

## QUICK GUIDE TO ADDRESS WOMEN'S ISSUES DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON QATAR

These Guides include:

- A list of issues mentioned in the National Report, the Compilation of official UN Documents and the Summary of Other Stakeholders Submissions, with references to the particular paragraphs in which they can be found.
- A reference to "gaps", that is, issues on which the National Report should/could have applied a gender perspective but failed to do so.
- In those cases in which the Sexual Rights Initiative has submitted reports, we have included an Annex with our recommendations.
- In some cases we have included suggested questions and recommendations

References in the two working languages of the Council (English and French) have been kept in their original language.

Issues are highlighted. References from the National Report are *in Italics*.

Recommendations - including those from UN treaty-monitoring bodies, are at the end of the document.

All women's rights issues (included sexual rights' issues related specifically to women) are referred to in this Guide. Other sexual rights issues are referred to in the Sexual Rights Guides for each state under review

CEDAW ratified with reservations (articles 1, 2a, 5, 9, 15, 16, 29)<sup>1</sup>. OP-CEDAW not ratified. Rome Statute not ratified. Palermo Protocol ratified.

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### <sup>1</sup> Article 1

For the purposes of the present Convention, the term "discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

### Article 2

States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and, to this end, undertake:

(a) To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;

### Article 5

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures:

(a) To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;

(b) To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children, it being understood that the interest of the children is the primordial consideration in all cases.

### Article 9

1. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality. They shall ensure in particular that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of the husband.

2. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children.

### Article 15

1. States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law.

2. States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals.

3. States Parties agree that all contracts and all other private instruments of any kind with a legal effect which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void.

4. States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile.

### Article 16

## Gaps

The National Report should/could have applied a gender perspective -that is, make reference to how the issue affects women and men in particular ways- but failed to do so in the following sections: La Fondation qatarie pour l'éducation, la science et le développement communautaire (4.6.4), La maison du développement social (4.6.5), Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) (4.6.6), La Fondation Silatech (4.6.7), Le Comité national de l'intégrité et de la transparence (4.6.8), La Commission nationale des droits de l'homme (4.6.9), Le Centre international de Doha pour le dialogue interconfessionnel (4.6.10), La Fondation arabe pour la démocratie (4.6.11), Le Centre de Doha pour la liberté de la presse (4.6.12), Les personnes handicapées (5.2), Lutte contre la traite des êtres humains (5.3), La main-d'oeuvre migrante (5.4).

ISSUE	N Report	Compilation	Summary
<b>Domestic migrant workers</b>		Civil law, authorities avoid to intervene (40) Double discrimination. Abuse, exploitation, Excluded from labour laws (45) Slavery condition. Inhumane treatment (48) Request for information on treatment of migrant workers (52)	Exploitative contracts. Deplorable life conditions. No access to justice system. (37)
<b>Economic rights/ Right to development</b>	Increased participation, development in private sector (5.1.)		
<b>Equality and Non discrimination</b>	Constitutional status (4.5.1.) Law on "prix du sang". Improvements in civil and politics rights (5.1)	Non constitutional status of gender equality (4)	Inequalities to get citizenship (13)

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:

- (a) The same right to enter into marriage;
- (b) The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent;
- (c) The same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution;
- (d) The same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
- (e) The same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights;
- (f) The same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children, or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
- (g) The same personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation;
- (h) The same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration.

2. The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

### Article 29

1. Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court.

2. Each State Party may at the time of signature or ratification of the present Convention or accession thereto declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of this article. The other States Parties shall not be bound by that paragraph with respect to any State Party which has made such a reservation.

