

3 CONSULT/COLLABORATE: CEDAW said the UK Government should:

'... consult and collaborate with civil society organizations, in particular women's and human rights organizations ... raising awareness and broadening understanding of the Convention and of the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

What was the UK Government's response?

The Scottish Government fed into the Equality Bill consultation in a number of ways. A Scottish representative expressed the views of the Scottish Stakeholders' Group, which met regularly and was organised by Scottish Government, at meetings of the UK Government's Senior Stakeholders' Group. ... There was a Scottish Government representative on the UK specific duties and age reference groups.

Further consultations on the public sector equality duty (currently ongoing) and on the exceptions to age discrimination (coming soon) have also been arranged... A joint stakeholder event on both of these consultations is planned with the WNC.

The development of the specific duties, for example the public sector equality duty, is a devolved matter and therefore a matter for the Scottish and Welsh governments.

The Scottish Government held a public sector meeting on 20 May 2009, which included discussions about the options for the development of the specific duties in Scotland... further meetings will be held with stakeholders ... The Scottish Government will also be consulting on the socio economic duty.

Questions

- 1. How might the UK Government consult and collaborate with women's organisations in future?**
- 2. How might the Scottish Government take steps to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the CEDAW Convention in Scotland?**
- 3. Any other comments?**