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# **IPPF CHARTER GUIDELINES** **ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**



International  
Planned  
Parenthood  
Federation

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# FOREWORD

The Guidelines support IPPF's Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, explaining the rights in the Charter in practical terms and highlighting the Charter as an effective advocacy tool.

The Guidelines also discuss sexual and reproductive rights in relation to the law. They provide practical examples of how each right can be used to campaign for or against a particular issue and they clarify the ways in which non-governmental organizations can contribute to the international human rights process.

IPPF member associations and other non-governmental organizations have been using the Charter and the Guidelines since the mid-1990s to assist in their programme and advocacy work. The Charter remains a core value in IPPF's new Strategic Plan, and the Guidelines continue to be a valuable supporting instrument. I sincerely hope that member associations and other organizations will go on using the Charter and the Guidelines to further advance sexual and reproductive health and rights in the future.



**Dr. Steven W. Sinding**  
Director-General

# INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE IPPF CHARTER ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

This publication is designed to assist readers within member associations and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to use the IPPF Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights effectively to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights. These guidelines have been designed to explain:-

- what the rights embodied in the Charter mean in practical terms, and
- how the Charter can be used as an effective advocacy tool.

It consists of the following sections:-

- This introduction, which gives an overview of the contents of the Guidelines and also a brief introduction to the Charter.
- A short section on reproductive rights and the law, to assist member associations to increase awareness and understanding of the implications of legislation regarding sexual and reproductive rights in their countries. This section suggests a possible framework to use to diagnose the legal situation, document rights violations, and various strategies for holding governments accountable for promises they have made by ratifying human rights conventions.
- Know your rights: under each of the 12 rights identified in the Charter, practical programme issues are listed, which the right can be used either to campaign for, or against. This section also refers to the contents of the “Standards” section of the Charter under this right; see below for a brief explanation of the structure of the Charter, which outlines the purpose of the “Standards” section. Although this section outlines the various interests that may be advanced under each of the rights identified in the Charter, the location of any issue under a specific right does not preclude action being taken on that issue under another right.
- A brief explanation of how NGOs can contribute to the international human rights process, which uses the example of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women<sup>1</sup> to explain how NGOs can participate in the reporting process, thereby undertaking both human rights education within their own countries and encouraging governments’ accountability for the undertakings they have voluntarily entered into by signing the various human rights conventions. Reference is also made to regional conventions, such as the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights; the American Convention on Human Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights, and brief explanations of how they are monitored.
- Three case studies of member association project initiatives, in Colombia, Palestine and Senegal, where a legal rights approach has been used to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights by offering legal services to clients.
- A worked example of how a particular topic - violence against women - can be addressed by member associations and other NGOs by using the Charter, accurately diagnosing the legal situation, and using human rights processes effectively.
- Appendix I, which lists the countries that have ratified the four conventions on which the Charter rights are mostly based - the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Appendix II, which consists of a diagram explaining the process by which the Women’s Convention can be used to advance women’s human rights.

- Appendix III, which consists of a brief bibliography that lists a few key resources for NGOs wishing to know more about the connection between reproductive health and human rights.
- Appendix IV, which consists of a list of international and regional human rights organizations.

### A brief introduction to the IPPF Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The Charter has been designed as a tool to increase the capacity of member associations and other NGOs to undertake effective human rights advocacy within the field of sexual and reproductive health. The Charter has three key objectives:-

- To raise awareness of the extent to which sexual and reproductive rights have already been recognized as human rights issues
- To make clear the connection between human rights language and key programme issues relevant to sexual and reproductive rights - to make the link between, for example, the right to privacy and the right to confidentiality when seeking sexual and reproductive health care services
- To increase the capacity of NGOs to participate in human rights processes

### Structure of the Charter

- Twelve rights have been identified, all of which appear in international human rights instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women. All rights have been extrapolated from sources that are international, not regional in scope, and are laid out in the following way:-

- The first section defines the right, and includes a reference to the "References and Notes" section, where the text defining the right as it appears in the international human rights instrument is quoted in full; and outlines those issues that IPPF believes flow directly from the right in question;
- In some cases, there is a second, *italicized* section that includes additional rights, which IPPF, as a leading organization in the field of sexual and reproductive rights, believes are implied by the right;
- A "Standards" section appears after the "References and Notes", and consists of relevant extracts from the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), and other documents against which the implementation of the right can be measured.

<sup>1</sup> The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women is sometimes referred to as the "Women's Convention"; adherence to it is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

# SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND THE LAW

The IPPF Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights identifies a broad range of sexual and reproductive health issues that fall within the scope of twelve basic human rights. These basic human rights have been sourced from four international human rights treaties<sup>1</sup>, which have been ratified by a range of countries world-wide. When a country ratifies a human rights treaty (Appendix I lists which countries have ratified which treaties), its government is bound by international law to give effect to the human rights contained therein by respecting, protecting and fulfilling the various rights; governments are thereby required to bring their domestic laws, policies and practices into line with any international or regional treaty to which it is a party. Consequently, international human rights law may be a useful tool for advancing sexual and reproductive rights.

In every country, a variety of laws, policies and practices exist that affect sexual and reproductive health and rights. They may relate to the provision of information and education on sexual and reproductive health, and/or regulate access to family planning and other basic reproductive and sexual health services. Unfortunately, these laws, policies or practices often obstruct, limit or prohibit the enjoyment of the sexual and reproductive rights as outlined in the Charter. A government's failure to act on a certain issue may also negate, or adversely affect the enjoyment of these rights. In either case restriction of sexual or reproductive rights amounts, in international law, to a violation of human rights, if a government has ratified treaties that recognize these rights.