3. Any State Party which has made a reservation in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article may at any time withdraw that reservation by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

<b>Gender mainstreaming</b>	Social traditions preventing from wider development (6.4)	Gaps in labour market and political ground (14 )	
<b>Harmful traditional practices/ traditional mindsets leading to SR abuses</b>		Forced detention by security forces due to marriage with a foreign man (24)	
<b>Laws that discriminate against women</b>		Discriminatory provisions in Family Act and Nationality Act (13)	Discriminatory laws on marriage and divorce (7 s) Legal restrictions related to nationality, freedom of movement (8) Sharia law. Punishment on sexual acts (33)
<b>Maternal mortality /maternal health</b>	Decreased rates. Improvements in access and quality of health services (6.2)		
<b>Participation in Public and political life</b>	Low rates. Challenges on making-decision posts (5.1)	Increasing trend in many areas. Not parliamentary representation in 2009 (38) Need for changes in public role of women (50)	
<b>Ratification of CEDAW</b>		Reservations ( 3)	Wide-ranging reservations (2)
<b>Reproductive health/rights</b>	Contraceptives and family planning for health protection (6.2) Decreased rate of adolescent pregnancies, due to social customs improvements (6.2)		
<b>Right to education</b>	Access to all educational levels (Para 5.1)Free and compulsory, up till first secondary cycle (6.1)	High enrolment in primary. No gender gap. Human Rights in school curricula. No access to Leadership Academy (43) Gender equality achievements (14)	
<b>Right to marry</b>		Not guaranteed. (34)	
<b>Right to work</b>		Stereotyped beliefs on women's capabilities (14)	
<b>Sexual harassment</b>		No provisions against sexual harassment in Labour Law (41)	
<b>Sexual Violence</b>			Widespread. Rape, sexual abuse; esp. against domestic workers. Not considered a criminal offence. (17)
<b>State Institutions/</b>	National Council		

<b>Plans of Actions</b>	promoting access to labour market and politic participation (4.6.1)		
<b>Trafficking of women/ Forced prostitution</b>		Programmes and shelters. No system for identifying victims (8) Destination country. Forced prostitution, sexual exploitation, forced marriages (26)	
<b>Violence against Women /Gender Violence</b>	Programmes. Health care and legal assistance. Shelters. (4.6.3)	Lack of specific legislation, therefore no arrests or prosecutions (21)	

### Domestic migrant workers

Regarding female domestic workers, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking noted that according to the relevant laws, any dispute regarding the employment of domestic workers was mainly regulated by civil law. However, she noted that authorities were reluctant to interfere in the contractual relationship between domestic workers and their employers as this relationship was viewed as a private family affair; any interference would be seen as impinging on the family's right to privacy (Para 40, Compilation). In 2007, the Special Rapporteur was informed that migrants are subjected to humiliating and degrading treatment. () Reports further describe how women are subjected to more violence both because of their status as women and because of their status as migrant workers. The main groups vulnerable to abuse and exploitation are domestic workers - mainly women and girls (among others). The Special Rapporteur further noted that domestic workers are excluded from the purview of the labour laws and must rely solely on the provisions of the private contracts they sign with their employers for protection (Para 43, Compilation). In 2009, the ILO Committee of Experts noted from the Government's report that the National Human Rights Committee has received several complaints from domestic workers, who are mainly women, alleging excessive hours of work without weekly rest, prohibitions on leaving the house, and inhumane and severe mistreatment. It welcomed that the situation of migrant workers was being given increased attention, and that violations of their rights were then being documented and recognized (Para 48, Compilation). In 2006, The Committee Against Torture (CAT) requested that Qatar provide, within one year, information on () treatment of migrant workers, particularly female domestic workers (). No response has been received (Para 52, Compilation)

Amnesty International (AI) reported that foreign migrant workers are often subjected to exploitation by their employers. It said that they are generally employed under exploitative contracts which give their employers extensive powers over them and that the contracts often stipulate that they are unable to move jobs or leave the country without obtaining the permission of their employer. AI added that employers often confiscate the passports of migrant workers or arbitrarily withhold payment of wages. Al Karama made similar comments and added that these workers live in deplorable housing conditions and do not enjoy adequate social security coverage. According to AI, migrant workers are not adequately protected by Qatari law and are generally unable to access the justice system to challenge the decisions of their employers or to seek redress, because they are trapped at home and because of the prohibitive costs of going to court and language barriers (Para 37, Summary)

See Recommendations, AI (38)

## Early / forced marriage

See Recommendations, The Committee on the Rights of the Child - CRC (35)

