**ENGENDER CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON CEDAW**

The UK’s response to its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is currently being examined.

In the lead up to the UN review of the status of women’s rights in the UK, and in particular the implementation of CEDAW across the UK, Engender is seeking evidence from women and equalities organisations across Scotland to inform our shadow report. Shadow reporting is an essential tool for non-governmental organisations supporting women’s rights. By submitting a shadow report to the UN CEDAW Committee, Engender – and women’s organisation in the remaining three nations – can share civil society’s perspective of women’s rights across the UK.

The evidence that Engender receives from its call for evidence will be analysed and incorporated into the shadow report, which is expected to be submitted to the UN CEDAW Committee in summer 2018.

In its last concluding observations, the UN CEDAW Committee noted the following areas of concern:

* Violence against women including FGM and trafficking
* Access to legal aid and justice
* Women in prison
* Participation in public and political life
* Women’s underrepresentation in decision-making positions
* Education
* Employment and economic development
* Gender stereotyping
* National machinery for the advancement of women
* Legal status and implementation of CEDAW

Engender is seeking views on the following:

* What is the current status of the concerns identified by the UN CEDAW Committee in its last report on the UK? In other words, what are your outstanding concerns with women’s rights in these areas in Scotland?
* Thinking about the policy development process (i.e., from generating an idea to the coming into force of a Bill, strategy or programme) where has this not been aligned with the ambitions of CEDAW (e.g., not taken account of CEDAW)?
* In the last five years, are you aware of any legislative initiatives and/or policy reforms put in place to promote women’s rights and gender equality in Scotland?
* Is there anything else you would like to share with the UN CEDAW Committee in respect of women’s rights in Scotland?

**You can answer as many questions as you like. You can also contribute to this review for evidence by sending us reports, comments, or bullet points about women’s rights and/or CEDAW itself by email to** **jill.wood@engender.org.uk****.**

We are hoping to share as many responses as possible with the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Scottish Human Rights Commission and/or to put those we can share on our website in a special section on CEDAW. **Please indicate below if you are content for us to share your response in this way.**

**QUESTIONS**

**What is your name?**

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**If you are replying on behalf of an organisation, please tell us its name.**

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**Question 1: What is the current status of the concerns identified by the UN CEDAW Committee in its last report on the UK? In other words, what are your outstanding concerns with women’s rights in these areas (or any other areas) in Scotland?**

What we are looking for:

* Examples of areas where women’s rights are not being realised and inequality persists
* Gender-disaggregated data that shows a difference between men’s and women’s experiences, especially where this relates to women from different protected groups
* Areas where inequality or breaches of rights have worsened over the past five years

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**Question 2: Thinking about the policy development process (i.e. from generating an idea to the coming into force of a Bill, strategy or programme) where has this not been aligned with the ambitions of CEDAW (e.g. not taken account of CEDAW)?**

What we are looking for:

* A sense of the extent to which CEDAW is considered during the policymaking process, with examples of where this has or hasn’t happened
* A sense of the extent to which women’s equality and rights are considered during the policymaking process, with examples of where this has or hasn’t happened

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**Question 3: In the last five years, are you aware of any legislative initiatives and/or policy programmes or reforms put in place to promote women’s rights and gender equality in Scotland?**

What we are looking for:

* A list of areas where legislation or policy programmes are being introduced in a way that promotes women’s rights and women’s equality in Scotland

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**Question 4: Is there anything else you would like to share with the UN CEDAW Committee in respect of women’s rights in Scotland?**

What we are looking for:

* Any additional thoughts that you may have about women’s rights in Scotland

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**It is helpful if we can share the information you provide us with the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Scottish Human Rights Commission, to inform their own work around CEDAW.**

**Permissions (please delete as appropriate):**

* I do/do not agree that this response can be shared with the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Scottish Human Rights Commission.
* I do/do not agree that this response can be shared on a special section of Engender’s website.

Please note that Engender may choose not to include all responses on its website.

**Thank you for your contribution to the CEDAW examination process. Please return your response and any other materials to Jill Wood, Policy Manager, at** **jill.wood@engender.org.uk****.**