



**CEDAW  
SHADOW REPORT  
CONSULTATION**

# Introduction

## About this call for evidence

The Women's Equality Network (WEN) Wales is issuing this call for evidence to hear from civil society in Wales about the progress and gaps in the Welsh and UK government's implementation of the commitments set out in the UN CEDAW Convention. We welcome evidence and recommendations from the women's sector and wider civil society, as well as members of the public who wish to contribute.

**The deadline for submitting evidence is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 5PM.**

## What is CEDAW?

The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the CEDAW Convention) is a powerful tool for articulating, advocating and monitoring women's human rights here in Wales and around the world. Welsh civil society has a very important role to play in holding the Welsh and UK governments to account through monitoring their implementation of the treaty.

The UK government is required to submit periodic reports to the UN CEDAW Committee, a body of independent experts, every four years on progress made in removing obstacles to equality and promoting women's rights. Their report addresses the substantive articles of the CEDAW Convention. The UK has just issued its eighth periodic report (see 'useful links'), which will be reviewed by the CEDAW Committee in February 2019 (tbc).

Civil society has an opportunity to feed into this process. Governments' assessments of their progress are often incomplete and tend to minimise problems and maximise accomplishments, which is why civil society organisations are encouraged to submit their own 'shadow report' to provide a more rounded view of progress.

WEN Wales has secured some funding to produce a Wales shadow report, in partnership with the Wales Assembly of Women (WAW) and contribute to the UK shadow report. We would like to produce this report in a participatory way, gathering evidence from across the women's sector and civil society in Wales, through: a number of face-to-face consultations; input from a Steering Group made up of civil society representatives; and responses to this call for evidence.

## Useful Links

The CEDAW Convention:

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf>

The 2013 CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations and Recommendations to the UK government following its seventh periodic report:

<http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPrICAqhKb7yhsldCrOIUTvLRFDjh6%2Fx1pWB8bSIKfa34XmmIN3IG11hwWhjFqrEprJHQfoipZTw nVkhDALmzaR6gCkIPapM2exTMh89SX7GUOJHbH%2BN8Qq9U>

The UK government's eighth periodic report (November 2017):

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/GBR/CEDAW\\_C\\_GBR\\_8\\_7322\\_E.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/GBR/CEDAW_C_GBR_8_7322_E.pdf)

The UK government's seventh periodic report (written in 2011, useful if you wish to check government commitments made in the last review):

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/85456/7th-cedaw-report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85456/7th-cedaw-report.pdf)

## How to respond

### How to respond to this call for evidence

The Wales Shadow Report must be evidence-based and organised according to the articles of the CEDAW Convention. We therefore request that you read and adhere closely to the following guidance when writing your submission:

- Please read the [2013 Concluding Observations and Recommendations of the CEDAW Committee](#) in response to the UK government's last report and the [UK government's new report](#) before starting to write your submission. The latest UK government Report is largely a response to those Observations and Recommendations and we encourage you to focus your evidence on the extent to which the Welsh and UK governments have implemented these recommendations.
- We have provided sections for you to submit evidence on each of the Convention articles. Please provide evidence for as many articles as you wish.
- For each section that you complete, please consider and respond to the following questions:
  - What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article since 2011?
  - What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?
  - What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?
- In your evidence, please prioritise the most important issues.
- Provide evidence wherever possible. This could take the form of statistics (disaggregated wherever possible by age, marital status, class, ethnicity, and circumstances such as migrant status or disability as well as by sex), legal cases, academic studies, provisions of national and local laws or policies etc. Please include enough detail to indicate the impact of particular actions or inaction by the government. These documents should be emailed to [admin@wenwales.org.uk](mailto:admin@wenwales.org.uk), and/or please include a full reference (title, author,

year of publication etc.) and web-link in the body of your response. If you are sending attachments, please name each document according to (1) the article it relates to and (2) to the name of your organisation. For example, if you wish to submit a document to support the evidence you're providing for Article 6 your attachment should be named 'Article 6 Organisation X'.

- Identify major obstacles and recommend approaches to removing them, including which actors should be involved. Recommendations for action should be concrete, suggesting specific actions, and can be inter-sectional. It is also helpful to consider questions that remain open from consideration of prior government reports (see CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations in 'useful links') and how you think these should be addressed.

## **Confidentiality**

Information provided in response to this call will be shared with the Equality and Human Rights Commission and made publicly available on the websites of WEN Wales and WAW. Please indicate if you want information you've provided to be treated confidentially and it will not be shared publicly. Please also explain why you would like it to be confidential so that if we receive a request for disclosure of information we can take full account of your explanation.

# 1 Definition of Discrimination

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

[Click here to read Article 1 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


## 2 Obligations to eliminate discrimination

States 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 boy and men. There should be punishment for not following the law.

[Click here to read Article 2 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


### 3 Guarantee of basic human rights and freedoms

States must take action in all fields - political, social, economic and cultural - to ensure girls and women can enjoy basic human rights and freedoms.

[Click here to read Article 3 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 4 Temporary special measures

States should take affirmative action or temporary special measures (e.g. quotas or women only services) to end discrimination against girls and women. These specific measures should last until equality between girls and women and boys and men is achieved.

[Click here to read Article 4 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 5

## Sex roles and stereotyping

States must take appropriate measures to eliminate stereotyping, prejudices and discriminatory cultural practices.

[Click here to read Article 5 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 6

## Exploitation of women

States must act to end the exploitation of women and girls through trafficking and prostitution.

[Click here to read Article 6 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 7 Women's Representation in Political and Public Life

States must ensure that women vote and are eligible to 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 organisations (NGOs).

[Click here to read Article 7 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 8

## Women as International Representatives

Girls and women have the right to represent their country at the international level and to participate in the work of international organisations (e.g. the UN and EU) on an equal basis to men.

