

Assessing CEDAW's Committee Contribution to Enhancing Women's Political Participation through General Recommendation 40

18 September 2024, 12:30 - 13:30 Hybrid Event

Abstract

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), often referred to as the "women's charter", serves as a fundamental human rights instrument and has been almost universally adopted. At its core is Article 17, which entrusts the CEDAW Committee with the responsibility of monitoring the fulfilment of state parties' obligations.

Articles 7 and 8 of CEDAW emphasise the importance of women's participation in political processes at all levels, whether national or international and the need for greater representation of women in decision-making, a key aspect of democratic governance. Therefore, understanding the symbiotic relationship between democracy, women's political engagement and gender equality is critical to achieving gender parity as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 5.

I will explore the significance and impact of General Recommendation 40 in increasing women's political engagement. By comparing it to previous recommendations, I aim to highlight its evolving role in this critical aspect of human rights and democracy.

Biography of the speaker



Parinaz Tofighi is a PhD candidate and researcher in international law at the University of Bern. She received her Master's degree from the University of Tehran (Iran), where she graduated with highest honors. Parinaz was awarded the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship and is actively involved in the Graduate School of Gender Studies of University of Bern, where she emphasises her commitment to promoting gender equality.

Beyond her academic pursuits, Parinaz has been participating in various activities that demonstrate her commitment to social and legal causes. Her move from Iran to Switzerland has broadened her perspectives and enhanced her academic approach. Parinaz's research focuses on the promotion of women's rights and gender equality, especially political participation, in the field of international law and international human rights law.

This lecture is part of the Gender Lecture Series organized by **Prof. Elisa Fornalé** as part of the HEurope HRJust (*States' practice of human rights justification: a study in civil society engagement and human rights through the lens of gender and intersectionality*) and the SNF funded project GEM (*Gender Equality in the Mirror*) housed at the WTI, University of Bern.

Participation is open to the public and free of charge. The event will be held at the Anna Nussbaum Auditorium of the World Trade Institute, at Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern. It will be possible to attend it remotely via Zoom. To register enter this [LINK](#)

For further information please email Dr. Nicolò Alessi (nicolo.alessi2@unibe.ch)