

CEDAW

For Adolescents

Convention on the Elimination of all forms
of Discrimination against Women in brief

Policy and practice

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About this booklet

What can you learn from this booklet?

In this booklet, you will learn about an important international agreement called the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, or CEDAW. It is often described as the international bill of rights for women.

In reading CEDAW, you will learn what governments around the world have agreed to do so that discrimination against girls and women can be eliminated. At the end is a list of words and what they mean. The list, or the WORD BANK, will help you understand and learn words that may be new to you.

Whom is this booklet meant for?

The General Assembly of the United Nations has called on UNICEF, and all parts of the United Nations system, to inform people about what CEDAW says. This booklet has been written by UNICEF with and for adolescent girls and boys, ages 10–19 years, to learn about CEDAW.¹ We encourage you to share this information with your parents, your teachers, your friends and anyone else you think would be interested.

CEDAW is for all girls and women.

Remember, by 'girls and women' we mean all girls and women, from all backgrounds, of every age, including girls with disabilities and indigenous girls and women.

¹ This booklet was originally developed by UNICEF in 2011 in consultation with adolescents. The current version has been adapted by UNICEF Pacific to support the Pacific Technical Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Suva Fiji, April 2025.

About CEDAW

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is an international document which lists the rights of all girls and women. It is an important agreement about equality between girls/women and boys/men. CEDAW says all discrimination against girls and women must end. In some parts of the world, girls and women are treated differently or unfairly because of being a girl or a woman, even though they have the same rights as boys and men. As a result of this discrimination, girls and women may not get a proper education and health care. Women may not be able to get jobs, vote or run for elections. Girls and women may also face various kinds of violence. Girls and women who live with disabilities, are indigenous, live in rural and maritime areas, are poor, or belong to different cultural groups, may face a lot more discrimination. With the idea of ending discrimination faced by all girls and women, the United Nations accepted CEDAW on 18 December 1979. As of 2025, 189 countries² have ratified CEDAW. In the Pacific, 12 countries have ratified the convention³. By ratification we mean the governments have agreed to do everything possible to guarantee the rights in CEDAW, including making them a part of their own laws. So governments that have ratified CEDAW have a duty to end discrimination faced by girls and women in their country.

CEDAW calls for positive change in the lives of girls and women

CEDAW says that governments should do all they can so that girls and women are treated equally. Governments must make sure that nothing stops girls and women from enjoying their rights (such as stereotypes about girls and women – see Word Bank for explanation on stereotypes). According to CEDAW, governments should take all necessary or special actions that may be required to make sure girls and women actually experience equality in their lives. This relates to the concept of ‘substantive equality’ which calls for actions or steps to be taken to ensure equal access, equal opportunities and equal results for girls and women. For example, both girls and boys should be able to go to school. However, this is not enough for equality between girls and boys in education. They should both also receive an education of good quality, have equal chances to participate in class, be encouraged to study any subjects they choose and to take on leadership roles in school. In addition, girls and boys should, on an equal basis, be able to complete their education, earn a diploma and have equal chances to get a job.

² https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4&clang=_en

³ Pacific Island Countries and Territories that have ratified include the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

What are Rights?

Rights (or human rights) are things that every person has that describe what she or he is entitled to. For example, everyone has the right to life, to choose their religion, and to be protected from violence. These rights are written in an international document called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which was agreed by the United Nations in 1948. All people have the same rights and all rights are equally important. The UDHR clearly says that girls and women and boys and men have the same rights. The rights of all children are laid out in more detail in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The CRC says these rights apply equally to all girls and boys. For example, all girls and boys have the right to food and health care, the right to go to school and the right to be protected from violence and abuse. All girls and boys also have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

What is a Convention?

A convention is an agreement between countries to behave a certain way. Conventions about human rights are promises between governments that they will treat the people who live in their countries in a particular manner. A convention sets standards or rules that must be followed to protect human rights. Conventions can also be called treaties, covenants, international agreements or legal instruments. When a country ratifies a convention, it often changes its own laws so that the goal of the convention can be reached. Conventions put a legal obligation on governments to do all they can to respect the rights in it.

What is Discrimination?

Discrimination means treating men and women or boys and girls differently in a way that is unfair and that disadvantages a person or group for any reason such as being a girl or a boy, belonging to a particular race or religion or having different abilities, and so on. When people are discriminated against, they cannot enjoy their rights. Discrimination against girls and women means directly or indirectly treating girls and women differently from boys and men in a way which prevents them from enjoying their rights.

