



**Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women**

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women (CEDAW)

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES  
UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

Second Periodic Reports of States Parties

Addendum

DEMOCRATIC YEMEN

1. This report is based on the first report submitted to the international meeting held in Greece from 23 to 27 January 1989, in which several articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women were discussed.

Information concerning articles included in parts I, II, III and IV of the Convention

Article 5

(a) Elimination of prejudices and customary practices

2. Facts point to the position of women in the pre-independence era when, with the encouragement of imperialism, backward customs and traditions prevailed. Women then had no right to express an opinion or make a decision or bear any responsibility other than caring for the family.

3. A woman had no right to serve as a witness or conclude any legal contract, on the grounds that she did not fulfil the requirements.

4. Since independence, this prejudice against women is being eliminated so as to create social awareness in the minds of both men and women. Many laws have been enacted granting men and women the same rights. A review of all articles of the Convention shows that they are in line with our legislation and that our laws do not discriminate against women, but grant both men and women the same rights and obligations.

(b) Family protection

5. The State provides protection to the family under article 26 of the Constitution, which reads as follows:

"The State supports the family, offers protection to mother and child, and takes all political, economic, social and cultural action required to enable families to fulfil their functions."

6. Also, article 27 of the Constitution reads as follows:

"The State encourages marriage and the establishment of families. Family relationships are governed by law on the basis of equality between men and women in rights and obligations."

7. Laws and regulations of the State ensure continuous improvement in social stability for the family and care for children. For this purpose, the State has established centres for the care of mother and child throughout the country.

(c) Guardianship

8. Article 46 of the Constitution reads as follows:

"1. Boys until the age of 10 and girls until the age of 15 shall remain in the custody of the mother, even if she remarries. In all cases, the court may decide otherwise if the mother or her husband is totally disqualified in the light of facts established by social investigation.

2. In all cases the courts shall take the interests of the person in need of guardianship into consideration".

9. It is to be noted that the competent court is given the authority to disqualify the mother if she is totally unfit for guardianship. This also applies in the case of the unfit husband.

10. This authority can only be exercised on the basis of a social investigation by such competent bodies as the Social Affairs Section of the Executive Bureau of the Local People's Council, or the General Federation of Yemeni Women, or the Secretariat for Social Affairs of the People's Defence Committee. In issuing a guardianship order, the court shall always and primarily take the child's interest into consideration.

Article 8 - Representation at the international level and participation in the work of international organizations

11. Yemeni women's role has been enhanced, as they have been given full opportunity, on an equal footing with men, to attend and participate in international and regional conferences and meetings as well as in sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, as representatives of Democratic Yemen. This is a clear indication that efforts have been, and are still being, made to give equal opportunities to men and women.

12. It is to be noted also that women have filled important diplomatic and consular posts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the Republic's missions overseas.

Article 10 - Education

13. The State has given special attention to education and opened up equal opportunities for all groups, as article 40 of the Constitution provides that all citizens have equal rights to education. The State guarantees this right by securing access to education to all members of the public, and through its plans aimed at extending and developing schools and universities and other cultural and educational institutions.

14. Education is free and the State is especially concerned with technical and professional education. It takes into consideration those whose social conditions have previously deprived them of education. It is also aiming at complete elimination of illiteracy within the shortest time possible, and encouraging continued education among those who have become literate.

15. Following the events of 22 June, many actions have been taken to promote education. Education Act No. 6 of 1972 has brought about many regulations and decisions which helped to change views about women's education, as women have gained equality with men in rights and obligations and have been given the opportunity to educate themselves in the country and abroad. Mixed education is practised at all levels: kindergartens, comprehensive schools, secondary schools and universities.

16. The attached tables show the proportions of male and female students at all educational levels. The attached statistics show the rates of school attendance. In certain rural areas, girls tend to drop out of school, while in other areas and in cities, the number of girls attending school in all stages is increasing considerably.

17. The main reasons why girls drop out of school in rural areas are:

1. Transportation problems;
2. Too few teachers;

3. Religious beliefs opposed to mixing of the sexes;
4. Lack of water and electricity in schools located in certain rural areas;
5. Early marriage.

