



## The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

### Article 1 – DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Definition: discrimination against women shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

### Article 2 – POLICY MEASURES TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION

Countries that ratify this treaty (state parties) undertake to – embody the principle of equality in national constitutions, codes or other laws, and ensure its practical realization – establish institutions to protect against discrimination – ensure that public authorities and institutions refrain from discrimination – modify all existing laws, customs and regulations that discriminate against women

### Article 3 – STATE PARTIES SHALL TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES INCLUDING LEGISLATION TO GUARANTEE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH MEN

Article 4 – ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY SPECIAL MEASURES TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY – temporary special measures to promote de facto equality may be adopted and must be discontinued when equality is achieved – special measures to protect maternity are not considered discriminatory

### Article 5 – SEX ROLES AND STEREOTYPING

– social and cultural patterns must be modified to eliminate sex-role stereotypes and notions of inferiority or superiority of either sex – family education shall teach that men and women share a common responsibility in the raising of children – practices based on ideas of inferiority or superiority of either sex shall be eliminated

### 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

State parties shall take measures to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life and shall ensure women's rights – to vote in all elections and be eligible for election to all elected bodies

– to participate in formulation of government policy and hold office at all levels of government – to participate in non-governmental organizations.

### Article 8 – PARTICIPATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

State parties shall ensure that women have the opportunity to represent their country at the international level and to participate in international organizations.

### Article 9 – NATIONALITY

Women shall have – equal rights to acquire, change or retain their nationality – equal rights concerning the nationality of their children

### Article 10 – EQUAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

State parties will take measures to eliminate discrimination against women in education to ensure – equal access to vocational guidance and education at all levels – the same curricula, examinations, standards for teaching and equipment – equal opportunity to scholarships and grants – equal access to continuing education, including literacy programmes – the 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

State parties will take appropriate measure to eliminate discrimination against women in employment to ensure – the same employment rights as men – free choice of profession, employment and training – equal remuneration, and benefits, including equal treatment as to work of equal value – equal rights to social security – occupational health and safety protection – prohibition of dismissal on the basis of pregnancy or marital status – provision of maternity leave – provision of social services, including child care, to support combining family, work, and public obligations – special protection against harmful work during pregnancy

### Article 12 – HEALTH CARE AND FAMILY PLANNING

– equal access to appropriate pregnancy, confinement, and the post-natal period services

### Article 13 – ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

– equal access to family benefits, loans and credits – equal rights to participate in recreational activities, sports, cultural life

### Article 14 – RURAL WOMEN

State parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and shall ensure – recognition of these problems, of the special roles women play in economic survival of families and of women's unpaid work – equal participation in development planning and implementation thereof – women's right to benefit directly from social security – women's right to training and education – women's right to organize in self-help groups and cooperatives – women's right to participate in all community activities, their right to access to credit, loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology, and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform and resettlement – their right to adequate living conditions – housing, sanitation, electricity, water, transport, and communications

### Article 15 – EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW

State parties must guarantee to women – equality before the law – the same legal capacity as men – to contract, administer property, appear in court or before tribunals – freedom of movement; the right to choose residence and domicile – contractual and other private restriction on legal capacity of women shall be declared null and void

### Article 16 – MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LAW

State parties shall take measures to ensure equal rights and responsibilities with men in marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on the basis of equality of men and women – the right to freely enter into marriage and choose a spouse – equality during marriage and its dissolution – the right to choose freely the number and spacing of children; access to information, education and means to make that choice – equal rights to guardianship and adoption of children – the same personal rights as husband; right to choose a family name, profession, or occupation – equal rights and responsibilities regarding ownership, management, and disposition of property – a minimum age and registration of marriage

LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

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