Where human rights violations occur, member associations may strengthen their advocacy capacity by networking with national, regional or international human rights organizations or centres. Member associations and like-minded NGOs may find the following framework useful to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights:-

- First, member associations and other NGOs should diagnose the legal situation by examining the national legislation on sexual and reproductive health issues, and scrutinising government policy and practice. Efforts should be made to establish whether the legal framework promotes or facilitates the rights identified in the Charter; permits the information and services needed to enjoy the rights; restricts the rights in some way, or prohibits enjoyment of the rights. It should be borne in mind that laws may exist that prevent or prohibit the availability of such information and services, but it may be the case that specific laws, practices and policies may not be as restrictive as they might, at first appear. It may also be the case that it is not the law, but local practices that have the effect of restricting access to information or services; a careful analysis of the legal framework will identify this. Priorities for action may be set by determining either the most urgent sexual or reproductive health concern (for example, access to safe abortion), or by identifying a relatively uncontroversial issue (such as the elimination of violence against women and children) about which it might be easier to generate wide consensus.
- Next, member associations and other NGOs should document violations of specific sexual or reproductive rights. Statistics or examples recording individual violations of human rights, (such as specific incidents of unsafe abortion, forced sterilization, rape, etc.) should be meticulously documented, and the facts of each case exhaustively checked.
- Member associations and other NGOs should then look to the various fora for holding the government accountable. At the national level, where courts are often not easily accessible, the media, professional medical or legal organizations and sympathetic parliamentarians may be engaged to publicize the problem. At the regional or international levels a number of mechanisms exist to hold governments accountable

for human rights violations. These include treaty-based bodies, such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which monitors adherence to the Women's Convention, and non-treaty-based bodies, such as the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, both of which monitor countries for human rights violations. These committees take the input of NGOs very seriously.

- Finally, interested organizations should follow up on the various committee conclusions and recommendations to ensure their enforcement.

1 The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (The Political Covenant)  
The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (The Economic Covenant)  
The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (The Women's Convention)  
The Convention on the Rights of the Child (The Children's Convention)



# 1 THE RIGHT TO LIFE

## The key concept

All persons have a right to life. No one's life should be put at risk or endangered by pregnancy, childbirth or gender.

## The Right to Life can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Safe motherhood practices - using family planning to avoid pregnancies that carry high risks for maternal and infant mortality and morbidity

## The Right to Life can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- Maternal mortality and morbidity caused by lack of access to sexual and reproductive health care services. Lack of access could be due to legal, geographical, social or economic reasons; relevant services should include information and education, pre- and post-natal care, family planning services, access to safe abortion, adequate nutrition, emergency obstetric care, etc.
- Infanticide - usually female infanticide - occurring in countries where there is, for whatever reason, a marked son preference
- Genocide, in relation to programmes where measures including family planning are imposed that are intended to prevent births within particular population groups with the intention of destroying, in whole or in part, that group
- Violence, including domestic violence

## Standards section

Consists of the ICPD Programme of Action paragraphs on maternal mortality.

## Other notes

By applying the Right to Life to women dying from preventable causes relating to pregnancy and childbirth, IPPF is reclaiming this language from anti-choice groups that seek to apply it solely to fetuses. IPPF is asserting that the deaths of the 515,000 women dying annually from causes relating to pregnancy and childbirth represent a significant violation of the basic human right to life.

## 2 THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

### The key concept

The Right to Liberty and Security of the Person includes the freedom to control one's sexual and reproductive life.

### The Right to Liberty and Security of the Person can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Protection of children, women and men from sexual abuse and exploitation
- Protection from medical intervention related to sexual and reproductive health unless it is carried out with the full, free and informed consent of the person

### The Right to Liberty and Security of the Person can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- Female genital mutilation
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual abuse
- Forced pregnancy, or continuation thereof
- Forced sterilization
- Forced abortion
- Laws or practices requiring spousal or parental consent for contraception or abortion
- Laws that imprison women for terminating their own pregnancies
- Externally imposed fear, shame, guilt, and false beliefs that inhibit sexual response or impair the capacity to enjoy sexual relationships

### Standards section

Consists of paragraphs from the ICPD Programme of Action concerning female genital mutilation; Nahid Toubia's definition of "female circumcision"; and the FWCW Platform of Action concerning practices and acts of violence against women.

# 3 THE RIGHT TO EQUALITY, AND TO BE FREE FROM ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

## The key concept

All persons are born free and equal. No one should be discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, colour, poverty, sex or sexual orientation, marital status, family position, physical or mental disability, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

## The Right to Equality... can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Laws that prohibit discrimination against any minority group, and their effective enforcement
- Freedom from prejudicial, customary and other practices that are based on the idea of the inferiority of women
- Gender-sensitive interpretation of human rights

## The Right to Equality... can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- Discrimination with regard to access to:-
  - sexual and reproductive health care services, e.g.
    - where women require spousal consent, but men do not
    - where young people require parental consent
    - where services are only made available to married women
  - information and education to ensure health and well-being
- Discrimination against women, which denies them:-
  - access to appropriate nutrition and care
  - legal protection against violence, especially domestic violence

- Discrimination on the grounds of pregnancy or motherhood in social, domestic or employment spheres
- Sexual and reproductive health programmes that have the effect of discriminating against particular population groups

## Standards section

Consists of paragraphs from the ICPD Programme of Action and the FWCW Platform for Action that refer to gender-based discrimination.

# 4 THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

## The key concept

The Right to Privacy includes the right to make autonomous decisions regarding one's sexual and reproductive life, and to have the privacy to do so respected.

## The Right to Privacy can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Service guidelines that ensure that personal information given will remain confidential
- Legal frameworks that recognize the right of individuals to make autonomous choices related to reproduction and sexuality, including, for women, those related to safe abortion
- Sexual and reproductive health information and services for young people, which respect their right to privacy and confidentiality

## The Right to Privacy can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- Persecution, denial of liberty, or social interference due to sexual orientation
- Forced pregnancy, or continuation thereof
- Breach of confidentiality
- Laws or practices requiring spousal or parental consent for contraception or abortion

## Standards section

Consists of paragraphs from the ICPD Programme of Action and FWCW Platform for Action concerning the right of young people to sexual and reproductive health information and services and the human right of women to have control over matters related to sexuality.

## Other notes

Safe abortion has been included under the Right to Privacy because cases that recognize the right of women to make this choice have been litigated under laws relating to privacy. Courts have also held that a woman's right to privacy with regard to childbearing decisions should prevail over her partner's opposition to any decision she may make.

# 5 THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT

## The key concept

All individuals have the right to make decisions about sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas via any media.

