

MAIN POINTS

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Article 1 DEFINITION OF DISCRIMINATION. Any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex, which has the purpose or effect of denying equal exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields of human behavior.

Article 2 POLICY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION. Embody the principle of equality in national constitutions, codes or other laws, and ensure its practical realization.

- ◆ Establish institutions, including tribunals, to protect against discrimination.
- ◆ Ensure that public authorities and institutions refrain from discrimination.
- ◆ Take measures to abolish discrimination by any person, organization or enterprise.
- ◆ Abolish all existing laws, customs and regulations that discriminate against women.

Article 3 GUARANTEES BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH MEN.

Article 4 TEMPORARY SPECIAL MEASURES TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY. Temporary special measures may be adopted and must be discontinued when equality is achieved.

- ◆ Special measures to protect maternity are not considered.

Article 5 SEX ROLES AND STEREOTYPING. Social and cultural patterns must be modified to eliminate prejudice and customary practices based on assumptions of superiority or inferiority sex-role stereotypes and notions of the inferiority or superiority of either sex.

- ◆ Discriminatory practices based on the inferiority or superiority of either sex shall be eliminated.
- ◆ Ensure that family education teaches that men and women share a common responsibility in raising children.

Article 6 PROSTITUTION. Measures shall be taken to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution.

Article 7 POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE.

The right to vote in all elections and be eligible for election to all elected bodies.

- ◆ To participate in formulation of government policies at all levels of government.
- ◆ To participate in non-government organizations.

Article 8 PARTICIPATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. The opportunity to represent their country

at the international level and to participate in international organizations.

Article 9 NATIONALITY. Equal rights to acquire, change or retain their nationality.

Article 10 EDUCATION. Equal access to education and vocational guidance at all levels.

- ◆ Equal rights with respect to the nationality of their children.
- ◆ The same curricula, examinations, standards for teaching and equipment; encouragement of coeducation.
- ◆ Equal opportunity for scholarships and grants.
- ◆ Equal access to continuing education, including programs designed to eliminate the literacy gap between women and men.
- ◆ Elimination of stereotyping in education and textbooks.
- ◆ Measures for reduction of female dropout rates.
- ◆ Equal participation in sports and physical education.
- ◆ Equal access to health and family planning information.

Article 11 EMPLOYMENT. The same employment rights as men, including the right to work and equal selection criteria.

- ◆ Free choice of profession, employment and training.
- ◆ Equal remuneration and benefits, including equal treatment as to work of equal value.
- ◆ Social security.
- ◆ Occupational health and safety protection.
- ◆ Prohibition of dismissal on the basis of pregnancy or marital status.
- ◆ Maternity leave.
- ◆ Provision of social services to support the combination of family and work responsibilities.
- ◆ Special protection against harmful work during pregnancy, with a requirement to review protective legislation in light of scientific developments.

Article 12 HEALTH CARE AND FAMILY PLANNING. Equal access to health care.

- ◆ Appropriate pregnancy services.

Article 13 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS. Equal access to family benefits; loans and credit.

- ◆ Equal right to participate in recreational activities, sports, cultural life.

Article 14 RURAL WOMEN. Recognition of the particular problems of rural women, the special roles they play in economic survival of families and of their unpaid work.

- ◆ Ensure their equal participation in development.
- ◆ Right to participate in development planning and implementation.
- ◆ Access to health care and family planning services.
- ◆ Right to benefit directly from social security.
- ◆ Right to training and education, including extension services.
- ◆ Right to organize self-help groups and cooperatives.
- ◆ Right to participate in all community activities.
- ◆ Right to access to credit, loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology, and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform and resettlement.
- ◆ Right to adequate living conditions—housing, sanitation, electricity, water, transport and communications.

Article 15 EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW. Guarantee of the same legal capacity as men—to contract, administer property, appear in court or before tribunals.

- ◆ Contractual and other private restrictions on the legal capacity of women shall be declared null and void.
- ◆ Freedom of movement; right to choose their place of residence and domicile.

Article 16 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LAW. Equal rights and responsibilities with men in marriage and family relations.

- ◆ The right to choose a spouse and enter into marriage only with free and full consent.
- ◆ Equality during marriage and at its dissolution.
- ◆ The right to choose freely the number and spacing of children; access to information, education, and means to make that choice.
- ◆ The same personal rights as husband; right to choose family name, profession, or occupation.
- ◆ Equal rights and responsibilities regarding ownership, management and disposition of property.
- ◆ A minimum age and registration of marriage.

Articles 17-22 ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW).

Articles 23-30 ADMINISTRATION OF THE CONVENTION.

Source: *International Women's Action Watch*, October 1995