

Press Release: Hope for Women's Concern over the Recent Change in the Government's Official Ramadan Working Hours

Date: June 19, 2014

The President's Office has announced today that the government working hours during the upcoming month of Ramadan will be from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM, as opposed to the Ramadan working hours in the previous years which were from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. This impacts negatively on women working in public service.

Since the beginning of the FIFA World Cup, it has been reported that many government staff have been unable to report to work on time. It can therefore be assumed that this decision was made to give the staff the opportunity to watch the FIFA World Cup and have enough time to rest before going to work.

According to statistics published by the Civil Service Commission, as reported by local media this morning, the number of women working in Maldives civil service is 12% more than men.

In the Maldivian society, domestic responsibilities typically fall on women, with added work during the month of Ramadan for the preparation of the meals for the family in time for breaking fast.

Therefore, we believe that the decision regarding the Ramadan working hours have been made without giving consideration to how it would impact women working in public service.