## Economic rights/Right to development

*L'État s'est également employé à créer des conditions propices à l'entrée des femmes sur le marché du travail et à leur participation au processus de production. Dans le domaine des investissements, les femmes d'affaires qatariennes représentent plus de 50 % des investisseurs et actionnaires opérant à la bourse de Doha. À l'heure actuelle, près de 1 500 sociétés sont la propriété de femmes, dans des secteurs qui vont de l'industrie au tourisme en passant par la banque et le commerce, ce qui représente un grand changement par rapport aux schémas d'investissement traditionnels des femmes au Qatar (Para 5.1, NR)*

## Equality and non-discrimination

*La Constitution du Qatar de 2004 traite dans son chapitre 3 (art. 34 à 58) des droits et des libertés fondamentaux. Parmi les droits et les libertés fondamentaux garantis par la Constitution, figurent notamment: l'égalité devant la loi, la non-discrimination (Para 4.5.1, NR). L'État du Qatar a déployé, depuis son indépendance, des efforts remarquables en faveur du renforcement de l'égalité entre les sexes et de la démarginalisation des femmes (Para 5.1, NR). La période récente a été caractérisée par un progrès continu dans le domaine des droits de la femme, aussi bien par l'approfondissement de droits existants (), notamment la loi sur le logement et ses décrets d'application et la loi no 19 de 2008 relative à la détermination du «prix du sang», qui instaure une égalité complète entre les hommes et les femmes dans ce domaine, deux avancées majeures en matière d'égalité entre les sexes sur le plan des droits civils et politiques. () (Para 5.1, NR) (Para 4.6.1, NR)*

( ) The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders noted that the Constitution does not make any specific mention of women's rights or gender equality (Para 4, Compilation). CRC reiterated its concern that the Nationality Act does not confer de jure citizenship on children of Qatari women married to non-nationals (Para 13, Compilation)

See Recommendations, CRC (13)

## Gender mainstreaming

*En dépit de tout ce qui a été réalisé concernant la condition féminine, la plus grande difficulté à cet égard demeure celle des moyens d'activer le rôle des femmes dans la société, de multiplier les possibilités qui leur sont offertes de pénétrer divers secteurs, de soutenir leur participation à l'activité économique et d'approfondir les politiques propres à accroître et renforcer leur aptitude à assumer leurs responsabilités en tant que partenaires essentielles du processus de développement. (Para 6.4, NR)*

( ) Women's participation in the labour market and politics still requires intensive efforts to bridge the gap between men and women (Para 14, Compilation)

## Harmful traditional (customary) practices/traditional mindsets leading to SR abuses

In April 2005, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Working Group on arbitrary detention sent a communication regarding a woman who allegedly was being forcibly held at her family's home in Doha. According to the reports received, she married a foreign citizen abroad in November 2002 and nine days later, was drugged and abducted by members of the Qatari security forces, who took her back to Qatar. Reports indicated that she was secretly detained by the authorities in Doha for five months. Then, she was reportedly transferred to the offices of the State's Special Security Directorate in Doha, where she was detained until

November 2003. Security forces then handed her over to the custody of her family, which has held her against her will at its home where she was allegedly subjected to **beatings by her family and not permitted access to lawyers, doctors or visitors of any kind.** In September 2005, the Government replied to the communication stating that the allegations were completely unsubstantiated (Para 24, Compilation)

See Recommendations, CRC (35)

### **Laws that discriminate against women**

In 2009, CRC expressed concern about some **provisions of the Family Act and the Nationality Act** which **perpetuate discrimination against women and girls.** (Para 13, Compilation)

According to AI, **domestic legislation discriminates against women;** in particular, **laws concerning marriage and divorce favour men.** For example, women complain that when their husbands separate from them, they do not grant them a divorce, leaving them **unable to re-marry** and without entitlement to income from their ex-husband and therefore often **financially dependent** on other relatives. In such situations, women may petition for divorce in court, but have no guarantee that the court will agree to grant them one, or they may find that the court will grant them a divorce only if they agree to pay a considerable amount of money or to **give up custody of their children.** AI said that by contrast, a man can obtain a divorce from his wife at any time and without payment and can also marry another woman, while separated from his wife. (Para 7, Summary). AI noted that other **legislative provisions restrict women's right to freedom of movement and discriminate against them in relation to nationality.** It mentioned that women must obtain the **written approval of their husband or guardian** before applying for a passport and children of **Qatari women who marry a foreign national** do not qualify for Qatari citizenship, unlike children born to Qatari fathers and foreign mothers (Para 8, Summary)