## The Right to Freedom of Thought can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Interpretations of religious texts, beliefs, philosophies and customs that respect freedom of thought and speech regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights
- The right of health care professionals to conscientious objection with regard to their participation in providing contraception and safe abortion services provided that they can refer the client to health professionals willing to provide the service; however, no such right exists in emergency cases where lives are at risk

## The Right to Freedom of Thought can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- Restrictions on the grounds of thought, conscience and religion to access to sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services

## Standards section

Consists of paragraphs from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the World Conference on Human Rights, and the World Medical Assembly on the right to freedom of thought, cultural differences and conscientious objection respectively.

# 6 THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

## The key concept

The basic right to education includes the right of access to information and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## The Right to Information and Education can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Youth access to sexual and reproductive health and rights information and education
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights information and education programmes that are gender sensitive, free from stereotypes, and presented in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner
- Programmes that enable service users to make all decisions on the basis of full, free and informed consent

## The Right to Information and Education can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- Information and education programmes that do not give full information on the relative benefits, risks and effectiveness of all methods of fertility regulation
- Prohibition of access to sex education and information for youth
- Education systems that discriminate against pregnant students and/or young mothers

## Standards section

Consists of paragraphs from the ICPD Programme of Action and the FWCW Platform for Action concerning the need for education, specifically sexual and reproductive health information and education, education for young people, and the need to remove unnecessary barriers preventing access to information and education.

# 7 THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT TO MARRY AND TO FOUND AND PLAN A FAMILY

## The key concept

All persons have the right to choose voluntarily whether or not to marry and to found and plan a family.

## The Right to Choose Whether or Not to Marry... can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Non-discriminatory access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, infertility treatment, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS

## The Right to Choose Whether or Not to Marry... can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- The practice of marriage without the full, free and informed consent of both individuals concerned
- Child marriage
- Forced pregnancy, or continuation thereof
- Forced sterilization

## Standards section

Consists of a paragraph from the ICPD Programme of Action concerning the need for strictly enforced laws that ensure that marriage is entered into only with free and full consent and the requirement of a minimum legal age at marriage.

## Other notes

The paragraph from the Women's Convention, stating that "the betrothal or marriage of a child shall have no legal effect", and that from the Convention on the Rights of the Child, defining a child as a human being below the age of 18, are both quoted in a footnote to this right as defined in the Charter.

# 8 THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHETHER OR WHEN TO HAVE CHILDREN

## The key concept

All persons have the right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children. This includes the right to decide whether or when to have children and access to the means to exercise this right.

## The Right to Decide Whether or When to have Children can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Information, education and services related to reproductive health, safe motherhood and safe abortion that are accessible, affordable, acceptable and convenient
- Services that offer the widest possible range of methods of fertility regulation that are safe, effective and acceptable
- The freedom of all women and men to choose and use a method of protection against unplanned pregnancy that is safe and acceptable to them

## The Right to Decide Whether or When to have Children can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- Discrimination against women in the workplace that makes it difficult for them to have children and remain in employment
- Forced pregnancy, or continuation thereof
- Parental or spousal consent requirements for access to contraception or abortion services

## Standards section

Consists of paragraphs from the ICPD Programme of Action and the FWCW Platform for Action concerning the right to a full range of reproductive health services and the recognition that “The ability of women to control their own fertility forms an important basis for the enjoyment of other rights” respectively.



# 9 THE RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH PROTECTION

## The key concept

All persons have the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

## The Right to Health Care and Health Protection can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Programmes that provide the highest possible quality in health care
- Comprehensive health care services, including:-
  - Access to all methods of fertility regulation including safe abortion
  - Diagnosis and treatment for infertility and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS
- Pregnancy and infertility counselling that empowers people to make their own decisions based on information impartially presented
- Sexual and reproductive health care services that are:-
  - comprehensive
  - accessible, both financially and geographically
  - private and confidential
  - respectful of the dignity and comfort of the service user
- The availability of appropriate pregnancy, confinement and post-natal services, including adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation
- Paid maternity leave or maternity leave with adequate social security benefits

- Sexual and reproductive health services that respect client rights to information, choice, privacy, dignity, continuity of service, access, safety, confidentiality, comfort and to express views on the services offered

## The Right to Health Care and Health Protection can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- Traditional practices that are harmful to health; e.g. female genital mutilation
- Working conditions that do not protect health and safety, or that are potentially harmful to the function of reproduction
- Restrictive abortion laws, especially where continuing the pregnancy would be harmful for the physical or mental health of the woman

## Standards section

Consists of paragraphs from the Programmes of Action of ICPD and the World Summit on Social Development and the FWCW Platform for Action concerning the provision of health care services, including sexual and reproductive health. It also contains paragraphs 7.2 and 8.25 from ICPD, which define reproductive health and deal with unsafe abortion respectively.

# 10 THE RIGHT TO THE BENEFITS OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS

## The key concept

All persons have the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress.

## The Right to the Benefits of Scientific Progress can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Access to the benefits of all available reproductive health technology, including newer methods of contraception, abortion, and infertility treatment, provided those technologies are safe and acceptable
- The provision of information on any harmful effects of reproductive health care technology
- “Use it or lose it” patent provisions that encourage companies to maximize the use of technologies they have developed
- Gender-sensitive medical research

## The Right to the Benefits of Scientific Progress can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- The withholding of access to safe and acceptable reproductive technologies

## Standards section

Consists of paragraphs from the ICPD Programme of Action and the World Conference on Human Rights Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action concerning the need for research on new methods of fertility regulation; methods for men, the involvement of the private sector and the need to respect human rights and dignity in research in biomedical and life sciences.

# 11 THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

## The key concept

The Right to Freedom of Assembly and Political Participation includes the right to form and join a non-governmental organization (NGO) to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## The Right to Freedom of Assembly... can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Active individual advocacy in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Active NGO advocacy in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights

## The Right to Freedom of Assembly... can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- Persecution of individuals or organizations who seek to influence national policy on matters relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights

## Standards section

Consists of paragraphs from the ICPD Programme of Action concerning the need to respect sexual and reproductive rights as human rights; for governments to involve NGOs in decision-making; to increase the participation of women, and women's organizations in sexual and reproductive health and rights work and increase the capacity of NGOs to participate effectively in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

# 12 THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM TORTURE AND ILL TREATMENT

## The key concept

All men, women and children have the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and not to be subjected to medical or scientific treatment without free and informed consent.

