



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 covered?

In its 30 articles, CEDAW addresses political & public life, including women's right to vote & to hold public office. It covers private as well as public conduct. It also requires measures to foster equal access & non-discrimination in education, employment, & health. CEDAW calls for equal pay & paid maternity leave. It provides a foundation to address violence against women, focusing on prevention & redress for survivors.

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.