
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Concluding observations on the eight periodic report of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*,**

C.Principal areas of concern and recommendations

General context

1. The Committee takes note of the decision by the State party to withdraw from the European Union (“Brexit”) following a referendum on 23 June 2016. Noting that this decision has necessitated a close scrutiny of its domestic legislation and the changes that may be required, the Committee calls upon the State party to seize this opportunity to reinforce its human rights framework across its territory, including by incorporating the Convention in its domestic law, and to utilize the Convention as a strategic choice to empower women. At this critical juncture, the Committee stresses that putting women’s rights at the heart of its deliberations and ensuring that women’s rights are strengthened will result in creating a stronger and more resilient society.

2. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake a comprehensive assessment on the impact of austerity measures on the rights of women and adopt measures to mitigate and remedy the negative consequences without delay.

3. The Committee also expresses its concern that the increase in the state pension age for women from 60 to 66, following several legislative changes, has affected the pension entitlements of women born in the 1950s, and is contributing to poverty, homelessness and financial hardships among the affected women.

4. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Take effective measures to ensure that the increase in the State pension age from 60 to 66 does not have a discriminatory impact on women born in the 1950s.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

** Adopted by the Committee at its seventy-second session (18 February – 8 March 2019).