

## **Domestic violence and child abuse**

1. The Committee is concerned that domestic violence and child abuse, despite the measures taken, remains pervasive in all of its constituent parts. The Committee is further concerned that the devolution of responsibility for preventing domestic violence to municipalities in the Netherlands has not been accompanied by commensurate increase in capacity. As a result there is an unreasonable delay in many municipalities for victims of domestic violence to get access to the services provided by Safe at Home centres. The Committee is further concerned that the criteria for access to shelter are restrictive, limiting victims access thereto. . While the Committee notes the intention of the State party to conclude an agreement with the authorities in Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten to strengthen policies on combating domestic violence, it remains concerned at the continued absence of reliable data for Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten in this field (art. 10).
2. **The Committee recommends that the State party redouble its efforts to combat domestic violence and child abuse. In that regard, it calls upon the State party to**

**(a) Put in place mechanisms to monitor the capacity of municipalities, adjust eligibility criteria to the needs of the victims and ensure victims access to quality services in all part of the Netherlands;**

**(b) Take immediate measures, together with local authorities, to strengthen efforts to combat domestic violence and child abuse in Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten and to ensure adequate funding, resources and staffing for that purpose;**

**(c) To submit up-to-date disaggregated data in its next periodic report, with information from all constituent parts of the State party on the number and nature of reported cases of domestic violence, on convictions and sanctions imposed on perpetrators, as well as on any assistance and rehabilitation measures provided to victims, in accordance with the Committee's previous recommendation, E/C.12/NDL/CO/4-5 para. 21.**

## **Homelessness**

1. The Committee is concerned about the significant rise in homelessness, **in particular among marginalized and disadvantaged individuals and groups**, in the State party (art. 11).
2. **The Committee urges the State party to investigate the root causes of homelessness and recommends that the State party take all necessary measures including securing affordable social housing in particular for those marginalized and disadvantaged and allocating appropriate funds to local municipalities. In this respect, the Committee draws the attention of the State party to its general comment No. 4 (1991) on adopting a participatory human rights-based strategy to ensure the realisation of the right to adequate housing.**