[Click here to read Article 8 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 9 Nationality

Women have equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality and that of their children. These rights are not changed by marriage or by any changes made by the husband.

[Click here to read Article 9 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 10 Education

States must end discrimination against girls and women in education. Girls and women have a right to education including equal access to school buildings and equipment; and opportunities to receive scholarships and grants, the same as boys and men.

[Click here to read Article 10 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 11 Employment

Women have a right to work just like men. Women must have the same opportunities to find work, receive equal pay, promotions and training and have access to healthy and safe working conditions, as men. Women should not be discriminated against because they are married, pregnant, just had a child or are looking after children.

[Click here to read Article 11 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 12 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 reproductive health.

[Click here to read Article 12 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 13 Economic and social life

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

[Click here to read Article 13 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 14 Rural Women

States must take action to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas. Girls and women in rural areas must be supported to take part in and benefit from rural development, healthcare, social security, credit and loans, education, and development planning equally with men.

[Click here to read Article 14 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 15 Equality before the law and civil matters

Women and men are equal before the law, including access to justice, laws about freedom to go where they choose, choosing where to live, signing contracts and buying and selling properties.

[Click here to read Article 15 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?


# 16 Marriage and family life

Women have the same rights as men during marriage including reproductive rights, as parents and other aspects of family life. Women also have the equal right to the property that they acquire with their husband during the course of that marriage. To end child and early marriages, governments must set a lowest age for marriage and make sure that this is followed. All marriages must be officially recorded with the government.

[Click here to read Article 16 in full.](#)

**Using clear evidence in support of your position, please provide your thoughts on the following:**

- What progress or not has the Welsh government and UK government made on this article(s) since 2011?


- What are the main gaps/obstacles to progress in this area?


- What recommendations do you have to address the challenges and gaps/obstacles?




# **Y**our details

Contact details

Name	
Company	
Postcode	
Email address	

## Equality and Diversity Monitoring

### 1. What is your age range?

I would prefer not to say

Under 18

18-24

25-44

45-64

Over 60

### 2. What is your employment status?

I would prefer not to say

Employed

Self-employed

Unemployed

Unpaid work in the home

Retired

I prefer another description (please describe):

\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

I would prefer not to say

Yes  No

Please specify the nature of your disability:

\_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. How would you describe your gender identity?

I would prefer not to say

Male  Female  Trans

(Trans is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity in some way differs from the gender they were assigned at birth).

I prefer to describe my gender identity in another way:

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#### 5. What is your sexual orientation?

I would prefer not to say

Bi sexual

Gay man

Gay woman /lesbian

Heterosexual

I prefer another description (please describe):

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## 6. How would you describe your ethnic origin?

Please choose one section, then tick one box to best describe your ethnic group or background.

I would prefer not to disclose my ethnic origin

### White ethnic origins:

White -Welsh  White – English  White- Irish  White –Northern Irish

White - Scottish  White - British  Irish or Gypsy Traveller

Other - I prefer to describe my white ethnic origin as (please describe):

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### Asian and Asian British origins:

Asian - Indian  Asian -Pakistani  Asian –Bangladeshi  Asian Chinese

Other - I prefer to describe my Asian or Asian British origins as (please describe):

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### Black/ African/Caribbean/Black British origins:

Black – African  Black – Caribbean

Other - I prefer to describe my Black or Black British origins as (please describe):

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### Multiple or mixed ethnic origins:

Multiple - White and Black Caribbean

Multiple - White and Black African

Multiple - White and Asian

Other – I prefer to describe my multiple ethnic origin as (please describe):

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### Other ethnic groups:

Arab

I prefer to describe my ethnic origin as (please describe):

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## 7. What is your religion or belief?

I would prefer not to say

Atheist  Buddhist  Christian (all denominations)

Hindu  Humanist  Jewish  Muslim

No religion or belief  Sikh

I prefer another description (please describe):

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## 8. Are you a Migrant?

I would prefer not to say

Yes – EU

Yes – Non EU

No

## **W**hat happens next?

We will review all the evidence gathered and write a shadow report for Wales. We will also input key issues and recommendations from this report into the UK shadow report, which will be written in collaboration with civil society representatives from England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The deadline for submitting these reports to the Committee is June 2018 (to be confirmed). The Wales report will be translated into Welsh and copies of both reports will be made available online and at a launch event.

WEN Wales and Wales Assembly of Women, together with other representatives of UK civil society, will attend the Pre-Sessional Working Group meeting, a pre-meeting of the CEDAW Committee around six to ten months in advance of the Committee's review of the UK government's report (currently scheduled to be held in February 2019). This is another important opportunity for WEN Wales to highlight recommendations in the shadow report and ensure that matters of concern to women in Wales are raised directly with the Committee.

Following the Committee's review of the government report in 2019 it will issue 'Concluding Observations' which include both commendable progress and recommendations for improvement concerning women's rights in the U.K. These observations are a very useful advocacy tool for demanding action from the Welsh and UK governments on their international human rights obligations to women in Wales. They will be disseminated widely.

**Thank you for your contribution.**

## **C**ontact us

If you have any queries, please contact WEN Wales on **07928 543 727** or email [admin@wenwales.org.uk](mailto:admin@wenwales.org.uk).

For more information on WEN Wales, please visit: [www.wenwales.org.uk](http://www.wenwales.org.uk)

Or follow us on social media:

Twitter and Instagram: @wenwales  
Facebook: WENWales

### **Are you interested in advancing the rights of women in Wales?**

Membership of WEN Wales is free, and members are at the heart of our organisation. You'll be able to contribute your opinions, attend our events and influence our work. To add your voice to our growing network, click [here](#)!