#### Article 12 - Health care

18. Free health care is a right guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution, and this is one of the aims that the State is striving to achieve. Plans for public health aim primarily at improving and extending health services to all regions, particularly remote ones. A drastic transformation has taken place in preventive medicine, as efforts are made to control endemic diseases by providing primary health services to rural areas. The Ministry of Public Health Organizational Act has defined the Ministry's main tasks and objectives, including the provision of free preventive and curative services to all citizens on an equal basis, irrespective of sex, age or social status. Health education is provided to all citizens through the media, as well as in specialized and teaching hospitals, health centres and maternity homes.

19. Regarding mother and child care, two centres were established in Aden immediately after independence in 1967 and two additional ones in 1971. Several plans were developed for opening other centres and for training midwives in the country and abroad, in co-operation with the World Health Organization, and with the support of the Swedish Centre and the United Nations Fund. The Yemeni Family Association also contributes a great deal in the field of family planning.

20. The number of mother and child centres established in all regions up to 1988 has increased to 127, as follows:

1.	Aden	15 centres
2.	Lahej	32 centres
3.	Abyan	25 centres
4.	Shabwah	18 centres
5.	Hadhramaut	27 centres
6.	Mahrah	10 centres

21. The national plan for accelerating universal immunization activities was launched in November 1987, with the following objectives:

- To reduce the rate of health problems among women during pregnancy and confinement;
- To reduce the rates of health problems and death among children under 5 years of age.

22. This plan has now entered its second year of operation. Its main activities in the past year included the expansion of immunization services and the opening of several immunization centres to provide daily services in the country's six regions. Free immunization is available to all women and children throughout the year. Preventive and curative services are now provided in 281 health centres. Thus, the national pledge to provide immunization against the six diseases of infancy to 90 per cent of all children and to all women during the fertility period of 15-45 is being fulfilled. The percentage of coverage last year for children under one year of age was 35 per cent for poliomyelitis and DTP and 27.5 per cent for measles.

23. Although this percentage is substantially higher than in previous years, it falls short of the 60 per cent that had been planned and hoped for in 1988.

### Article 13 - Right to obtain bank loans

24. Bank loans: women, like men, have the right to borrow from banks. There are rules regulating loans of various kinds as described below. There is no differentiation between men and women regarding personal loans such as marriage loans, medical care loans, other guaranteed loans, loans for the purchase of motor vehicles, special loans, etc. Article 1 of the Personal Loan Regulations of 15 November 1984 reads as follows:

#### Paragraph 1

A man or woman wishing to obtain a loan shall fill in the appropriate application form, and attach copies of the relevant certificates and other documents thereto.

#### Paragraph 2

After the loan application has been approved and the amount of the loan has been fixed, the applicant shall be requested to produce a statement by the party (establishment or department) financially responsible for him/her, undertaking to withhold specified monthly instalments (from his/her salary) for payment to the bank until such time as the principal and interest are repaid in full. No failure by any establishment or department to pay the monthly instalment is permitted without the bank's approval.

25. Loans are also granted for building a new house or completing or expanding an existing house. One of the requirements for granting such loans is that the borrower be an employee of the State or State agencies, irrespective of sex.

### Sports activities

26. Following independence, women's participation in sports activities, in view of their retiring way of life, remained simple and was restricted to local clubs.

27. However, attention was turned to women and they were urged to participate in sports in the early 1970s. Their activities included volley-ball, basket-ball, table tennis, swimming and field and track games.

28. The State was interested in having women perform their role in all areas, including sports. This was shown by their participation in school tournaments held in Libya, Syria and Somalia.

29. In the 1980s, in line with the development of the country, efforts were made and actions were taken to encourage women to participate in sports activities. Women did participate in many events within the country and abroad, and obtained a number of medals, including a silver for volley-ball and a gold for table tennis at the school tournament held in Libya.

30. We refer in this respect to United Nations General Assembly resolution 40/46 of 10 December 1985 adopting the International Convention Against Apartheid in Sports. The Government is interested in this Convention and the necessary constitutional action is being taken to accede to it.

Article 14 - Women and rural development

31. Our country is greatly interested in educating and training women, as it considers that education and training constitute an important area which may bring about fundamental changes in conditions for people in general, and for rural communities in particular. Training for rural women was designed to enable them to share in the benefits of development by participating in the overall development process. The starting point of this endeavour was the establishment of eight rural development centres in 1976 in the provinces of Lahej, Abyan, Shabwah, Hadhramaut and Mahrah (Socotra).