Girls and women experience specific forms of discrimination just because they are girls and women. Direct discrimination against girls and women is generally easier to recognize as the discrimination is quite obvious. For example, in some countries, women cannot legally own property or land; they are forbidden by law to take certain jobs; or the customs of a community may not permit girls to go for higher education. Indirect discrimination against girls and women can be difficult to recognize. It refers to situations that may appear to be unbiased but result in unequal treatment of girls and women. For example, a job for a police officer may have minimum height and weight criteria which women may find difficult to fulfill. As a result, women may be unable to become police officers. Or, there may be a secondary school that equally gives admission to both girls and boys but is situated far from the community in which they live. If parents in the community feel that it is unsafe for their daughters to walk the long distance to go to school, they may choose to only send their sons to school. In this way, girls may be stopped from going to secondary school despite it being available for their enrolment. It is important to remember that CEDAW reinforces the rights listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights agreements.

Do you know CRC and CEDAW are interconnected?

Children's rights and women's rights are connected. Women who have had a good education are much better at supporting the education of their children, especially their daughters. Protecting the rights of girls helps make sure their rights will be protected when they grow up and become women.

Using the CRC and CEDAW together works better for the rights of girls and women at all stages of their lives. Both CRC and CEDAW highlight that:

- Girls have a right to education, health and nationality.
- All forms of violence against girls and women, such as trafficking and prostitution, must end.
- Discrimination and being treated unfairly because of being a girl must end.
- Both parents are responsible for raising their children.
- Play, rest and leisure are important for all children.
- These rights are applicable in family life as well.
- Governments must do all they can to make sure girls' rights are protected.



Why care about CEDAW?

Although CEDAW mainly refers to 'women', the convention reflects a life cycle approach

- CEDAW helps girls and women of every age to claim their rights

Even though CEDAW mainly refers to 'women' and not 'girls', CEDAW helps girls to claim their rights at all stages of their lives: from when they are born to when they are little girls, adolescents, grown-up women and through old age. If a girl learns how to claim her rights while she is still a child, she is more likely to be able to enjoy her rights as a woman.

- CEDAW calls upon governments to take action to end discrimination of girls and women

CEDAW demands that governments change laws and customs in their country so that girls and women are not discriminated against in any way. CEDAW protects girls and women from discrimination in areas such as education, health, work, marriage and family life.

- Being aware of girls' and women's rights is the first step towards ending discrimination faced by girls and women

When girls and boys take time to learn more about girls' and women's rights and what governments should do to stop discrimination of girls and women, they are already helping. Girls and boys should know they have the same rights.

Why should boys and men care about CEDAW

When girls and women exercise their rights, it benefits everyone, including boys and men. Educated, healthy and skilled girls and women, and also boys and men, come together to build a better future for themselves, their families, communities and nations. Boys' and men's attitudes make a difference. When boys and men support girls and women to claim their rights, they have better relationships with girls and women in their lives. Boys and men can support girls and women in realising their rights in many ways. In their homes, schools and communities, boys and men can change attitudes and behaviour towards girls and women. Boys and men can also make girls and women feel safe, encouraged and supported to assert the rights that CEDAW says they have.

CEDAW At-a-Glance

- Article 1:** Definition of discrimination against girls and women
- Article 2:** Policy measures
- Article 3:** Guarantee of basic human rights and freedoms
- Article 4:** Special measures
- Article 5:** Roles based on stereotypes
- Article 6:** Trafficking and prostitution
- Article 7:** Political and public life
- Article 8:** Participation at the international level
- Article 9:** Nationality
- Article 10:** Education
- Article 11:** Employment
- Article 12:** Health
- Article 13:** Economic and social life
- Article 14:** Rural girls and women
- Article 15:** Law
- Article 16:** Marriage and family life
- Article 17–22:** Establishment and function of the CEDAW Committee
- Articles 23–30:** Implementing the Convention

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CEDAW has 30 articles. These articles explain what girls' and women's rights are and what governments should do to end discrimination against them.

Articles 1–16 of CEDAW outline the different things governments must do to end discrimination against girls and women. It also lists specific areas where discrimination against girls and women must end, like laws, marriage, education, health care, and employment.

