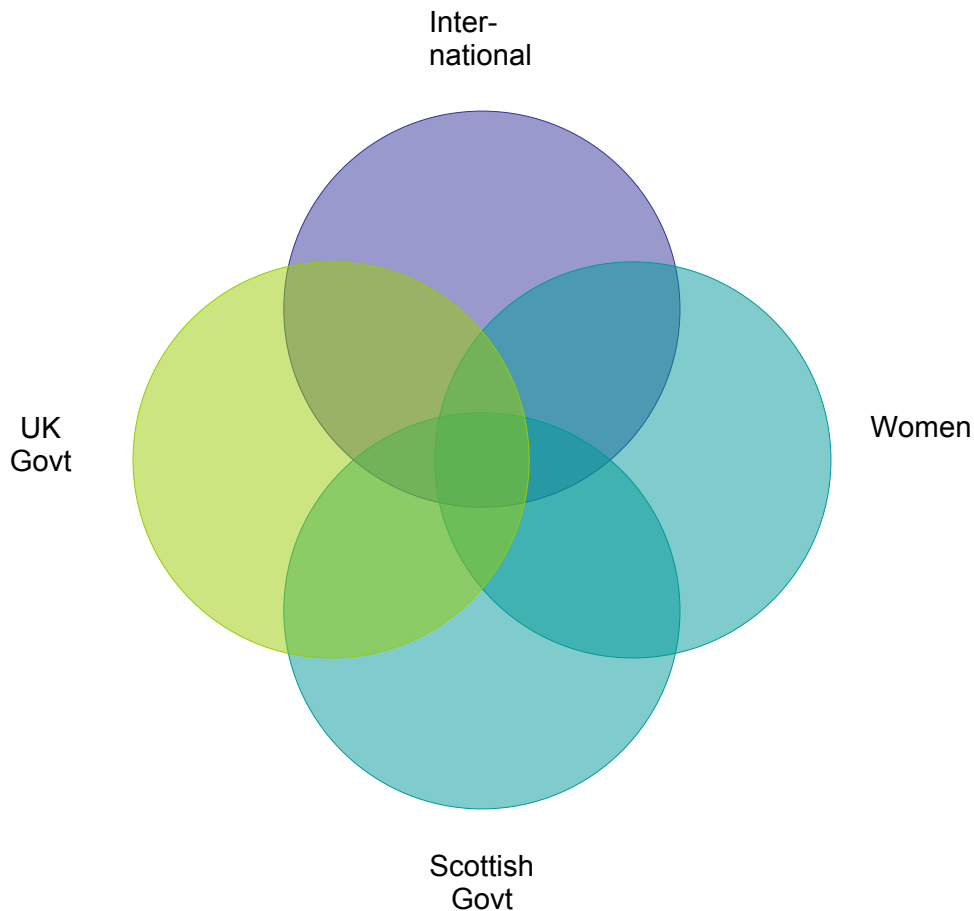


# IMPROVING WOMEN'S LIVES MAKING THE POLICY CONNECTIONS

FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2010, 11.00-16.00  
VICTORIA QUAY, EDINBURGH



UK Government will be reporting to CEDAW and CSW\* next year. It is therefore timely that Scottish Government is holding an event to share understanding of action and policy to improve women's lives at International, UK Government and Scottish Government levels and of the role that non-government organisations (NGOs) and individual women have in the process.

Scottish Government will lead the session before lunch. UK Government colleagues will arrive in time to network over lunch and lead the afternoon session.

Please e-mail [genderequality@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:genderequality@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) by **Friday 1 October 2010** to indicate interest in attending this event. If demand exceeds places, we may restrict organisations to one place each and/or employ a 'first-come-first-served' basis.

**Please note that Scottish Government will not be able to reimburse travel or other related costs.**

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\* See Annex for more info.

## **Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is a legally binding United Nation Convention which defines discrimination against women. The Convention also sets out a national action framework to end the discrimination that women face. CEDAW consists of a preamble and 30 Articles which were adopted in 1979, coming into force on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1981. This was the first international Treaty to systematically address human rights' issues for women in politics, education, health care, employment, law, property, economics, marriage and family relations. CEDAW is important for all women globally as women in developing countries face additional difficulties in achieving fundamental human rights.

Once CEDAW is ratified by a State, gender equality must be enshrined in domestic legislation, all discriminatory provisions must be repealed in their laws, and new provisions must be enacted to guard against further discrimination. Tribunals and public institutions must be established to guarantee women effective protection against discrimination by individuals, enterprises, and organizations.

Countries that have ratified the Convention are obliged to submit a Report every four years. If the UN requires additional information, the member state must provide this in the timeframe allocated. Over ninety percent of UN members, 185 countries, have ratified CEDAW.

The UK is a member state, having signed CEDAW on 22 July 1981 and ratified it on 7 April 1986. Its next report to CEDAW is due at the end of May 2011.

## **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functioning commission of the UN Economic and Social Council. Each year, member states meet to evaluate and discuss the advancement of women and gender equality. The CSW was established on 21 June 1946 and prepares recommendations and reports to the Council on the political, economic, social, civil and educational advancement of women's rights. Each year, the CSW agrees on priority themes which are of concern and sets out tangible recommendations for governments, intergovernmental bodies and stakeholders which should be implemented at national and international level.

For the 55th session in 2011, the priority theme is "Women and girls in science and technologies: increasing opportunities in education, research and employment". (The review theme is around the agreed conclusions from the 2007 session on the "Elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against the girl child.")