

4) CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women)

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We started the year excited with the leadership of an expert on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, our dear Judith van Unen who left us in May.

Since then, we have been committed, like our new leader Dawn Nason, to understanding the main objectives of the Committee, as well as learning about the initiatives and roles of our countries in accordance with the Convention adopted in 1979.

In addition to being in different countries, we find different realities, cultures and beliefs that are paradigms to be demystified.

Based on The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women.

By accepting the Convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms, including:

- to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women;
- to establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the effective protection of women against discrimination; and
- to ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises.

Now our challenge for this Committee, and also for our entire study, is to understand how we can effectively practice our advocacy in our countries, as:

- History, purpose, structure of CEDAW
- Involvement with UN and member states.
- Accomplishments of CEDAW since its inception
- Current initiatives / outreach activities
- IFBPW UN SC support for CEDAW.

Next Step: is to further mobilize and build capacity of IFBPW members to learn how their countries is dealing with commitments made under the Convention are legally bound to put its provisions into practice.

Thank you, CEDAW Group