

# CEDAW & YOU



## WHAT IS CEDAW?

CEDAW stands for the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**. It is a United Nations human rights instrument adopted in 1979 with 186 of 193 members as States Parties. Often described as an international “Bill of Rights” for women, it is one of the most widely recognised conventions in the world.

## HOW CAN I ENSURE THAT WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED IN MY COUNTRY?

- \* Keep yourself informed of laws and policies that affect women and women’s rights and lobby/speak out against discriminatory provisions and practices.
  - \* Join an NGO that is working in the area of women’s human rights or support such an organizations’ work.
  - \* Campaign for the human rights that are guaranteed by CEDAW and lobby to ensure that your government revises and updates national legislation dealing with women’s rights.
  - \* Monitor your country’s reporting status to CEDAW to ensure the Government is reporting regularly.
  - \* Prepare a shadow report to provide information to the CEDAW Committee that is lacking your government’s National Report.



## HAS CAYMAN SIGNED ONTO CEDAW?

In December 2013, the Cayman Islands Government submitted a request through Her Excellency the Governor to CEDAW extended to the territory. CEDAW is the only core international human rights treaty that the Cayman Islands has yet to sign onto through the United Kingdom, and we anticipate a positive response from the UK to be forthcoming. This request is a reflection of the Government’s commitment to ensuring equality between women and men and promoting a culture of human rights in our islands.



For more information about CEDAW please visit [www.genderequality.gov.ky](http://www.genderequality.gov.ky) or [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org).

# CEDAW AT A GLANCE

**Article 1: Definition of Discrimination** - Defines discrimination against women to include any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex that affects women's enjoyment of political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other rights, irrespective of marital status, on an equal basis with men

**Article 2: Policy Measures to be Taken** - Governments condemn discrimination against women in all its forms and will work to end it. Obliges states to take concrete steps (such as legislation) to eliminate discrimination against women.

**Article 3: Guarantee of Basic Human Rights** - Obliges states to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women not just by the state but by any person, organisation or enterprise

**Article 4: Temporary Special Measures** - Allows states to adopt temporary special measures to accelerate equality for women

**Article 5: Sex Roles and Stereotyping** - Recognises the role of culture and tradition and provides for the state to take appropriate measures to eliminate sex role stereotyping and practices that stem from the concept of inferiority or superiority of one sex over another, also stresses the need for family education to recognise the social function of motherhood and the common responsibility for raising children

**Article 6: Trafficking and Prostitution** - Requires states to suppress all forms of traffic in women and girls and exploitation of prostitution

**Article 7: Political and Public Life** - Obliges states to eliminate discrimination in the political and public life of the country

**Article 8: Participation at the International Level** - Obliges states to give women the equal opportunity to represent their governments and participate in the work of international organisations

**Article 9: Nationality** - Addresses the rights of women and their children in relation to nationality

**Article 10: Equal Rights in Education** - Obliges states to eliminate discrimination in education in relation to access and also to its substance

**Article 11: Employment** - Recognises the right to work as a human right and that women are to be ensured equal rights with men in employment; ensures the right to equal pay and treatment for work of equal value, prohibits discrimination on the grounds of pregnancy, maternity leave, marital status, etc.

**Article 12: Health Care and Family Planning** - States should take all appropriate measures to provide men and women equal access to health care services, including those related to family planning

**Article 13: Economic Life, Sports and Culture** - Addresses discrimination in economic, social and cultural life (i.e. with regard to family benefits; bank loans, mortgages and financial credit; participating in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life)

**Article 14: Rural Women** - Addresses in particular discrimination against rural women in relation to access to services, training and employment opportunities, etc.

**Article 15: Equality Before the Law** - Guarantees women equality with men before the law (i.e. legal capacity in civil matters, right to enter into contracts, right to choose residence and domicile, etc.)

**Article 16: Marriage and the Law** - Seeks to eliminate discriminate against women in all matters relating to marriage and family laws (i.e. right to enter marriage, rights during marriage and at dissolution, rights to children, etc.)

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