

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL NATIONALITY RIGHTS

*Stronger Citizens, Stronger Families,
Stronger Societies for a Better Future*

Types of Gender Discrimination in Nationality Laws:

- Ability to pass to children
 - Born inside / outside the country
 - Marital status
 - Other exceptions, including statelessness
- Ability to pass to spouse
- Ability to change or retain citizenship

Over 60 countries around the world *discriminate* against *women* in their nationality laws in some form, *denying* them *equal nationality rights* with men.

COUNTRIES THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN IN SOME FORM IN NATIONALITY LAWS:

Bahamas	Bahrain	Bangladesh	Barbados	Benin
Botswana	Brunei Darussalam		Burundi	Cameroon
Central African Republic		Comoros	Congo, Republic of the	
Côte d'Ivoire	Dominican Republic		Egypt	
Gambia	Greece	Guatemala	Guinea	India
Iran	Iraq	Jordan	Kiribati	Kuwait
Lebanon	Lesotho	Liberia	Libya	Madagascar
Malaysia	Malawi	Mali	Mauritania	Mauritius
Monaco	Morocco	Mozambique	Nauru	Nepal
Niger	Nigeria	Oman	Pakistan	Philippines
Poland	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	Sierra Leone	Singapore
Somalia	Sudan	Swaziland	Syria	Tanzania
Thailand	Togo	Tunisia	United Arab Emirates	
Vanuatu	Yemen			

28 countries worldwide
discriminate against **women**
in their ability to confer
their **nationality** on their **children**
on an equal basis with men.

COUNTRIES THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST MOTHERS' ABILITY TO PASS NATIONALITY TO THEIR CHILDREN:

Bahamas

Jordan

Madagascar

Sierra Leone

Bahrain

Kiribati

Malaysia

Somalia

Barbados

Lebanon

Mauritania

Swaziland

Brunei

Liberia

Nepal

Syria

Burundi

Libya

Oman

Tunisia

Iran

Kuwait

Qatar

United Arab Emirates

Iraq

Saudi Arabia

Vanuatu

Gender Discrimination in Nationality laws is in **contradiction** with **state commitments** to a number of **international conventions** including:

- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*
- *Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- *Convention on Statelessness*

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

*Article 1. **All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.***

*Article 2. **Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.***

*Article 15. (1) **Everyone has the right to a nationality.***

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Article 9

1. States Parties shall **grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality**. They shall ensure in particular that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of the husband.

2. States Parties shall **grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children**.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 7

*1. The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the **right to acquire a nationality** and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.*

*2. **States Parties shall ensure the implementation of these rights** in accordance with their national law and their obligations under the relevant international instruments in this field, **in particular where the child would otherwise be stateless.***

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 24

1. States Parties recognize the **right of the child** to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard **of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness** and rehabilitation of health. **States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.**

Article 28

1. States Parties recognize the **right of the child to education**, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular:
(a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all

The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women

Beijing, China - September 1995

Action Objective I.2.

Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice

Actions to be taken By Governments:

- Give priority to promoting and protecting **the full and equal enjoyment by women and men of all human rights** and fundamental freedoms **without distinction of any kind** as to race, colour, **sex**, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origins, property, birth or other status;
- Provide **constitutional guarantees** and/or **enact appropriate legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex** for all women and girls of all ages and assure women of all ages equal rights and their full enjoyment;
- Embody the principle of the **equality of men and women in their legislation** and ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;
- Review national laws, including customary laws and legal practices in the areas of family, civil, penal, labour and commercial law in order to ensure the implementation of the principles and procedures of all relevant international human rights instruments by means of national legislation, **revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex** and remove gender bias in the administration of justice.

BEIJING +20 : REALIZING THE BEIJING PLATFORM OF ACTION

- In 1995 governments pledged to remove gender discrimination from all laws with a target date of 2005.



MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3:

Promote Gender Equality and Empower women



MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2:

ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals:

Gender Equality Critical to Sustainable Development

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

- Right to a family
- Implications for gender-based violence
- Custody of children
- Right to non-discrimination
- Equal citizenship
- Statelessness



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ABUSES



- Child Marriage
- Compromised Education
- Social Alienation
- Psychological Damage

HUMAN SECURITY & SOCIAL COSTS

Economic Costs:

- Lack of employment
- Lost productivity/GDP
- Denied Social Services
- Poverty

National Insecurity:

- Marginalized population
- Politically Disenfranchised

Physical Wellbeing:

- Denial of healthcare benefits
- Untreated disease



*No one should have to wait
to be granted their
human rights.*

Equality must not wait.

*The solution **can be** simple.*

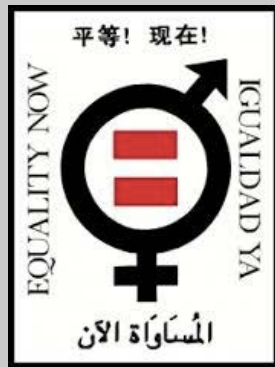
WHY NOW?

- Beijing +20 Review – Government commitments made through the Beijing Platform of Action
- UNHCR Global Campaign to End Statelessness
- Millennium Development Goals
- New Sustainable Development Goals

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL NATIONALITY RIGHTS

PLEDGE TO JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TODAY

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



Campaign Mission: *The Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights* seeks to promote **gender equality in nationality laws**, so that women and men can confer, acquire, change and retain their nationality on an equal basis.

MAKE A PLEDGE TODAY TO HELP END THESE HARMFUL LAWS

SUCCESS REQUIRES ACTION BY MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS:



- Countries Needing Reform
- Countries with Gender-Just Nationality Laws
- Government Officials
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Scholars
- Media
- Individual Citizens

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL NATIONALITY RIGHTS:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

- **Commit to remove gender discrimination** from your country's nationality law
- **Champion reform of nationality laws** to achieve gender equality in countries needing reform.
- **Share your country's experience** in achieving gender equality in nationality laws.

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL NATIONALITY RIGHTS:

CIVIL SOCIETY

- NGOs: Make **ending gender discrimination in nationality laws** an **advocacy focus of 2015**, conducting *public awareness raising activities throughout the year* (sit-ins, street theater, public forums)
- NGOs: **Solicit allies** from media, education, healthcare, labor, social welfare, and religious communities to serve as **issue ambassadors** in their sectors



GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL NATIONALITY RIGHTS:

CIVIL SOCIETY:

- **MEDIA: Commit to publishing stories** on the impact of gender discrimination in nationality laws, raising public awareness of the personal, economic, and social costs
- **INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS: Discuss the issue** within your community and **mobilize your peers** to support reforms; **leverage social media** where applicable

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL NATIONALITY RIGHTS

PLEDGES TO SUPPORT YOU

- Provide **advocacy support** and the **amplification of national campaigns** to **international stakeholders** and **government officials**
- **Facilitate connections and exchanges** between those seeking and those who have realized reforms
- Provide **informational materials** on the cost of this discrimination and lessons learned from recent successes
- **Technical Support**

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Join us.



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