Articles 17–22 of CEDAW set up a committee of international experts called the CEDAW Committee (or the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women). The CEDAW Committee monitors whether governments that ratified CEDAW are doing enough to end discrimination against girls and women.

Articles 23–30 of CEDAW mention how the United Nations and governments should work together to make sure the rights of all girls and women are protected.

Below you will read CEDAW in brief.

Article 1: definition of discrimination against girls and women

Discrimination against girls and women means directly or indirectly treating girls and women differently from boys and men in a way which prevents them from enjoying their rights.⁴

Article 2: policy measures

Governments must not allow discrimination against girls and women. There must be laws and policies to protect them from any discrimination. All national laws and policies must be based on equality of girls and women and boys and men. There should be punishment for not following the law.

⁴ All 'girls' and 'women' are used throughout to mean all groups and age groups of Pacific girls and women, including indigenous girls and women, elderly women, girls, girls and women living with disabilities, lesbian and bisexual women, urban poor girls and women, girls and women in rural and maritime areas, and girls and women on the climate frontline.

Article 3: guarantee of basic human rights and freedoms

Governments must take actions in all fields – political, social, economic, and cultural – to ensure girls and women can enjoy basic human rights and freedoms.

The Constitutions of the majority of Pacific Island countries contain provisions against discrimination on the basis of sex and gender. A few examples of laws and customary practices that protect girls' and women's rights: In Solomon Islands, the 2018 Citizenship Act removed discriminatory legislation – including acquisition and loss of citizenship according to marriage that only applied to women. The Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Samoa all have national legislation which prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of sex in both the public and the private sectors. In Fiji, maternity and pregnancy are specified as prohibited grounds for discrimination. In the Cook Islands and Samoa, women are entitled to six weeks paid maternity leave.

Article 4: special measures

Governments should take special measures or special actions to end discrimination against girls and women. The special actions that favour girls and women are not a way of discriminating against boys and men. They are meant to speed up equality between girls and women and boys and men. These specific measures should last until equality between girls and women and boys and men is achieved.

Article 5: roles based on stereotypes

Governments must work to change stereotypes about girls and women and boys and men, especially if these roles are based on boys and men being considered better than women and girls.

Article 6: Trafficking and prostitution

Governments must take action, including making new laws, to end trafficking and prostitution of girls and women.

In some countries, if a woman marries a man from another country, their children cannot take on the mother's nationality. Only their father can pass his nationality on to the children. In other cases, a woman may have to give up her nationality and take on the nationality of her husband if he is from another country. This is a form of discrimination against women. For example, in Kiribati's immigration and citizenship laws allow female, but not male, foreigners to become Kiribati citizens upon marriage to a Kiribati citizen, therefore discriminating against I-Kiribati women who marry foreign citizens. This is why CEDAW mentions girls' and women's right to their own nationality.

Article 7: political and public life

Women have the same right to vote and be elected to government positions. Girls and women have the right to take part in the decisions a government makes and the way it carries them out. They have the right to participate in non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Article 8: participation at the international level

Girls and women have the right to represent their country at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations [such as the United Nations, the European Union, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, among many others].

Article 9: nationality

Girls and women have the right to have a nationality, and to change it if they want. A woman's nationality must not be changed automatically just because she got married, or because her husband changed his nationality. Women can pass on their nationality to their children, the same as men.

Stereotypes are the commonly held beliefs about roles of girls and women and boys and men, based on traditions and customs. For example, in some countries, it is believed that girls and women should stay at home and not go out to work, that girls and women should not play sports, or that boys and men should not do household work, and so on. While women comprise more than half of the labour market yet still continue to face severe problems of discrimination in the Pacific.

Article 10: Education

Governments must end discrimination against girls and women in education. Girls and women have a right to education, just as boys and men do. Girls and women should have access to career guidance and professional training at all levels; to studies and schools; to examinations, teaching staff, school buildings, and equipment; and opportunities to get scholarships and grants, the same as boys and men. Girls and women have the right to take part in sports and physical education, and to get specific information to ensure the health and well-being of families. Governments should make sure girls do not drop out of school. They should also help girls and women who have left school early to return and complete their education.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is an international group of experts that monitors governments who ratify CEDAW. These governments have to submit a report to the CEDAW Committee every four years to show what they have done to end discrimination against girls and women in their countries. Based on the report, the CEDAW Committee makes suggestions about what that government can do to improve the situation of girls and women in that country.