Joint Submission (JS) indicated that along with the Civil and Penal Codes, **Sharia law is in force in Qatar,** although only applicable to Muslims and that the offence of Zina makes **any sexual act by a married person outside of marriage punishable by death, while sexual acts by non-married persons are punishable by flogging** (Para 33, Summary)

See Recommendations, CRC (13); AI (9)

### **Maternal mortality/maternal health**

*En ce qui concerne le **taux de mortalité des nourrissons (moins d'un an),** cet indicateur enregistre également un **recul notable puisqu'il s'établit à 7,46 pour 1 000 naissances vivantes en 2007,** contre plus de 13 % en 1990. En ce qui concerne la santé **des femmes en général et des mères en particulier,** les services compétents de l'État se sont employés à améliorer la qualité et la sûreté de la vie avant, **pendant et après l'accouchement.** Cette volonté politique s'est traduite par un certain nombre de réalisations (), notamment le fait que **les taux de mortalité des mères pendant la grossesse, l'accouchement ou la période immédiatement postérieure sont nettement en recul ()** qui s'explique par la généralisation des services de soins de santé dispensés aux femmes avant et pendant l'accouchement et la mise en place de **divers services de prévention** (examens médicaux, vaccination, etc.). C'est ainsi que la plupart des accouchements s'effectuent sous la supervision d'un **personnel qualifié** dans des établissements de soins de santé **spécialisés,** si bien que toutes les naissances dans l'État du Qatar sont supervisées par un personnel médical qualifié et compétent (Para 6.2, NR)*

### **Participation in Public and political life**

*Le pourcentage de **sièges occupés par des femmes au Conseil municipal** est passé de 0 % aux élections de 1999 à 3,4 % à celles de 2003 et 2007 avec **l'élection d'une femme à cet organe qui***

*compte 29 membres. L'on s'attend à ce que ce pourcentage augmente lors des élections de 2011 (Para 5.1, NR). Ces dernières années, des femmes ont occupé des fonctions constitutionnelles de haut rang, qui viennent s'ajouter aux nombreuses activités professionnelles qu'elles mènent, mais il reste néanmoins du travail à accomplir pour améliorer la présence des femmes aux grands postes de décision dans les secteurs public et privé. () (Para 5.1, NR)*

UNICEF indicated in 2009 that in the past two decades Qatari women's participation has increased in many areas of public life. This trend is reflective of Qatari women's participation in the national workforce, with their participation rising from 14.3 per cent to 30.2 per cent between 1986 and 2004. A 2009 United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that no seats were held by women in the national Parliament in 2009 (Para 38, Compilation)

In 2009, UNICEF highlighted the fact that Qatar has achieved notable human development progress (), although there remains some weaknesses in achieving some of the MDG targets, such as the role of women in public life (Para 50, Compilation)

See Recommendations, CAT (31)

### **Ratification of CEDAW**

In 2009, while welcoming the information that Qatar withdrew the general reservation entered under the OP-CRC-SC, CRC () expressed concern at a number of reservations entered to CEDAW, in particular articles 9, paragraph 2 and 16, paragraph 1(f) (Para 3, Compilation)

Amnesty International (AI) noted that the Government of Qatar has made women's rights one of the key issues in its political discourse over the past 12 years and that on April 2009, Qatar acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). However, according to AI, Qatar entered wide-ranging reservations which appear to be incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, reflecting the reality that, in both domestic legislation and in practice, discrimination against women remains rife (Para 2, Summary)

See Recommendations, CRC (3), AI (2)

### **Ratification of other international treaties**

See Recommendations, CRC (2)

