

CEDAW is a tool that has helped, and continues to help, women worldwide to successfully fight sex-based discrimination, because:

- CEDAW requires signing countries to enact policies that reject sex-based stereotypes, as well as prejudices and customs based on the idea that either sex is better or worse than the other.
- CEDAW affirms “gender” means the roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes a society considers appropriate for either sex.
- CEDAW affirms gender is socially constructed, learned, and performed, not innate or essential.

However, the UN recently changed references to “sex” with “gender” in its documents, strategies, and actions. This will lead to the end of what is currently clear progress toward treating women as full human beings, or as CSW identifies, "Stereotypical attitudes towards the role and responsibilities of women." It is illogical and discriminatory to base the rights of women on cultural constructs of our gender. Our progress toward equality is based on the fact that we are fully capable of performing any human activity, not confined by concepts of gender that identify the roles, behaviors, and activities considered appropriate for our gender. Right now, while females are at risk of rape, domestic violence, acid attacks, etc., we need strong protections. These protections must not be based on our conformity to sex role stereotypes. This is very dangerous to every shred of progress we have made toward freedom.

A woman in the USA