

UPR Pre-session on The Gambia

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Statement - overview

1. Strengthening Civil & Political Rights

2. Women's Rights

3. Right to Education

**Caste and descent
based
discrimination
(Gambia)**



01 Discrimination based on social stratifications



02 Prevalent across all major ethnic groups in The Gambia



03 Caste Hierarchy: Nobles and Slaves



04 Impact: Stigma and social exclusion



05 Restricted access to rights and services, Gender based violence

Civil & Political Rights

Follow up from previous review

- Belgium, Togo, Brazil made recommendations to enact anti-discrimination law
- Recommendations supported by Gambia
- No specific recommendations to address caste and descent based discrimination

New Developments since last review

- Human rights violations and abuses, including caste- based discrimination and allegations of police brutality. (NHRC, Gambia)
- **Existing human rights instruments offer limited protection.**

Civil & Political Rights

Recommendations (in line with the NHRC, Gambia)

- Include within anti-discrimination legislation, **an explicit prohibition of descent-based discrimination in the Constitution and other laws**
- **Conduct periodic surveys of descent-based discrimination and provide disaggregated information** on geographical distribution, socio-economic conditions to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Women's Rights

Previous review

- address discrimination against women,
- improve women's participation in political and public life
- address violence against women.

New developments since the last review

- Gender inequality in The Gambia **remains among the highest** in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Disproportionately affects women and children.
- Gender-based violence, sexual abuse, trafficking for sex work and forced labour.
- **Excluded from decision-making roles**
- **CEDAW recommendations to Gambia - implement the NHRC report**

Women's Rights

Recommendations - in line with CEDAW (2022)

- Ensure the **equal and inclusive representation** of women from descent based communities in decision making bodies (CEDAW Gen Rec 40)
- **Carry out a national survey** to understand the impact of caste-based discrimination on women and girls
- Include **explicit prohibitions against caste and descent based discrimination** in the *Domestic Violence Act of 2013*, *Sexual Offences Act of 2013* and *Women's Act of 2010*

Right to Education

Follow up - previous review

- 12 recommendations
 - quality education through the provision of resources
 - access to education for all

Since the last review...

- Increased budget allocation 14% (2022) to 17.4% (2023)
- Caste and descent discrimination in schools .
- Drop out rates for girls, school segregation and limited access to education

Right to Education

Recommendations

Increase the education budget allocation from 17.4 % (2023) to the global minimum target of 20% to:

- Improve infrastructure to **prevent school drop out**
- provide disaggregated information on descent based communities to CEDAW
- conduct an education curriculum review to **prevent perpetuation of caste divisions and discrimination**