## The Right to be Free from Torture and Ill Treatment can be used to campaign FOR:-

- Protection of children from:-
  - exploitation
  - sexual exploitation
  - prostitution
  - sexual abuse
  - coercion to engage in any unlawful sexual activity
  - use in pornographic performances and materials
- Protection of all persons from:-
  - rape
  - sexual assault
  - sexual abuse
  - sexual harassment
  - violence, including domestic violence

## The Right to be Free from Torture and Ill Treatment can be used to campaign AGAINST:-

- Medical trials or experimentation related to sexuality or fertility that are conducted without the full, free and informed consent of persons involved
- Trafficking in women, or exploitation of prostitution of them
- Degrading treatment and violence against women and men in relation to their sexuality and reproduction, especially during times of armed conflict
- Domestic violence
- Legislation that prohibits abortion on the grounds of rape

## Standards section

Consists of paragraphs from the Programmes of Action of ICPD and the World Summit on Social Development and the FWCW Platform for Action concerning the elimination of all forms of exploitation, abuse, harassment and violence against women, adolescents and children; measures to address the root factors that encourage trafficking in women and girls; condemnation of the systematic practice of rape and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment of women as a deliberate instrument of war and ensuring that ethical professional standards, conforming to human rights, are applied to the delivery of health services.

# HOW CAN NGOS CONTRIBUTE TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROCESSES?

- Find out whether your country has ratified the Covenants and Conventions on which the twelve rights in the IPPF Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights are based. (This information can be found in Appendix I)
- If so, find out whether it has made any reservations to its obligations. If it has not ratified any of them, join with other NGOs advocating that they do so.
- Be aware that these covenants and conventions are legally binding treaties; ratifying states pledge themselves to observe the specific rights identified in these instruments. In cases where the rights are not already provided for by law, the State undertakes to enact the legislation required to give effect to the right.
- Work with other groups to identify the responsibilities your government has to protect the rights identified in human rights treaties that your country has signed and ratified; where there are rights, there are government responsibilities to protect rights; rights cannot exist without legally enforceable duties to recognize and protect those rights.
- Find out when your country is due to report to the various committees that monitor adherence to the different covenants and conventions. To take the example of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
  - As of 10 October 2003, 174 states had ratified the Convention
  - Ratifying States undertake to submit reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
    - Within one year of ratifying the Convention
    - Every four years thereafter, to identify the legislative, judicial and administrative measures that they have adopted to give effect to the Convention
- Once the due date for your country's report to CEDAW (or any committee monitoring implementation of the other treaties or conventions) is known, NGOs could:-
  - Find out which governmental department is responsible for preparing the report to CEDAW
  - Offer to assist in the drafting of reports under the various articles that have most to do with sexual and reproductive health and rights (in particular Article 16, although there are others with relevant provisions). Or offer to make comments on the draft report before it is finalized
- Try to obtain a copy of your country's report as soon as it has been completed.
- Comments you may have on the report can be forwarded to individuals on CEDAW by a number of international NGOs, including the International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) and IPPF; although CEDAW does not have an official mechanism to receive NGO reports, the committee encourages NGO participation in the preparation of reports and is keen to receive information about reporting states from them.
- Find out if your country has a representative on the committees that monitor adherence to the various covenants and conventions; sometimes, the national experts on these committees are sympathetic to sexual and reproductive health and rights and value input from NGOs with relevant expertise and experience.

## Regional level

- Find out if your country is a signatory to a regional convention<sup>1</sup>; in some cases the implementing mechanism for regional instruments is more accessible to individuals and NGOs than those relating to international human rights instruments. If so, familiarize yourself with the provisions in the regional instrument that relate to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## National level

- Identify rights in the constitution of your country that could be applied to issues raised in the IPPF Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights.
- Work with professional groups, such as national medical associations, to devise codes of ethics, which respect the rights identified in the Charter.
- Increase links with parliamentarians interested in bringing laws, policies and practices into compliance with national constitutions, regional human rights conventions and international human rights instruments. Increasing awareness of the consensus reached at Cairo and Beijing on sexual and reproductive health and rights can be valuable in advocating such legal change.

<sup>1</sup> Examples of such instruments include:-

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

The Inter-American Convention on the Prohibition of All Forms of Violence Against Women

The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

# MEMBER ASSOCIATION EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES

This section contains brief details of the activities of IPPF member associations in Colombia, Palestine and Senegal. They have incorporated legal services into their efforts to promote sexual and reproductive rights.

## **(1) Elements of Profamilia Colombia's programme**

Profamilia, IPPF's member association in Colombia, was founded in 1965. As of 2003, 77 per cent of Colombian women and men practice family planning and 25 per cent of these receive their family planning methods from Profamilia.

In 1986 Profamilia started its Legal Service for Women with two initial objectives:-

- to use and publicize the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as a means to improve women's condition and secure for them equal access to family planning services
- to publicize the new rights of women in the family environment by means of educational material and by direct and personalized legal orientation

As of 2003, there are six Legal Service offices in the country. The purpose of the programme is to:-

- educate women on their rights
- offer support by providing negotiation and legal services, including legal representation in the area of domestic and family law, to both women and men attending family planning clinics

The Legal Service continues to insist on the fundamental rights of each person:-

- to decide freely whether or not to form a family
- to have or not to have children
- to have a pleasant sexual life, in a free manner, without fear, coercion or violence

The Legal Service for Women also aims to:-

- stimulate debate and raise consciousness in society about women's issues and reproductive rights
- help women to seek redress for violations of their rights resulting from:-
  - violence within the family
  - unequal sharing of household work
  - denial of reproductive rights
  - lack of sex education
  - denial of other forms of equal opportunities

The Legal Service has also:-

- developed ethical guidance to ensure health professionals understand their responsibilities
- advocated the inclusion of the right to family planning within the constitution

- contributed to the drafting of:-
  - the Ministry of Health regulation on reproductive health
  - the Inter-American Convention on Violence Against Women
- pioneered reform within Colombia with its own clinical services that required spousal authorisation by a husband when a wife wants services, but not vice versa
  - The Legal Service was directly responsible for the abolition of the requirement for spousal consent for female sterilization in Colombia
- helped develop alternative reports to human rights treaty bodies such as CEDAW
- developed “legal literacy manuals” to educate women about their rights, particularly with regard to domestic violence
- developed a series of publications and videos to generate discussion about women’s human rights
- pioneered specific actions for policy-makers and clients, giving practical effect to the implementation of sexual and reproductive health and rights

The Legal Service relies on both staff and part-time lawyers who are experts in various branches of family law. It provides court representation for clients whose problems involve family law and for whom court attendance will take no more than six months.