Article 11: Employment

Women have a right to work just like men. They should be able to join a profession of their choice. Women must have the same chances to find work, get equal pay, promotions and training and have access to healthy and safe working conditions. Women should not be discriminated against because they are married, pregnant, just had a child or are looking after children. Women should get the same assistance from the government for retirement, unemployment, sickness and old age.

Article 12: Health

Governments must make sure that girls and women are not discriminated against in health care. Girls and women must get health care on the same terms as boys and men. In particular, women have the right to services related to family planning and pregnancy.

Article 13: Economic and social life

Girls and women have the same rights as boys and men in all areas of economic and social life, like getting family benefits, getting bank loans and taking part in sports and cultural life.

Family benefits are special benefits for families with challenges, like poor families, or families whose children have special needs. In some countries, girls and women in rural and maritime areas are disadvantaged compared to urban girls and women. On average in the region, 50% of ever partnered rural women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence. In Fiji, 60% of rural women compared to 27% of urban women are in vulnerable employment. Despite a decline in teenage pregnancy across the Pacific, fertility rates amongst 15–19 year old girls and women tend to be significantly higher in rural than in urban areas. This is why rural girls' and women's rights are given special attention in CEDAW.

Article 14: Rural girls and women

Governments must do something about the problems of girls and women who live in rural areas and help them look after and contribute to their families and communities. Girls and women in rural areas must be supported to take part in and benefit from rural development, health care, loans, education and proper living conditions, just like boys and men do. Rural girls and women have a right to set up their own groups and associations.

Article 15: Law

Girls and women and boys and men are equal before the law, including laws about freedom to go where they choose, choosing where to live, signing contracts and buying and selling properties. Women have the same 'legal capacity' as men.

When a property owner passes away, their land ownership is typically transferred according to inheritance laws. While female heirs may claim land ownership, land and inheritance laws may favour male heirs. For example, women may be excluded from decisions regarding indigenous and shared land through traditional decision-making processes favouring men. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women have noted examples of such practices in Fiji and in Solomon Islands. However, in the Federated States of Micronesia, land use rights are inherited through the mother's clan. In Vanuatu, the 2013 Custom Land Management Act allows for the participation of women in customary institutions which are involved in decision-making regarding land matters. In the Republic of the Marshall Islands, female clan-heads participate in community meetings deciding on land matters.

Article 16: Marriage and family life

Women have the same rights as men to choose whom they marry, the number of children they want to have and to care for them when they are born. Women also have the equal right to the property that they get with their husband while they are married. To end child marriage, governments must set a lowest age for marriage and make sure this is followed. All marriages must be registered (officially recorded with the government).

Article 17–22:

These articles set up the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the CEDAW Committee) to review what progress has been made by countries. These articles say how the Committee works.

Child marriage is a marriage which takes place when one or both of the people getting married is below 18 years of age. This is in keeping with the CRC, which categorizes a person below the age of 18 as a child. Boys are affected by child marriage, but it affects girls much more. In the Pacific, one in every five girls marry before the age of 18, and this increases to one in four in some rural areas. Girls who are married early are at risk of facing violence, abuse and exploitation and may not be able to continue their education.

Article 23–30:

These articles deal with the administration (or management) of the Convention. The articles say how the United Nations and governments should work together to make sure rights of girls and women are protected. The articles also say how disagreements between governments about girls' and women's rights can be settled.

