

**What is CEDAW?... United Nations Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women or the Women's International Bill of Rights -
Established in 1979
"A Super-hero for women"**



What does CEDAW do?

It is only concerned with girls and women

It says that Governments have to stop discrimination against girls and women
It provides a framework for achieving "substantive equality"

As signatories of CEDAW, all UK government agencies must recognise and respond effectively to the different needs of women and men.

What is a substantive model of equality?

Girls & boys and women & men are not supposed to be unequal, it's not a natural thing - it the way society has made it and it can be changed
Governments have to change things to make equality not just by providing opportunities but by making sure it happens



In July 2013 six women from the North East travelled to Geneva today to lobby the CEDAW committee in the run up to their examination of the UK Government's. They urged them recommend measures to redress the negative impact of the austerity measures upon women's in the North East. These are the recommendations and what the CEDAW committee subsequently recommended.

Redress the negative impact of the austerity measures

- Mitigate the impact of austerity measures on women and services provided to women, particularly women with disabilities and older women
- Ensure that Spending Reviews focus on measuring and balancing the impact of austerity on women's rights (Para 21)

Promote and protect women-only services

- Review the policy of commissioning services where it may undermine the provision of specialised women's services (Para 29)

Sustain VAWG services

- Increase efforts to protect women, including black and minority women, against all forms of violence, including domestic violence and so called honour killings (Para 35)

Publish specific data

- Collect data on women in positions in all levels of academic institutions and improve representation
- Bring into force the public sector duties on socio-economic inequality, combined discrimination and publicising gender pay information
- Use the Public Sector Equality Duty review to ensure that gender equality is properly prescribed for public authorities, including the application of the principle of substantive equality

Reverse the changes to legal aid

- Ensure effective access for women to courts and tribunals, especially women victims of violence (Para 23)
- Continuously assess the impact of legal aid reforms on women (Para 23)
- Provide written information on steps undertaken to implement recommendations in paragraph 23 within two years (Para 68)

IN 2013 the Government made changes to legal aid that would leave victims of violence unable to access legal protection for themselves and their children from violent former partners. There has been an ongoing struggle on many fronts to make sure that the Government were defeated on this issue. In a partnership that involved women's NGO's, Lawyers and CEDAW, Legal aid has been restored.

CEDAW Event in the North East

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 - 10:00 to 16:15

Alington House, 4 North Bailey, Durham City DH1 3ET

**<https://thewomensresourcecentre.org.uk/events/cedaw-event-in-the-north-east/>
or contact sue@wrc.org.uk**