32. The purpose of establishing these centres is to provide services to the rural communities, and especially to educate rural women and enable them to acquire skills in such new areas as home economics, livestock production, handicrafts in the local environment, raising of domestic animals and home gardening, and to teach girls to perform secretarial work and dressmaking as well as to provide agricultural extension, health guidance and veterinarian services.

33. These centres carry out different activities, depending on the environment in each community. The following table shows the number of courses organized by these centres and the number of women benefiting from their activities.

Table 1Courses organized by the centres during the period 1983-1988

Subject	Number of courses	Number of participants
1. Typing and secretarial work	37	580
2. Tailoring and dressmaking	36	594
3. Handicrafts	5	140
4. Rural development	8	288
5. Family development	8	160
	94	1,726

34. In addition to the above activities, the centres organize lectures, meetings and visits aimed basically at raising cultural, health and social standards. They play an important role in the eradication of illiteracy among rural women and take part in the universal literacy campaign. The total number of beneficiaries in 1984 was 636 and follow-up courses are still being conducted in certain centres.

35. The difficulties faced by rural women are reflected in their non-participation in the universal development taking place in our country. The reasons are:

1. Rural backwardness and its impact on womens' conditions;
2. Lack of appropriate training equipment in existing institutions;

3. Lack of opportunities for training of workers at community development centres, and for visits to countries which are ahead of us in the field of rural development.

Article 15 - Conclusion of contracts and right to ownership

36. Article 3 (a) of Law No. 20 of 1976 concerning home ownership reads as follows:

"The Ministry grants ownership of one of the houses it has built, or is building, to any national, whenever it deems fit, and by decision of the Minister."

37. Article 2 makes no distinction in defining the term "national". It means the Yemeni national, male or female, with a stable source of income which guarantees repayment of the amounts due to the State and the bank.

38. Women have the right to conclude contracts and other forms of private instruments. These instruments have the same legal effect as any document signed by a man, if the legal requirements relating to sale or purchase contracts or agreements are met.

Article 16 - Marriage and family relationships

39. Family Law No. 1 of 1974 has identified many important issues related to womens' situations. Most of its provisions reflect the principle of equality provided for in the Constitution as well as in the Party's programme.

40. With regard to the substance of this provision, we find that article 2 of the Family Law, which is a very important part of this law because it embodies the principle of equality of men and women in rights and obligations, provides that marriage is a contract between a man and a woman who have equal rights and obligations, and is based on mutual understanding and respect for the purpose of creating a close-knit family, which is the cornerstone of society.

41. The characteristics of the Family Law are:

A. The right to conclude marriage

1. Consent of both parties, fully and properly given is provided for. The woman herself must consent; otherwise the marriage is considered null.
2. Parents cannot approve of the marriage of their daughter without her own approval.
3. No marriage contract shall take effect unless signed by both parties and registered by the authorized official.
4. Marriage age is 18 years for men and 16 years for women.
5. Marriage is prohibited if the difference in age exceeds 20 years, unless the woman has reached the age of 35.
6. No man shall take a second wife, except in the following situations:
  - (a) Sterility of the wife, as evidenced by a medical report, provided the husband was unaware of it at the time of marriage.

- (b) Chronic or contagious disease of the wife, as evidenced by a medical report, provided such disease is incurable.

In such a case, the wife may request legal separation if the husband is granted permission by the competent court to take a second wife.

- 7. The law has abolished the distinction between male and female in witnessing marriage contracts. All that is required is the appearance of two adult persons, male or female, who are sound of mind and have completed their eighteenth year of age.

42. In conclusion, we hope this report gives a comprehensive brief picture - with appropriate references - of our country's interest in carrying out the provisions of the Convention.

