



# Major CEDAW articles relating to HIV-positive women

## Trafficking

**Article 6** requires States to take appropriate measures to suppress all forms of traffic in women.

## Involvement in decision making

**Article 7** requires States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life. States are directed to ensure women are on equal terms with men in the formulation and implementation of government policy, holding public office and performing public functions at all levels of government, and participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

## Participation

**Article 8** requires States to take all appropriate measures to ensure women the opportunity, on equal terms with men, to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations.

## Education

**Article 10** provides that States must take measures to eliminate discrimination against women in education, and ensure equal rights in education including by: offering the same career and vocational guidance, access to studies, the same opportunities for access to continuing education and literacy programmes, reducing female student drop-out rates and organizing programmes for girls and women who have left school prematurely, and enabling access to educational information to help ensure the health and well-being of families, including advice on family planning.

## Employment

**Article 11** requires States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment.

## Health

**Article 12** requires States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure equal access to health care services, including those related to family planning.

## Financial Credit

**Article 13** provides that States ensure the same rights for men and women in family benefits, bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit.



## Rural women

**Article 14** ensures States take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas and ensure that rural women participate in and benefit from rural development. It requires States to ensure that rural women have the right to training and education, including functional literacy, the right to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, and the right to agricultural credit and loans.

## Freedom of movement

**Article 15** accords to women equal rights to legal capacity and freedom of movement and freedom to choose their residence or domicile.

## Marriage, relationships and reproductive choices

**Article 16** requires States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations, including ensuring that women and men have the same rights to: enter into marriage; freely choose a spouse only with their free and full consent; decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children; and have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights. It requires States to ensure the same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution, and the same rights in respect of ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property.

## General Recommendations

**Article 21** empowers the CEDAW Committee to make general recommendations from time to time, based on the examination of country reports, to elaborate the Committee's view of the obligations assumed under the Convention.

The CEDAW Committee General Recommendations to date include:

- ❖ ensure universal access to a full range of high-quality and affordable health care, including sexual and reproductive health services;
- ❖ ensure health care services provide fully informed consent and guarantee confidentiality;
- ❖ ensure measures are taken to prevent coercion, such as non-consensual sterilization or mandatory testing for sexually transmitted diseases;
- ❖ provide reliable sex disaggregated data on the incidence and severity of diseases;
- ❖ ensure women's right to safe motherhood;
- ❖ ensure appropriate services are available in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period, granting free services where necessary;
- ❖ ensure the removal of all barriers to women's access to health education and information relating to sexual and reproductive health and provide sexual health information, education and services for all women and girls,
- ❖ ensure that the special nutritional needs of all women are met;
- ❖ take appropriate and effective measures to overcome gender-based violence;
- ❖ ensure that laws against family violence and abuse, rape and sexual assault give adequate protection to all women, appropriate support services are provided, and judicial and law enforcement officials receive gender-sensitive training;
- ❖ encourage non-governmental organizations and public and political associations to adopt strategies that encourage women's representation and participation in their work;
- ❖ consult and incorporate the advice of groups which are broadly representative of women's views and interests;
- ❖ enhance the role women as educators in the prevention of infection of HIV.