolerance. Other positive aspects included: the different policies and programmes initiated by the government or by local authorities in the fields of multicultural education and education of children of minorities, employment, combatting racist messages on the Internet, and involving persons from different minorities in health programmes and activities; the efforts undertaken, and the innovative measures adopted by, the government to prevent and combat racial discrimination; the government's willingness to recognize existing problems and to find appropriate solutions, both legislative and administrative; the active participation of organizations representing ethnic minorities, schools and employers in the elaboration and the execution of governmental programmes to combat racism; the draft Matching Bill (expected to come into force in July 1998), containing provisions aimed at narrowing the existing