

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BOTSWANA—ADD 1

NORWAY

- There have been reports about long delays in Botswana’s justice system. What is the Government’s strategy to tackle the long delays, while making sure the rights of everyone to a fair trial are not compromised?
- Violence against women is a challenge in Botswana, including domestic violence. However, “spousal rape” is exempted from the constitutional laws protecting women against violence. What steps will the Government take to secure the protection of women, also when the abuses happens within the family. Will the Government consider signing the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development?
- Discrimination against women is an important challenge in Botswana. Protection of women is often subject to customary law. Though we are encouraged by the ruling of the Botswana High Court last year declaring the Ngwaketse tribe’s customary inheritance law as discriminatory against women, and thus unconstitutional, Norway is still concerned that the customary law does not ensure women the same degree of protection as men, both with regard to physical and economic protection. What steps will the Government take to secure equal rights for women within the existing legal system?