

# Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

**Summary:** Often described as an international **bill of rights for women**, consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes **discrimination against women** and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. The treaty applies to **all state parties** and covers **all women, regardless of status**.

**Article 1** defines “discrimination against women.”

**Article 2** provides that each State Party condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, and agree to enact a policy of eliminating discrimination against women, with specific measures included.

**Article 4** addresses the adoption by States Parties of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women.

**Article 5** addresses specific measures to be taken by State Parties.

**Article 6** states that “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and

exploitation of prostitution of women.”

**Article 9** provides that “States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality. They shall ensure in particular that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of the husband.” States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children.

**Article 11** addresses the equal rights of women to work.

**Article 13** provides that States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life, including the right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life.

**Article 14** addresses the particular problems faced by rural women and lays out specific measures for State Parties to adopt.

**Article 15** provides that States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. “States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile.”

**Article 15** addresses the right to marriage, maintaining that women shall have the same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent; the same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children; the same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children, or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation.

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Entry into force: 3 September 1981

Access status [here](#).

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