



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on **18 December 1979**, entered into force on **03 September 1981**. The Convention was acceded to, by Mauritius on **09 July 1988**.

Objectives

The **30 articles** of the Convention lay emphasis on:

- Advancing women's rights.
- Incorporating the principle of equality of men and women in legal systems.
- Abolishing all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women.
- The CEDAW Committee which monitors progress regarding implementation of CEDAW through examination of reports submitted by State Parties.

Optional Protocol

An Optional Protocol to the CEDAW was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 06 October 1999. It was signed on **11 November 2001** and ratified on **31 October 2008** by Mauritius. It establishes both communications and inquiry procedures to allow women to submit claims of violations of their rights and for the Committee to initiate enquiries into these situations of violations of women's rights.

Domestication

The CEDAW has been domesticated in Mauritius in various legislations namely:

- The Equal Opportunities Act (Sections 5,6 & 7),
- The Workers' Rights Act (Sections 45, 47, 48, 52 & 53),
- The Constitution (Sections 3, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 & 24),
- The Education Act (Sections 33, 33A & 33B)
- The Children's Act (Section 19),
- The Sports Act (Sections 28, 29 & 30)
- The Small and Medium Enterprise Act (Sections 2 & 8), and the
- The Social Aid Act


Status

- The 8th Periodic Report of the State of Mauritius was submitted on 19 June 2018 and the next Periodic Report is due to be submitted in November 2022.



Provisions

Article 1	Defines discrimination against women as; “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...”
Article 2	State parties ratifying this convention declare their intent to enshrine gender equality into their domestic legislation and repeal all discriminatory provision in their laws.
Article 3	State parties must guarantee the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms to women “on a basis of equality with men”.
Article 4	Adoption of special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discrimination.
Article 5	State Parties must ensure the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children.
Article 6	States parties must "take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.”
Article 7	To ensure women equality in political and public life with a focus on “equality in voting...and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.”
Article 8	States parties must take appropriate measures to guarantee women's equal "opportunity to represent their Government at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations."
Article 9	Mandates state parties to "grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality" and equal rights "with respect to the nationality of their children.”
Article 10	Mandates equal opportunity in education for female students and provides equal access to athletics, scholarships and grants.
Article 11	Outlines the right to work for women, equal pay for equal work, the right to social security, paid and maternity leave.

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a diverse group of women. The background is a collage of various shades of purple, pink, and orange. In the foreground, several women are depicted from the chest up. One woman at the top center has dark curly hair and wears white-rimmed glasses. To her left, a woman with dark hair is shown in profile, shouting with her mouth wide open. To the right, a woman with long brown hair is shown in profile, looking towards the left. Below her, a woman with dark hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a blue top and making a peace sign with her right hand. In the bottom center, a woman with long dark hair and a white pearl earring looks forward. To her right, a woman with dark skin is shown from the chest up, wearing a blue top and making a fist with her right hand. In the bottom right, a woman with dark skin is shown from the chest up, wearing a white hijab and a pink top. The overall style is flat and graphic, with bold colors and simple shapes.

Article 12	Calls upon State Parties to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of healthcare.
Article 13	Guarantees equality to women "in economic and social life," Right to bank loans, family benefits and mortgages.
Article 14	Provides protections for rural women and their special problems, ensuring the right of women to participate in development programs.
Article 15	Right to cultural life, to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress.
Article 16	Prohibits "discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations."
Article 17-24	Describes the composition and procedures of the CEDAW Committee and the obligation of States to take all steps necessary to implement CEDAW in full form.
Article 25-30	Describes the general administrative procedures concerning enforcement of CEDAW and ratification and reservations of concerned States.