

Human Rights Consortium Scotland



Briefing 2 – Women’s Rights



Easy Read





The Scottish Government is making a new law about **human rights**.



Human rights mean the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world.



The new law will bring in human rights agreed by lots of countries.

These agreements are called international human rights treaties.



1 part of this new law will be the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women.

This Convention is also called CEDAW.



This document is about CEDAW and what it says.

CEDAW is a big list of rights for women.



It says that all women and all girls should have these rights.

They should be treated equally.



CEDAW tells governments what they need to do to make sure women have their rights.

Some of CEDAW's laws



1. Women have the right to be elected fairly and equally

Elected means to be voted for. In this document, this means women can become leaders, and make decisions.



2. Women have a say over their own lives.

This means that they have control and can make decisions about their own lives.



3. Women should be treated equally to men:

- in education
- in work
- in society



4. Women have special protection when they are pregnant.

This means that there are special rules and support to help women stay safe and well while they are pregnant.



5. Women have equal rights in healthcare and support.

This means that they can get the medicine, care and help they need in the same way that any other person can.



6. There should be no **stereotypes** about what a woman can do and cannot do.

In this document, a **stereotype** is a set idea that what is true for some women, must be true for all women.

This is not right.

What happens next



The UK Government has agreed to put CEDAW into practice.



We plan to put CEDAW into our own law in Scotland.

This is called incorporation.



Putting CEDAW into law means that women will be able to use these rights.

They will be able to use them to make sure they are treated equally in Scotland.