CEDAW

CEDAW is a U.N. treaty known as the "international bill of rights" for women. It aims to eliminate discrimination against all women & girls. The U.S. is 1 of only 6 countries in the world that have not ratified CEDAW.

CEDAW: THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

WHAT DOES CEDAW DO?
CEDAW affirms the fundamental rights of women & girls & sets out a comprehensive framework to combat gender inequality & eliminate gender discrimination. CEDAW calls for policies that reflect the ways that a woman's multiple identities, including her race, nationality, ability, age, sexual orientation, & gender identity as well as economic & social status, impact her enjoyment of rights.

WHAT ARE COUNTRIES' OBLIGATIONS?
Countries that ratify CEDAW commit to respect, protect & fulfill women's rights & to eliminate all forms of gender discrimination through law, policy, & practice. They also commit to report on progress to the U.N. Committee set up to monitor CEDAW compliance. CEDAW is aimed at national governments, but provides useful guidance to local & state governments.
CEDAW BY THE ARTICLE
Modified from: UNWomen CEDAW for Youth Brief

Article 1: Definition of discrimination against women & girls
Discrimination against women & girls means different treatment from men & boys that prevents them from enjoying their human rights. It includes both direct & indirect discrimination.

Article 2: Policy measures
Countries must take action to promote equality & end discrimination against women & girls, by establishing laws & policies to protect them from discrimination.

Article 3: Guarantee of basic human rights & freedoms
Countries must guarantee that women & girls can enjoy their human rights & fundamental freedoms in every aspect of society.

Article 4: Special measures
Countries should adopt temporary special measures to accelerate progress towards gender equality.

Article 5: Roles based on stereotypes
Countries must work to change harmful gender stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination.

Article 6: Trafficking & prostitution
Countries must end the exploitation of prostitution & trafficking of women & girls.

Article 7: Political & public life
Countries must eliminate discrimination against women & girls in political & public life.

Article 8: Participation at the international level
Countries must ensure women & girls have equal rights to represent their country at the international level.

Article 9: Nationality
Countries must guarantee that women have equal rights with men to acquire, retain or change their nationality, & the nationality of their families.

Article 10: Education
Countries must take actions to end discrimination against women & girls & ensure equal rights in education.

Article 11: Employment
Countries must eliminate discrimination against women in employment, including ensuring equal opportunities to choose one’s profession & receive equal pay for work of equal value.

Article 12: Health
Countries shall take measures to guarantee equal access to healthcare services, including family planning & ensure availability of affordable services before, during, & after pregnancy.

Article 13: Economic & social life
Countries must eliminate discrimination against women & girls in economic & social life.

What is unique?
CEDAW defines what constitutes discrimination against women broadly to include sex-based distinctions, exclusions & restrictions that keep women from enjoying their human rights & fundamental freedoms. It highlights that culture, stereotypes & beliefs shape gender roles. CEDAW calls for proactive measures to address these concerns & specifically addresses family life & marriage.

Article 14: Rural girls & women
Countries must take account of the specific problems of rural women & girls.

Article 15: Law
Countries must guarantee women & girls equality before the law, including equal access to legal counsel, services, & resources.

Article 16: Marriage & family life
Countries shall eliminate discrimination against women in marriage & family relations; ensure that women have equal rights in their choice of whether & whom to marry, & in matters relating to birth, adoption, & childcare; guarantee equal property rights in marriage.

Articles 17-30: Treaty monitoring & implementation
Sets up a committee of experts to monitor progress of national governments, & lays out relevant rules & procedures.