The Optional Protocol to CEDAW

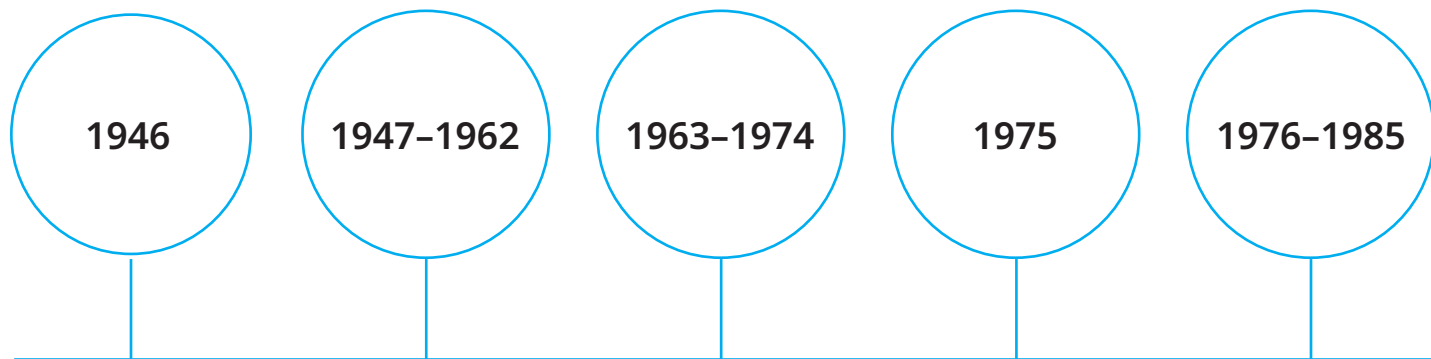
An Optional Protocol is another kind of international agreement, like a treaty. It is connected to a convention. Optional Protocols include things that may not have been covered fully in that convention. The Optional Protocol to CEDAW is an international document that adds to CEDAW. It lets girls and women (alone or in a group) make a complaint to the CEDAW Committee if their rights have been violated. It also allows the CEDAW Committee to investigate a situation if there have been serious and widespread violations of girls' and women's rights. This way the Optional Protocol to CEDAW further protects the rights of girls and women.

What about CEDAW and Climate Change?

There are no references to the environment, climate or disasters in the text of CEDAW. This is not surprising as the connection between climate change and gender equality had not been established at the time of drafting of CEDAW. Since CEDAW is a dynamic and living instrument the CEDAW committee observes that realities of climate change will negatively affect the realization of girls and women's equal rights. However, it is important to recognize that girls and women are not powerless in the face of climate change.

History of CEDAW: A snapshot

How did CEDAW come into being?
Read below to find out.



BIRTH OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The United Nations asks a group of experts belonging to various governments to recommend ways to improve the lives of women. This group is known as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The CSW works for women.

SECURING THE LEGAL FOUNDATIONS OF GENDER EQUALITY

The CSW develops a number of agreements that protect women's right to their nationality, and also their rights in politics and marriage.

PROMOTING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The CSW starts to prepare an international agreement called the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. This document talks about the equal rights of women and men. Although governments agree to the Declaration, this does not require them to take on a legal duty.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

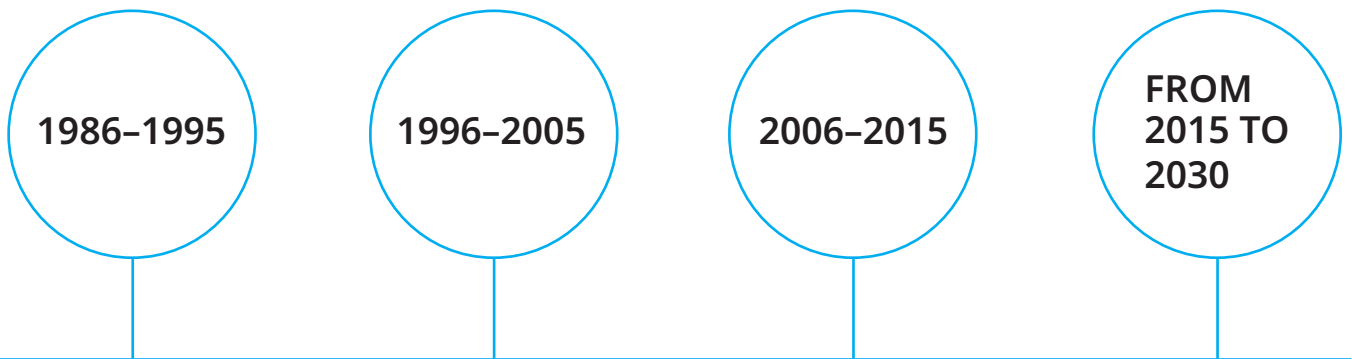
This year is the UN International Women's Year. A World Conference is held where it is agreed that a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women should be written. A convention is different from a declaration because it sets up a legal duty for governments.

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN

The United Nations agrees that it needs a Convention. It also makes these ten years the United Nations Decade for Women. On the 18 December 1979, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is agreed by the United Nations General Assembly.