### **Reproductive health/rights**

*En ce qui concerne l'offre de soins de santé génésique, le recours aux moyens contraceptifs pour la planification de la famille notamment, le recours à ces services est relativement peu développé au sein de la société qatarie, même si l'on tient compte de l'utilisation des moyens contraceptifs par des femmes mariées, comme il ressort de l'enquête sur la santé de la famille organisée en 1998. Il convient de signaler à ce propos que dans un pays comme le Qatar, où les nationaux sont minoritaires et qui encourage la procréation, la planification de la famille signifie non pas la limitation du nombre d'enfants mais l'espacement des naissances de manière à protéger la santé des mères et des enfants. (Para 6.2, NR). Il convient de mentionner également la baisse du taux de natalité chez les adolescentes résultant de l'évolution de l'ensemble des valeurs sociales, en ce sens que le phénomène du mariage précoce des filles est en recul par suite de l'allongement de la scolarité féminine et de l'entrée de nombreuses femmes qatariennes sur le marché du travail, même si le chômage demeure relativement élevé chez les femmes. (Para 6.2, NR)*

### **Right to education**

*La femme qatarie a ainsi pu tirer parti de toutes les données objectives propres à renforcer son statut social par une forte présence à tous les niveaux du système éducatif, en particulier au cours des dernières décennies. Cette évolution se traduit par l'augmentation du pourcentage de*

*femmes dans les différents cycles de l'éducation (voir tableau ci-dessous) au point de devenir la composante principale dans l'enseignement supérieur()* (Para 5.1, NR). La loi no 25 de 2001 a été promulguée pour instituer l'école obligatoire et rendre l'enseignement obligatoire et gratuit pour tous les enfants du début de l'école primaire jusqu'à la fin du cycle préparatoire (premier cycle du secondaire) ou jusqu'à ce que l'enfant atteigne l'âge de 18 ans, la première de ces deux échéances étant retenue. (Para 6.1, NR)

In 2009, UNICEF indicated that Qatar has come very close to realizing the goal of universal primary education with the rate of enrolment in primary education being 97.6 per cent in 2006. It highlighted statistics indicating a rise of enrolment rates at various levels of education, and noted that there is no longer a gender gap in education. For its part, while expressing appreciation inter alia at the inclusion of human rights in school curricula at the preparatory and secondary levels, CRC in 2009 expressed concern that only boys can access to the Qatar Leadership Academy (Para 43, Compilation). In 2009, UNICEF highlighted that Qatar has made considerable progress in achieving gender equality at various educational levels. (Para 14, Compilation)

### **Right to marry**

In 2002, CERD expressed concern that marriage between nationals of Qatar and foreigners is subject to prior approval by the Minister of the Interior. It also noted with concern that Qatar does not appear to guarantee freedom of marriage between nationals and non-nationals unless the latter are nationals of States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Para 34, Compilation)

### **Right to work**

Also in 2009, the ILO Committee of Experts recalled that stereotyped assumptions regarding women's capabilities and "suitability" for certain jobs contribute to discrimination in hiring. (Para 14, Compilation)

See Recommendations, ILO Committee of Experts (14)

### **Sexual harassment**

In 2009, the ILO Committee of Experts noted the Government's indication that the Penal Code of 2004 sufficiently protects women against sexual harassment in employment; hence, in the view of the Government there was no need to include similar provisions in the Labour Law. (Para 41, Compilation)

See Recommendations, ILO Committee of Experts (41)

### **Sexual Violence**

AI indicated that violence against women, including rape, other forms of sexual abuse and beatings, is widespread, in particular against female domestic workers, the vast majority of whom are foreign nationals. It considered that the authorities are often reluctant to treat violence against women as a criminal offence although it constitutes an assault under domestic law and that this reluctance by the police to address the issue of violence against women through the law, tends to deter women from reporting violence within the home and locks women into a vicious circle of violence and discrimination. AI mentioned that female domestic workers are particularly at risk because, as a result of their employment conditions, they are generally unable to leave the home in which they live and work and are therefore especially vulnerable to rape and other sexual abuse by their male employers (Para 17, Summary)

See Recommendations, AI (18)

## State Institutions/Plans of Actions

*Le Conseil supérieur des affaires de la famille a été créé en application du décret de l'Émir no 53 de 1998.. Il peut ainsi: adopter les stratégies, les politiques et les programmes pouvant contribuer à l'amélioration du **niveau de vie des familles** et de leurs membres et leur garantissant sécurité sociale et stabilité; () travailler à renforcer les **capacités des femmes** et promouvoir leur participation aux domaines **économiques et politiques**, notamment celui de la prise de décisions; améliorer les **possibilités d'emploi** pour les femmes qataries et les soutenir sur le plan professionnel () (Para 4.6.1, NR)*