43. Thus, we find that Democratic Yemen is actively engaged in carrying out the provisions of the Convention in so much as its capabilities and conditions permit. This report is a fulfilment of Democratic Yemen's obligation under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Legal Affairs and Institutes Department



## Statistics for the unified stage for the school year 1988/89

Province	Total Pupils	Number of schools		Sex	Principal	Teaching staff		Teacher	Workmen
		Boys	Girls			Administrative deputy	Educational deputy		
Aden	32 731	-	-	Male	46	39	41	346	143
	27 833	-	69	Female	6	69	5	1 951	315
Lahej	57 751	-	-	Male	118	88	60	2 162	187
	22 082	-	334	Female	1	7	2	551	83
Shabwah	24 639	-	-	Male	38	32	29	827	110
	3 861	-	124	Female	-	-	-	59	11
Abyan	34 768	-	-	Male	131	83	94	1 154	160
	15 918	-	174	Female	-	10	-	991	143
Hadhramaut	65 595	-	-	Male	154	96	76	1 481	141
	34 291	-	283	Female	6	4	4	967	84
Mahrah	3 794	-	-	Male	31	13	7	194	7
	2 063	-	31	Female	-	-	-	51	-
TOTAL	219 278	-	-	Male	548	351	307	7 164	728
	106 048	-	1 014	Female	13	90	11	4 569	636

Source: Planning Department, Ministry of Education.

Statistics for the secondary level for the year 1988/89

Province	Number of schools		Sex	Principal	Teaching staff		Teacher	Workmen
	Boys	Girls			Administrative deputy	Technical deputy		
Aden	-	16	Male	11	12	12	168	75
			Female	3	17	2	514	108
Lahej	-	18	Male	10	8	15	254	100
			Female	-	1	1	75	37
Abyan	-	7	Male	7	10	7	156	97
			Female	-	-	-	38	47
Shabwah	-	5	Male	5	5	4	77	52
			Female	-	-	-	3	4
Hadhramaut	-	13	Male	13	15	12	327	187
			Female	-	-	2	93	57
Mahrah	-	2	Male	2	2	2	20	10
			Female	-	-	-	3	-
TOTAL	-	61	Male	48	52	52	1 002	521
			Female	3	18	5	726	253

Source: Planning Department, Ministry of Education.

Kindergarten statistics for the year 1987/88

Province	Number of kindergartens	Sex	Total		Principal	Teaching staff		Tutorress
			Pupils	Sections		Assistant		
Aden	14	Male	2 719	109	-	-	-	-
		Female	3 101		12	13		234
Lahej	2	Male	126	10	-	-	-	-
		Female	126		2	1		23
Abyan	7	Male	691	32	-	1		-
		Female	799		6	5		76
Shabwah	4	Male	343	9	-	-	-	-
		Female	978		1	2		3
Hadhramaut	9	Male	193	41	-	-	-	-
		Female	1 073		6	5		74
Mahrah	2	Male	193	5	-	-	-	-
		Female	203		2	-		10
TOTAL	38	Male	5 050	26	1	3		3
		Female	5 202		31	23		436

Source: Planning Department, Ministry of Education.

**Qualifications of teaching staff\***  
**by level, sex and province**  
**for the year 1987/88**

Province	Sex	Kindergarten			Unified stage			Secondary level			Commercial			Industrial			Agricultural			Teachers' colleges		
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
Aden	Male	-	-	-	363	128	491	212	5	217	13	-	13	42	-	42	-	-	-	10	-	10
	Female	258	-	258	1 157	869	2 026	543	-	543	25	-	25	22	-	22	-	-	-	10	-	10
Lahej	Male	-	-	-	1 883	413	2 296	278	-	278	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	17	11	-	11
	Female	26	-	26	372	118	490	81	-	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6	4	-	4
Abyan	Male	1	-	1	1 209	350	1 559	179	-	179	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	27
	Female	87	-	87	670	287	957	35	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
Shabwah	Male	-	-	-	382	530	912	89	-	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	13
	Female	12	-	12	14	28	42	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hadhramaut	Male	6	-	6	548	340	2 888	379	-	379	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	22
	Female	95	-	95	741	113	854	92	-	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mahrah	Female	12	-	12	18	27	45	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	in association with		
	Male	-	-	-	154	70	224	32	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	Male	7	-	7	6 539	1 831	8 370	1 174	-	1 174	13	-	13	42	-	42	17	-	17	83	-	83
	Female	490	-	490	2 972	1 442	4 414	755	-	755	25	-	25	22	-	22	6	-	6	23	-	23

(1) Trained.