## (2) Elements of PFPPA Palestine’s programme

The Palestine Family Planning and Protection Association (PFPPA) has been a member of IPPF since 1965; its programme combines advocacy with community family planning services, efficient service delivery and relevant training.

- In 1992, the Hebron branch of the PFPPA began a legal counselling service in collaboration with the Centre for Legal and Social Counselling. An agreement was reached between the two organizations, whereby a woman lawyer comes twice a week to the central office to provide the following services:-
  - legal advice on issues such as inheritance, marriage contracts, child custody, etc.
  - joint field visits with community health workers to out-reach posts, to hold sessions on women’s legal awareness
- This service has subsequently been made available in additional branches of the FPA, including Bethlehem, Jenin and Al-Bireh; work continues in the Hebron centre

Legal counselling has also been incorporated as a training component of the women’s empowerment programme, within the context of women’s legal rights as they relate to employment law and international agreements oriented towards eliminating discrimination against women.



### (3) Elements of ASBEF Senegal's programme

L'Association Sénégalaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial (ASBEF) became a member of IPPF in 1992. It offers a range of clinical, information, education and advocacy services, including special projects aimed at youth and women's empowerment.

- In its headquarters building in Dakar, which houses a clinic offering family planning services, clients in the waiting room have the opportunity, one morning per week, to listen to a talk on a specific aspect of family law, given by lawyers who are experts in that particular subject
- The talks, which cover topics including polygamy, divorce, violence against women, human rights, the status of women in society, various aspects of the Senegalese Family Code, and legal aspects of separation (where husbands have left their wives to emigrate to Europe, for example), are advertised in advance, and are given by lawyers from an African human rights organization, RADI
- The topic is approved by ASBEF, and the lawyers are available for individual consultation by clients following the talk

The service is relatively inexpensive to run; the recurring costs consist chiefly of the transport for the lawyer from RADI.

# ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A “WORKED EXAMPLE” OF HOW NGOS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROCESSES

## Violence Against Women as a Violation of Human Rights

The elimination of violence against women is a major issue in reproductive and sexual health, which includes freedom from gender-based violence. There is wide international consensus that violence against women is wrong and that the failure of a state to protect women from gender-based violence can amount to a violation of human rights.

In the realm of reproductive and sexual health, violence against women takes a variety of forms, including domestic violence (by a husband or other male partner) and rape, female genital mutilation (FGM), female infanticide, the use of systematic rape as a weapon of war, sexual exploitation (including trafficking in women), dowry-related violence and sexual harassment.

Violence against women invokes a number of the rights enumerated in the Charter: The Right to Life; The Right to Liberty and Security of the Person; The Right to Equality, and to be Free from all Forms of Discrimination; and The Right to be Free from Torture and Ill Treatment. The Standards section within the Charter includes paragraphs from the ICPD Programme of Action and the FWCW Platform for Action both of which relate to violence against women; countries with delegations at the Cairo and Beijing conferences have therefore agreed on the language contained in these paragraphs (unless they were among the few countries that issued reservations on particular sections of the documents). Where a country has ratified an international or regional treaty that contains one or more of these rights, for example, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Women’s Convention), the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights (Political Covenant), or the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Children’s Convention), its government is obliged to give effect to the rights contained therein. NGOs may play an important role in

ensuring that a country’s laws, policies and practices are in line with the treaties to which it is a party.

## A possible action plan for NGOs

### (1) Diagnose the legal situation with respect to protecting women from violence

- with the help of lawyers, human rights organizations, and other groups with the necessary expertise, examine the legislation, policies and practices of the government to determine:
  - whether laws exist to protect women from gender-based violence (e.g. laws that criminalize FGM, marital rape or trafficking in women)
  - whether the laws that do exist are being enforced (e.g. are domestic abusers prosecuted? is female infanticide punished?)
  - what the barriers to their enforcement are (e.g. limited access to the court system; evidentiary difficulties; religious, tribal or cultural practices that conflict with the legislation)
  - whether the laws that do exist and are enforced are actually reducing violence against women
  - whether there is a constitutional equality or non-discrimination provision or any other provision regarding human rights
- ascertain whether there are adequate and confidential support programmes (both psychological and medical) for victims of gender-based violence

## (2) Document violations of the infringed human rights

- collect events-based data on specific cases of gender-based violence, e.g. individual experiences of FGM, dowry-based violence, trafficking in women, sexual harassment, etc.
- collect details of cases where offenders (e.g. wife abusers) are charged but not prosecuted, where they are prosecuted but found not guilty, or where they are found guilty but given minimal punishment
  - this information may be used to establish patterns that may aid in identifying barriers to enforcement
- gather statistics on the prevalence of the various forms of violence
- in all cases, investigation should be thorough and impartial, and facts should be cross-checked with other contacts or sources to ensure complete accuracy
- investigations must also be confidential and gender-sensitive

## (3) Hold governments accountable

There are a number of mechanisms by which governments may be held accountable for human rights violations on the domestic, regional and international levels:

### Domestic level

- ascertain whether there are laws that prohibit the specific forms of violence against women and urge the government to enforce them
- examine your country's constitution to determine whether it guarantees any relevant rights, e.g. the guarantee of equality and non-discrimination

- if so, the government's failure to provide equal resources for crime control or to ensure that laws are enforced without discrimination may be challenged in the domestic constitutional court
- where courts are not accessible, engage the media, professional, medical or legal organizations and sympathetic parliamentarians to publicize the problem of violence against women and to advocate legal change