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PUTTING WOMEN ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA

In 1995, at the Fourth World Conference on Women, leaders and activists came together to create a visionary roadmap for achieving equal rights for girls and women. This roadmap, known as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, became the most widely endorsed global agenda for women's rights.

ADVANCING PROGRESS FOR WOMEN

Progress towards the Platform for Action five years after its adoption was reviewed. The Beijing Platform for Action confirmed gender mainstreaming as a key strategy for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women, through all policies and programmes.

ACCELERATING THE REALIZATION OF GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

In 2015, the Commission recognized that no country had fully achieved equality and empowerment for girls and women and that new challenges had emerged in the implementation of the Platform for Action. Member States pledged to achieve measurable results by 2020 and full gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030.

REALIZING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL GIRLS AND WOMEN

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Commission elaborated a detailed roadmap to ensure no girl or woman would be left behind. In 2025, the Beijing declaration will mark its 30th anniversary that opens new opportunity to regenerate commitment for the realization of gender quality and the empowerment of girls and women everywhere.



QUIZ Time

Do you know more about girls' rights after reading this booklet? Check for yourself. (Remember to pick all options that apply.)

1. What does CEDAW stand for?

- a Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- b Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
- c Convention on Ending Discrimination against Women

2. CEDAW applies to:

- a Women only.
- b Girls and women of all ages.
- c Adolescent girls and women only.

3. By 2025, how many countries had ratified CEDAW?

- a 24
- b 189
- c 99

4. CEDAW says:

- a All discrimination against girls and women must end.
- b There should be equality between girls/women and boys/men.
- c Girls have a right to participate without any discrimination in all aspects of life.

5. CEDAW says:

- a Girls should not go to school when they have housework.
- b Girls can go to school, but only boys should get professional training.
- c Girls and women have a right to education on an equal basis with boys and men.

6. Which human rights agreements describe girls' rights:

- a Convention on the Rights of the Child
- b Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- c Universal Declaration of Human Rights

7. Based on CEDAW, it is enough for governments to:

- a Make laws and policies to end discrimination faced by girls and women.
- b Change customs and traditions that discriminate against girls and women.
- c Take all actions required so that girls and women actually experience equality in their lives.

8. Regarding marriage, CEDAW says:

- a Marriage can take place at any age, if parents of the bride and groom agree.
- b Governments should specify a minimum age for marriage.
- c If local customs and traditions are followed, marriages do not need to be registered.

9. Boys and men should:

- a Know about girls' and women's rights.
- b Support girls and women to claim their rights.
- c Not care about CEDAW because it is about girls' and women's rights.

10. The Optional Protocol to CEDAW:

- a Is an international agreement.
- b Allows girls and women to bring complaints to the attention of the CEDAW Committee.
- c Further protects the rights of girls and women.

Answers for the quiz:

1(A) 2(B) 3(B) 4(all three) 5(C) 6(all three) 7(C) 8(B) 9(A&B) 10(all three)





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WORD BANK

Some of the difficult words in the booklet are explained here.

Adopt	To formally accept (for example, a convention or a declaration).
Articles	A paragraph or a section in a legal document that is numbered; these numbers make it easy to find information, and to write and talk about it.
Child marriage	A marriage which takes place when one or both of the people getting married is below 18 years of age. This is in keeping with the CRC, which categorizes a person below the age of 18 as a child. Boys are affected by child marriage, but it affects girls much more. Girls who are married early are at risk of facing violence, abuse and exploitation and may not be able to continue their education. Child marriage harms the health of young mothers as well as their babies. Girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are more likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth than women in their twenties.
Community	A group of people who live in the same area. It also means people with the same interests or concerns.

