

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ESTONIA ADD.1

BELGIUM

- Is Estonia considering ratifying the Optional Protocol on Children and Armed Conflict to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which it already has signed?
- Is Estonia considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as it has been encouraged to do by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women?
- Is Estonia going to bring the definition of torture in its Penal Code in conformity with the definition in article 1 of the Convention against Torture (CAT) or article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)?
- Which actions is the Government going to undertake to increase awareness concerning the inequality between men and women?
- Has Estonia an action plan in place to identify and reduce the inequality between men and women?
- Which measures is the Government considering in order to decrease the difference in wages between men and women?
- Is the Government considering raising the minimum legal age for marriage from 15 to 18 in response to concerns expressed by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women CEDAW?
- Which strategy is the Government envisaging to address the continuing underrepresentation of women in public and political life and in decision-making positions?
- How is the Government reinforcing its legislation and policies to combat human trafficking?
- How is the Government preventing disrespect for and discrimination against people based on their sexual preference?
- Is the Government considering allowing and regulating formal partnerships between people of the same sex?
- Is Estonia considering revising the Employment Contracts Act by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of national extraction, colour and social origin in order to comply with its obligations under ILO Convention 111?

- Estonia has taken clear steps to reduce the amount of stateless people on its territory. Does it intend to ratify the Convention regarding the Status of Stateless persons?
- Estonia is pursuing a policy of active integration between its different communities. Which further steps is the Government taking to consolidate mutual dialogue and respect between these communities?

LITHUANIA

Thanking for information provided in the National Report of Estonia, Lithuania has the honour to present the following questions.

- Appreciating attention Estonia gives the issues of gender equality both internationally and nationally, Lithuania would like to ask about experience regarding ways and means of ensuring coherence between activities of different bodies in furthering gender equality in general and in reducing domestic violence in particular.
- In the area of the rights of the child Lithuania would like to ask about further steps envisaged regarding making decision on establishing the institution of children's ombudsman.
- We would also appreciate information about elaboration of the new civil society development plan mentioned in the National Report.

UNITED KINGDOM

- Please could you inform us whether there are plans to establish an independent national human rights institution in your country that operates in accordance with the Paris principles designed to guide the practice of such institutions?
- We should be interested to know if there are plans to expand the work of the Legal Chancellor and Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner and make available more resources for both.
- Please could you tell us what progress has been made in the field of equal rights for disabled persons and whether and when Estonia will ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?
- We would be grateful to know what steps have been taken to ensure that homosexuals do not experience discrimination in Estonia, either de jure or de facto.
- Please could you detail steps taken and planned to tackle racism in Estonia?

- We would be grateful to know whether human rights education in the Estonian school system covers equality of treatment for all persons regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation.
- We would be interested to know what success Estonia has had in implementing its National Action Plan on Domestic Violence, tackling gender inequality, and reducing sexual harassment.
- We should be grateful if you would provide information on the extent to which civil society was consulted in the preparation of your national report.