### Regional level

- find out whether your country has ratified one of the regional human rights conventions, e.g. the European Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Convention on the Prohibition of All Forms of Violence Against Women, or the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- determine what mechanisms exist under the appropriate treaty to monitor human rights violations, e.g. reporting systems, formal or informal communication mechanisms, individual complaints proceedings (for more detail on taking advantage of these mechanisms, see international level, below)

### International level

- treaty-based bodies
  - find out whether your country has ratified any of the international human rights covenants that contain one or more of the applicable rights: The Right to Life; The Right to Liberty and Security; the Right to be Free from all Forms of Discrimination; and the Right to be Free from Torture and Ill Treatment (this information can be found in Appendix I)

- find out when your country is due to report to the various committees that monitor adherence to the treaties to which your country is a party (e.g. the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) or the Human Rights Committee)
- find out which governmental department is responsible for preparing the report
- offer to assist in the drafting of the report, or to make comments on the draft report before it is finalised
- find out whether the Committee has issued a General Comment or Recommendation on point (for example, CEDAW's Recommendation 19 on Violence Against Women) that elaborates the specific content of the general right and may be used in drafting the report
- where it is not possible to assist in the drafting, attempt to obtain a copy of the government's report and forward comments to the appropriate committee
- where it is not possible to obtain a copy of the government's report, send "shadow reports" to the committee, since whether or not the committee has a formal mechanism for receiving reports from NGOs, they are often encouraged and may be used by the committee to question the government on its report
- where a country is a signatory to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, NGOs should assist women who have been victims of gender-based violence to file individual complaints about violations of their rights
- under the Optional Protocol, the Human Rights Committee is willing to investigate complaints of violations of the rights contained in the Political Covenant, as well as allegations of discrimination in violation of rights contained in other covenants

- non-treaty-based bodies
  - forward any documentation of violence against women to non-treaty based bodies, such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women or the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. While the action such bodies may be authorised to take is often limited, many play important roles in identifying issues that need redress and in contributing to international conferences

#### **(4) Ensure enforcement of the rights**

- obtain the comments and recommendations made by the various treaty bodies to which your country has reported (these are available from the committees)
- publicize them and lobby the government to ensure it responds to them
- continue to collect data and follow-up with the various committees on your government's performance

# APPENDIX I

Table of countries which have ratified each of the four international conventions on which the rights in the Charter are based (as of 10 October 2003)

Country	ICESCR <sup>1</sup> ('Economic')	ICCPR <sup>2</sup> ('Political')	ICRC <sup>3</sup> ('Children')	CEDAW <sup>4</sup> ('Women')	Country	ICESCR <sup>1</sup> ('Economic')	ICCPR <sup>2</sup> ('Political')	ICRC <sup>3</sup> ('Children')	CEDAW <sup>4</sup> ('Women')
Afghanistan	X	X	X	X	Bolivia	X	X	X	X
Albania	X	X	X	X	Bosnia and Herzegovina	X	X	X	X
Algeria	X	X	X	X	Botswana	-	X	X	X
Andorra	-	s <sup>5</sup>	X	X	Brazil	X	X	X	X
Angola	X	X	X	X	Brunei Darussalam	-	-	X	-
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	X	X	Bulgaria	X	X	X	X
Argentina	X	X	X	X	Burkina Faso	X	X	X	X
Armenia	X	X	X	X	Burundi	X	X	X	X
Australia	X	X	X	X	Cambodia	X	X	X	X
Austria	X	X	X	X	Cameroon	X	X	X	X
Azerbaijan	X	X	X	X	Canada	X	X	X	X
Bahamas	-	-	X	X	Cape Verde	X	X	X	X
Bahrain	-	-	X	X	Central African Republic	X	X	X	X
Bangladesh	X	X	X	X	Chad	X	X	X	X
Barbados	X	X	X	X	Chile	X	X	X	X
Belarus	X	X	X	X	China	X	s <sup>5</sup>	X	X
Belgium	X	X	X	X	Colombia	X	X	X	X
Belize	s <sup>5</sup>	X	X	X	Comoros	-	-	X	X
Benin	X	X	X	X	Congo	X	X	X	X
Bhutan	-	-	X	X	Cook Islands	-	-	X	-

Country	ICESCR <sup>1</sup> ('Economic')	ICCPR <sup>2</sup> ('Political')	ICRC <sup>3</sup> ('Children')	CEDAW <sup>4</sup> ('Women')	Country	ICESCR <sup>1</sup> ('Economic')	ICCPR <sup>2</sup> ('Political')	ICRC <sup>3</sup> ('Children')	CEDAW <sup>4</sup> ('Women')
Costa Rica	X	X	X	X	Finland	X	X	X	X
Croatia	X	X	X	X	France	X	X	X	X
Cuba	-	-	X	X	Gabon	X	X	X	X
Cyprus	X	X	X	X	Georgia	X	X	X	X
Czech Republic	X	X	X	X	Germany	X	X	X	X
Côte d'Ivoire	X	X	X	X	Ghana	X	X	X	X
D.P.R. of Korea	X	X	X	X	Greece	X	X	X	X
Dem Rep of the Congo	X	X	X	X	Grenada	X	X	X	X
Denmark	X	X	X	X	Guatemala	X	X	X	X
Djibouti	X	X	X	X	Guinea	X	X	X	X
Dominica	X	X	X	X	Guinea-Bissau	X	s <sup>5</sup>	X	X
Dominican Republic	X	X	X	X	Guyana	X	X	X	X
Ecuador	X	X	X	X	Haiti	-	X	X	X
Egypt	X	X	X	X	Holy See	-	-	X	-
El Salvador	X	X	X	X	Honduras	X	X	X	X
Equatorial Guinea	X	X	X	X	Hungary	X	X	X	X
Eritrea	X	X	X	X	Iceland	X	X	X	X
Estonia	X	X	X	X	India	X	X	X	X
Ethiopia	X	X	X	X	Indonesia	-	-	X	X
Fiji	-	-	X	X	Iran (Islam Republic of)	X	X	X	-