(2) Untrained.

(3) Total.

\* Includes principals, assistants and teachers.

Source: Planning Department, Ministry of Education.

Statistics for male and female students at the University of Aden  
for the year 1988/89

Year	College of Education, Aden			Agriculture,		Economics		Education, Mukalla		Technology		Medicine		Law		Education Zanzibar		Education Sabr		Grand Total
	Diploma	BA		Diploma		Diploma	BA	BA		Special degree		General		BA		Diploma		Diploma		
I	Male	17	106	37	-	-	83	51	-	84	-	56	-	89	-	92	-	46	-	661
	Female	3	168	5	-	-	54	66	-	25	-	46	-	34	-	31	-	36	-	468
	Total	20	274	42	-	-	137	117	-	109	-	102	-	123	-	123	-	82	-	1 129
II	Male	-	83	19	-	-	56	53	-	56	-	14	-	69	-	43	-	30	-	423
	Female	-	142	7	-	-	46	20	-	14	-	42	-	23	-	20	-	14	-	328
	Total	-	225	26	-	-	102	73	-	70	-	56	-	92	-	63	-	44	-	851
III	Male	-	121	39	-	-	155	63	-	66	-	40	-	80	-	-	-	-	-	564
	Female	-	97	6	-	-	91	51	-	18	-	48	-	57	-	-	-	-	-	368
	Total	-	218	45	-	-	246	114	-	84	-	88	-	137	-	-	-	-	-	932
IV	Male	-	133	32	-	-	180	84	-	58	-	32	-	67	-	-	-	-	-	586
	Female	-	103	8	-	-	102	35	-	22	-	23	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	311
	Total	-	236	40	-	-	282	119	-	80	-	55	-	85	-	-	-	-	-	897
V	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	-	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	161
VI	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
VII	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
TOTAL	Male	17	443	127	-	-	474	251	-	335	-	239	-	305	-	135	-	76	-	2 402
	Female	3	510	26	-	-	293	172	-	109	-	219	-	132	-	51	-	50	-	1 565
	Total	20	953	153	-	-	727	423	-	444	-	458	-	437	-	186	-	126	-	3 967

Source: Department of Planning and Development, University of Aden.

Statistics for male and female students at the University of Aden  
for the year 1987/88

Year	College of Education, Aden			Agriculture, Diploma		Economics		Education, Mukalla		Technology		Medicine		Law		Education Zanzibar		Education		Grand Total
	Diploma	BA		Diploma	BA	Diploma	BA	BA		Special degree		General		BA		Diploma		Sabr	Diploma	
I	Male	-	83	19	-	-	56	53	-	56	-	14	-	69	-	43	-	30	-	423
	Female	-	142	7	-	-	46	20	-	14	-	42	-	23	-	20	-	14	-	328
	Total	-	225	26	-	-	102	73	-	70	-	56	-	92	-	63	-	44	-	751
II	Male	5	121	39	84	155	63	66	-	66	-	40	-	80	-	35	-	41	-	729
	Female	5	97	6	91	91	51	18	-	18	-	48	-	57	-	36	-	36	-	536
	Total	10	218	45	175	246	114	84	-	84	-	88	-	137	-	71	-	77	-	1 265
III	Male	-	79	35	-	170	79	58	-	58	-	32	-	67	-	-	-	-	-	520
	Female	-	98	7	-	110	41	22	-	22	-	23	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	328
	Total	-	177	42	-	280	120	80	-	80	-	55	-	94	-	-	-	-	-	848
IV	Male	-	104	35	-	126	70	72	-	72	-	41	-	67	-	-	-	-	-	515
	Female	-	178	9	-	76	51	30	-	30	-	19	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	381
	Total	-	282	44	-	202	121	102	-	102	-	60	-	85	-	-	-	-	-	896
V	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	-	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	-	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	136
VI	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
VII	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54
TOTAL	Male	5	387	128	84	507	265	323	-	323	-	205	-	283	-	78	-	71	-	2 336
	Female	5	515	29	91	323	163	102	-	102	-	204	-	125	-	56	-	50	-	1 663
	Total	10	902	157	175	830	428	425	-	425	-	409	-	408	-	134	-	121	-	3 999

Source: Department of Planning and Development, University of Aden.