## Trafficking of women/Forced prostitution

CRC in 2006, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women () in 2007, and UNICEF in 2009 noted the establishment in 2005 of the **Qatari House for Lodging and Human Care**, which provides **victims of abuse and trafficking** with social, legal, medical and psychological assistance, and defers sometimes cases to the police, the courts and the Director of the Human Rights Unit in the Ministry of Interior. The Special Rapporteur regretted that **no system for identifying trafficked persons was in place**. (Para 8, Compilation) In 2007, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking was informed that Qatar is a **country of destination** for trafficked women, who are brought on entertainment or "artist/band" visas or in tourist groups, and then **forced into prostitution**. In some cases, women are brought in with working visas to work as domestic workers, and are then forced into prostitution and other forms of **sexual exploitation**. In Qatar, the Special Rapporteur was also informed of some cases of **women forced or deceived into marriage for purposes of trafficking for sexual exploitation**. (Para 26, Compilation)

## Violence against Women/Gender Violence

*La **Fondation qatarie pour la protection des femmes** (et des enfants) dirige et oriente les différents cas dont elle est saisie, fournit tous types de services et programmes de réinsertion et de réadaptation aux **victimes de mauvais traitements et de violence**, ainsi que des **services juridiques**, tels que l'assistance judiciaire, et des **services de santé mentale** () La Fondation a aménagé quelques installations, comme le Havre qatari qui accueille () les femmes **sans refuge victimes de mauvais traitements et de violence** pour une période temporaire en attendant une amélioration de leur situation (Para 4.6.3, NR)*

In 2006, CAT noted there was **no specific law protecting women from domestic violence** and, despite numerous cases reported in 2005, there were **no arrests or prosecutions** in this regard. It noted the 2003 **National Action Plan** to prevent domestic violence (Para 21, Compilation)

See Recommendations, CAT (21)

## Suggested Questions and Recommendations

### CRC

- § That Qatar ratify or accede to all core international human rights instruments, including The **Palermo Protocol** and the **Rome Statute** of the International Criminal Court (Para 2, Compilation)
- § To review its reservations with a view to withdrawing them (**CEDAW and CRC reservations**) (Para 3, Compilation)
- § To adopt a proactive and comprehensive strategy to eliminate **de jure and de facto discrimination on any grounds** () paying particular attention to **girls** () (Para 13, Compilation)
- § That Qatar **rectify the disparity in the minimum age of marriage** for boys and girls by raising the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years. It encouraged Qatar to strengthen its

awareness raising efforts aimed at girl children, their parents and communities on the many negative consequences of early marriage and other traditional practices harmful to the health, well-being and development of children (Para 35, Compilation)

#### **CAT**

- § To introduce measures to prevent and punish violence against women, including fair standards of proof. (Para 21, Compilation)
- § To adopt effective measures to fully ensure the independence of the judiciary, and ensure that female judges may serve and address the same jurisdictions as male judges (Para 31, Compilation)

#### **The ILO Committee of Experts**

- § To take more proactive measures to address discriminatory advertising and hiring practices, such as awareness raising to eliminate stereotyped assumptions by employers of women's and men's suitability for certain jobs. (Para 14,
- § To consider including a provision in the Labour Law that defines and explicitly prohibits sexual harassment. (Para 41, Compilation)

#### **AI**

- § To lift its reservations to CEDAW or amend them in such a way that they are compatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (Para 2, Summary)
- § To ensure that national laws that discriminate against women and facilitate violence against them are amended or repealed, including family laws, laws and procedures relating to the authority of guardians over women, nationality laws and housing regulations (Para 9, Summary)
- § To reinforce measures to prevent violence against women, including violence within the family and against foreign domestic workers, and to bring to justice those responsible for such crimes (Para 18, Summary)
- § To promote and protect the economic, social and cultural rights of migrant workers, including their right to an adequate standard of living; and to ensure that laws, policies and practices fully conform with international human rights standards to guarantee the protection of the human rights of migrant workers, including their right to freedom of movement and physical integrity. (Para 38, Summary)