Country	ICESCR <sup>1</sup> ('Economic')	ICCPR <sup>2</sup> ('Political')	ICRC <sup>3</sup> ('Children')	CEDAW <sup>4</sup> ('Women')	Country	ICESCR <sup>1</sup> ('Economic')	ICCPR <sup>2</sup> ('Political')	ICRC <sup>3</sup> ('Children')	CEDAW <sup>4</sup> ('Women')
Iraq	X	X	X	X	Luxembourg	X	X	X	X
Ireland	X	X	X	X	Madagascar	X	X	X	X
Israel	X	X	X	X	Malawi	X	X	X	X
Italy	X	X	X	X	Malaysia	-	-	X	X
Jamaica	X	X	X	X	Maldives	-	-	X	X
Japan	X	X	X	X	Mali	X	X	X	X
Jordan	X	X	X	X	Malta	X	X	X	X
Kazakhstan	-	-	X	X	Marshall Islands	-	-	X	-
Kenya	X	X	X	X	Mauritania	-	-	X	X
Kiribati	-	-	X	-	Mauritius	X	X	X	X
Kuwait	X	X	X	X	Mexico	X	X	X	X
Kyrgyzstan	X	X	X	X	Micronesia (Federated States of)	-	-	X	-
Lao People's Dem Rep	s <sup>5</sup>	s <sup>5</sup>	X	X	Monaco	X	X	X	-
Latvia	X	X	X	X	Mongolia	X	X	X	X
Lebanon	X	X	X	X	Morocco	X	X	X	X
Lesotho	X	X	X	X	Mozambique	-	X	X	X
Liberia	s <sup>5</sup>	s <sup>5</sup>	X	X	Myanmar	-	-	X	X
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	X	X	X	X	Namibia	X	X	X	X
Liechtenstein	X	X	X	X	Nauru	-	s <sup>5</sup>	X	-
Lithuania	X	X	X	X	Nepal	X	X	X	X

Country	ICESCR <sup>1</sup> (‘Economic’)	ICCPR <sup>2</sup> (‘Political’)	ICRC <sup>3</sup> (‘Children’)	CEDAW <sup>4</sup> (‘Women’)	Country	ICESCR <sup>1</sup> (‘Economic’)	ICCPR <sup>2</sup> (‘Political’)	ICRC <sup>3</sup> (‘Children’)	CEDAW <sup>4</sup> (‘Women’)
Netherlands	X	X	X	X	Romania	X	X	X	X
New Zealand	X	X	X	X	Russian Federation	X	X	X	X
Nicaragua	X	X	X	X	Rwanda	X	X	X	X
Niger	X	X	X	X	Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	-	X	X
Nigeria	X	X	X	X	Saint Lucia	-	-	X	X
Niue	-	-	X	-	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	X	X	X	X
Norway	X	X	X	X	Samoa	-	-	X	X
Oman	-	-	X	-	San Marino	X	X	X	-
Pakistan	-	-	X	X	São Tomé and Príncipe	s <sup>5</sup>	s <sup>5</sup>	X	X
Palau	-	-	X	-	Saudi Arabia	-	-	X	X
Panama	X	X	X	X	Senegal	X	X	X	X
Papua New Guinea	-	-	X	X	Serbia and Montenegro	X	X	X	X
Paraguay	X	X	X	X	Seychelles	X	X	X	X
Peru	X	X	X	X	Sierra Leone	X	X	X	X
Philippines	X	X	X	X	Singapore	-	-	X	X
Poland	X	X	X	X	Slovakia	X	X	X	X
Portugal	X	X	X	X	Slovenia	X	X	X	X
Qatar	-	-	X	-	Solomon Islands	X	-	X	X
Republic of Korea	X	X	X	X	Somalia	X	X	s <sup>5</sup>	-
Republic of Moldova	X	X	X	X	South Africa	s <sup>5</sup>	X	X	X



Country	ICESCR <sup>1</sup> (‘Economic’)	ICCPR <sup>2</sup> (‘Political’)	ICRC <sup>3</sup> (‘Children’)	CEDAW <sup>4</sup> (‘Women’)
Spain	X	X	X	X
Sri Lanka	X	X	X	X
Sudan	X	X	X	-
Suriname	X	X	X	X
Swaziland	-	-	X	-
Sweden	X	X	X	X
Switzerland	X	X	X	X
Syrian Arab Republic	X	X	X	X
Tajikistan	X	X	X	X
Thailand	X	X	X	X
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	X	X	X	X
The Gambia	X	X	X	X
Timor-Leste	X	X	X	X
Togo	X	X	X	X
Tonga	-	-	X	-
Trinidad & Tobago	X	X	X	X
Tunisia	X	X	X	X
Turkey	s <sup>5</sup>	s <sup>5</sup>	X	X
Turkmenistan	X	X	X	X
Tuvalu	-	-	X	X

Country	ICESCR <sup>1</sup> (‘Economic’)	ICCPR <sup>2</sup> (‘Political’)	ICRC <sup>3</sup> (‘Children’)	CEDAW <sup>4</sup> (‘Women’)
Uganda	X	X	X	X
Ukraine	X	X	X	X
United Arab Emirates	-	-	X	-
United Kingdom of Great Britain & N Ireland	X	X	X	X
United Republic of Tanzania	X	X	X	X
USA	s <sup>5</sup>	X	s <sup>5</sup>	s <sup>5</sup>
Uruguay	X	X	X	X
Uzbekistan	X	X	X	X
Vanuatu	-	-	X	X
Venezuela	X	X	X	X
Viet Nam	X	X	X	X
Yemen	X	X	X	X
Zambia	X	X	X	X
Zimbabwe	X	X	X	X

