

Key Issues for Women to Consider

Legislative Process

- Gender balance in the legislature, on all committees, and special committees on gender
- Elimination of discrimination in the letter and application of all laws

Family Laws

To ensure equal treatment of men and women, family laws should guarantee equal rights to:

- Enter into a marriage agreement voluntarily
- Enter into a marriage at a certain minimum age, same age for men and women
- Seek divorce and fair divorce procedures
- Receive protection in customary marriages
- Make a mutually agreed-upon decision on child custody

Property and Succession Laws

To ensure equal treatment of men and women, property and succession laws should guarantee equal rights to:

- Acquire, hold, transfer, exchange, and sell property
- Inherit land
- Access all property upon the death of or divorce from spouse
- Own non-land property

Citizenship and Nationality Laws

To ensure equal treatment of men and women, citizenship and nationality laws should guarantee equal rights to:

- Pass citizenship on to children
- Retain nationality if a spouse is a foreign national
- Naturalize foreign spouses

Laws Addressing Violence Against Women

- Adequate criminal penalties and procedures and legal redress for acts of violence
- Fair procedures relating to evidence and testimony that do not discriminate against women
- Adequate laws and programs for the protection of and assistance to victims

Enforcing Legal Rights

- Gender training for the judicial branch
- Public education about legal rights
- Mechanisms to challenge legislation that is inconsistent with rights
- Training for police and legal professionals to ensure enforcement of laws