Convention	An agreement between countries to behave a certain way. Conventions about human rights are promises between governments that they will treat the people who live in their countries in a particular manner. A convention sets standards or rules that must be followed to protect human rights. Conventions can also be called treaties, covenants, international agreements or legal instruments. When a country ratifies a convention, it often changes its own laws so that the goal of the convention can be reached. Conventions put a legal obligation on governments to do all they can to respect the rights in it.
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	An international agreement to ensure that all children enjoy their rights and have the special care and protection they need as children. The United Nations adopted the CRC in 1989. Almost every country has agreed to these rights.
Custom	An accepted or traditional practice, either of a person or a community.
Declaration	An international document that lists the standards that are required for countries to follow on a certain human rights issue. A declaration does not put a legal obligation on governments to follow what it contains. This is an important way in which it is different from a convention (see explanation of Convention above).
Discrimination	Unfair treatment of a person or group for any reason such as belonging to a certain race, religion, sex or having different abilities.
Economic	Everything to do with the money system and financial matters. Family benefits: Special benefits for families with challenges, like poor families, or families whose children have special needs.
Family planning	Involves planning when and how many children to have. Implementation: To put something into effect. Implementing the articles of the Convention means making its promises a reality.
Indigenous peoples	People whose ancestors belonged to a particular area or country before invasions and colonization. They are descendants of the original people or occupants of these lands. Indigenous peoples are sometimes known as first people or native people.
Legal	Relating to, based on, or required by the law. Legal capacity: The ability to manage legal matters. Optional Protocol: An add-on to an existing convention which deals with things not covered fully by the convention. It is another kind of international agreement, like a treaty. It is connected to a convention.
Policy	A set of rules or a plan that is used as a guide for action.
Ratification (or ratify)	When a country ratifies a convention, it becomes a legal promise by the government. Ratification often leads the government to adapt and change its own laws to support the goals of the convention. The United Nations publishes a list of countries that have ratified CEDAW. To see online if your country has ratified the Convention, go to http://treaties.un.org/Home.aspx?lang=en Under 'Frequently Accessed', click 'Status of Treaties (MTDSG)', then click 'CHAPTER IV Human Rights', followed by clicking '8. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. New York, 18 December 1979.
Rights (or human rights)	Things that every person has that describe what she or he is entitled to. For example, everyone has the right to life, to choose their religion, and to be protected from violence. These rights are written in an international document called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which was agreed by the United Nations in 1948. All people have the same rights and all rights are equally important. The UDHR clearly says that girls and women and boys and men have the same rights.

Stereotypes	Commonly held beliefs about roles of girls and women and boys and men in society, based on traditions and customs. For example, in some countries, there is the stereotype that girls and women should stay at home and not go out to work, or girls and women should not play sports, or boys and men should not do household work, and so on.
Trafficking	Trafficking in people means recruiting (misinforming or tricking a person by promising a well-paid job) or transporting (moving a person from one place to another) or transferring (changing hands – handing over a person to another trafficker) or harboring (keeping a person under watch for a certain period of time) or receiving of people from one place to another for the purpose of exploitation. In other words, trafficking occurs when someone is taken from the place where she or he lives (or is from) to another place for the purpose of being exploited. Many times, children and women are trafficked for low-paid work or sex. Trafficking can be within a country, for example from rural to urban areas, or across the borders of different countries.
UNICEF	The United Nations Children’s Fund. It is the agency of the United Nations that works for children’s rights, survival, development and protection, in order to make the world a better and safer place for children and for all of us.
United Nations	An organization of almost every country in the world. Governments meet at the United Nations in New York and work together for peace and a better world.
Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)	Signed on 10 December 1948 by all the member countries of the United Nations, this agreement lists the rights of all people.

**Kakae blong
givim pawa**

**Kakae
blong
blokem sik**



50 → siksti soixante
1 → soixante e
2 → soixante-d

Learn More

If you would like to learn more about girls' rights, you can contact local organizations in your community that promote girls' and women's rights. Speak to trusted adults around you on this issue, including your teachers or parents. The material at the online links below will also help you to learn more.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights for children and adolescents

- http://www.eycb.coe.int/compasito/chapter_6/pdf/1.pdf

The Convention on the Rights of the Child: The children's version

- <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text-childrens-version>

It's About Ability – An Explanation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons

- https://www.unicef.org/media/85751/file/Its_About_Ability_Learning_Guide_EN.pdf

UN Study on Violence Against Children

- <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/content/un-study-violence-against-children>

Our Right to be Protected from Violence: Activities for Learning and Taking Action for Children and Young People

- <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/3013.pdf/>

One Step Beyond: Advocacy Handbook for Children and Young People

- https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/1787_0.pdf/

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

- <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2016/CEDAW-for-Youth.pdf>

UNICEF

Pacific Multi Country Office

Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati,
Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI),
Federated States of Micronesia
(FSM), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa,
Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga,
Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

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unicef 

for every child