1 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

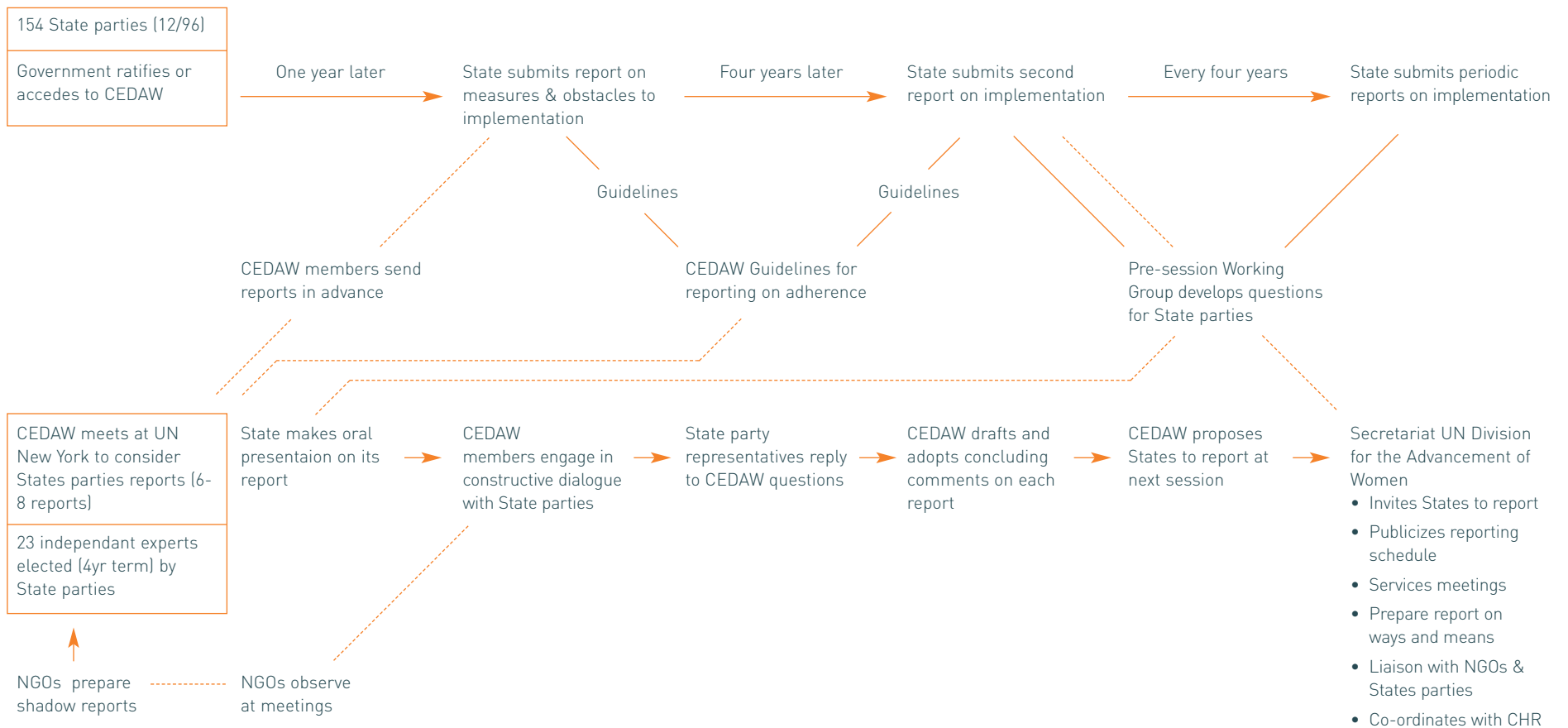
2 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

3 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

4 UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

# APPENDIX II

## Realization of Women’s Rights using the CEDAW Process<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Source: Commonwealth Medical Association. **International Roundtable on a Woman’s Right to Health, including Sexual and Reproductive Health** (Toronto, Canada, 26-29 September 1996). London: CMA; 1996

# APPENDIX III

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# APPENDIX IV

## Addresses of Human Rights Offices

### Commission on Human Rights

Office of the United Nations High  
Commissioner for Human Rights  
United Nations Office at Geneva  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Telephone +41 22 917 9000  
Fax +41 22 917 9011  
email [1503@ohchr.org](mailto:1503@ohchr.org)  
[www.unhchr.ch](http://www.unhchr.ch)

### UN Division for the Advancement of Women

2 United Nations Plaza  
Rm. DC2 – 12th Floor  
New York  
NY 10017  
USA  
Telephone +1 212 963 5086  
Fax +1 212 963 3463  
email [daw@un.org](mailto:daw@un.org)  
[www.un.org/womenwatch/daw](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw)

### Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women

Yakin Ertürk  
Commission on Human Rights  
Office of the United Nations High  
Commissioner for Human Rights  
United Nations Office at Geneva  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
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### Commission on the Status of Women

Division for the Advancement of Women  
2 United Nations Plaza  
DC2 – 12th Floor  
New York  
NY 10017  
USA  
[www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw)

### United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

304 East 45th Street – 15th Floor  
New York  
NY 10017  
USA  
Telephone +1 212 906 6400  
Fax +1 212 906 6705  
[www.unifem.org](http://www.unifem.org)

### African Union Headquarters

PO Box 3243  
Roosevelt Street (Old Airport Area)  
W21K19  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia  
Telephone +251 1 51 7700  
Fax +251 1 51 7844  
[www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)

**African Commission on Human  
and Peoples' Rights**

90 Kairaba Ave  
PO Box 673  
Banjul  
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Fax +220 390 764  
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www.achpr.org

**Inter-American Commission  
on Human Rights**

1889 F Street, NW  
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www.cidh.oas.org

**Inter-American Commission  
on Women**

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Washington, DC 20006  
USA  
email spcim@oas.org  
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**Inter-American Court of  
Human Rights**

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Costa Rica  
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Fax +506 234 0584  
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www.corteidh.or.cr

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for Human Rights**

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Fax +33 (0) 3 90 21 50 53  
email CommissionerHR.Communication@coe.int  
www.coe.int/T/E/Commissioner\_H.R

**European Court of Human Rights**

Council of Europe  
F - 67075 Strasbourg-Cedex  
France  
Telephone +33 (0) 3 88 41 20 18  
Fax 33 (0) 3 88 41 27 30  
email webmaster@echr.coe.int  
www.echr.coe.int

# SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

**THE RIGHT** to life

**THE RIGHT** to liberty  
and security of the person

**THE RIGHT** to equality,  
and to be free from all forms  
of discrimination

**THE RIGHT** to privacy

**THE RIGHT** to freedom  
of thought

**THE RIGHT** to  
information and education

**THE RIGHT** to choose  
whether or not to marry and to  
found and plan a family

**THE RIGHT** to decide  
whether or when to have children

**THE RIGHT** to health  
care and health protection

**THE RIGHT** to the  
benefits of scientific progress

**THE RIGHT** to freedom  
of assembly and political  
participation

**THE RIGHT** to be free  
from torture and ill treatment



**International Planned  
Parenthood Federation**

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