

QUESTIONS RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS

884 (XXXIV). Report of the Commission on the Status of Women

A

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (sixteenth session).⁵⁶

1224th plenary meeting,
16 July 1962.

B

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixteenth session,⁵⁷

Sharing its opinion that the legal and factual inequality between men and women in questions concerning wages and salaries, still existing in many countries, constitutes a serious obstacle to the achievement of real equality of men and women in the economic field, and that effective measures on national and international levels should be taken to remove this discrimination against women,

Emphasizing in this connexion particularly the responsibilities of Governments for the removal of discrimination against women in the question of wages and salaries and for the consistent application of the principle of equal pay for equal work,

1. Calls upon:

(a) Governments of Member States, which have not yet ratified or otherwise implemented the principles of Convention No. 100 of the International Labour Organisation concerning equal remuneration, to do so, as appropriate under the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, and also to implement the provisions of recommendation No. 90 of the International Labour Organisation and, by the adoption of the relevant legislative and practical measures in all economic fields, to apply and promote consistently the principle of equal pay for equal work in accordance with the said convention;

(b) The International Labour Organisation to continue to follow the introduction of the principle of equal pay for equal work on a world scale and to bear this principle always in mind in considering working and social questions on an international level;

2. Expresses the hope that national and international non-governmental organizations in consultative status may continue to advocate consistently in their activities

⁵⁶ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/3606/Rev.1).

⁵⁷ Ibid.

the principle of equal economic working conditions for men and women and demand the legislative and practical application of the principle of equal pay for equal work;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, in co-operation with the International Labour Office, a report to the eighteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on both the progress achieved in the field of equal pay for equal work, and obstacles existing so far in this field.

1224th plenary meeting,
16 July 1962.

C

ACCESS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN TO ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the access of girls to elementary education,⁵⁸ and considering that almost half the children of school age in the world do not receive school education, and that the number of girls who attend school is even less than that of boys,

Bearing in mind that education will help women to take their proper place in the cultural, social and economic life of their country,

Recalling its resolution 652 C (XXIV) of 24 July 1957 and 821 V B (XXXII) of 19 July 1961 and General Assembly resolutions 1677 (XVI) of 18 December 1961 and 1717 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, in which first importance is attached to the problem of education and the elimination of illiteracy,

Noting with satisfaction the results of the regional conferences on the development of education,

1. Recommends that States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies:

(a) Take into account, where necessary in their plans, the need to expand elementary education, which must be universal, compulsory and free for children of both sexes;

(b) Ensure that both sexes have equal rights and facilities for receiving elementary education, taking advantage of new techniques where these can be helpful;

(c) Take the necessary steps to increase the attendance in elementary schools, especially by girls;

(d) Take steps to develop education for the adults who have not received elementary education, especially for women;

(e) Consider the conclusions and recommendations of the regional conferences on the development of education with a view to their gradual implementation;

⁵⁸ E/CN.6/396 and Corr.1 and 2.

(f) Implement fully the provisions of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its eleventh session;

2. *Expresses the hope* that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization will give high importance, in its work on educational development, to the extension of elementary education to all girls, and to those adult women who have not received elementary education;

3. *Recommends* that non-governmental organizations in consultative status, and in particular women's non-governmental organizations, give all possible collaboration in the development of education, including the utilization, so far as necessary and appropriate, of voluntary aid and local materials.

*1224th plenary meeting,
16 July 1962.*

D

STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

I

INHERITANCE LAWS AS THEY AFFECT THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the principle of equality of rights for men and women is solemnly proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 504 D (XVI) of 23 July 1953 concerning the application of this principle to the status of women in private law,

Noting that, in the legal systems of many countries, inheritance rights of women, in intestate as well as in testamentary succession, are not equal to those of men,

Noting that, in some systems, the law deprives women of all inheritance rights, while in other systems the share of a woman is a fraction of the share of a male heir in the same degree of relationship,

Noting also that, in some systems, the male heir is always preferred to the female in the order of succession, and that in some countries the inheritance rights and the capacity of women to make a will, to accept or refuse an inheritance or to be administrators or executors of estates, are affected by marriage in a manner incompatible with the principle of equality of the spouses,

Noting further that, in some legal systems, the interest of the widow in the estate is either smaller than that of the widower, or is affected by special restrictions,

Recommends that Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies take all possible measures to ensure equality of inheritance rights of men and women by providing that

men and women, in the same degree of relationship to the deceased, shall be entitled to equal shares in the estate and shall have equal rank in the order of succession, and by providing further that the inheritance rights and the capacity of women to make a will, to accept or refuse an inheritance and to be administrators or executors of estates shall not be affected by marriage and that the interest of the widow in the estate shall be equal to that of the widower.

*1224th plenary meeting,
16 July 1962.*

II

LEGAL STATUS OF MARRIED WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in its resolution 587 D (XX) of 3 August 1955, it requested the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, to prepare and arrange for the publication at an early date of material on the legal status of married women,

Noting that, in accordance with this resolution, the Secretary-General prepared and published a monograph entitled *Legal Status of Married Women*,⁵⁹

Noting further that this valuable publication had a wide distribution and was reprinted several times because of the large public demand and also because of its use in the United Nations seminars on the status of women in family law,

Noting also that, since the issuance of this publication, a considerable amount of new material on the subject has been collected by the Secretary-General, in particular in background papers and in working papers prepared for these seminars,

Believing that this information should be made available to the public and also that the material in the publication could readily be brought up to date,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare and to arrange for an early publication of a new edition of the monograph on the *Legal Status of Married Women*, on the basis of information contained in the documentation of the seminars on the status of women in family law and in other authoritative sources.

*1224th plenary meeting,
16 July 1962.*

E

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the reports by the Secretary-General on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries⁶⁰ prepared in accordance

⁵⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957.IV.8.

⁶⁰ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 10, documents E/3493, E/3566 and Add.1.

with its resolution 771 H (XXX) of 25 July 1960, and the views expressed in the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixteenth session.⁶¹

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1509 (XV) of 12 December 1960, in which the Commission on the Status of Women and the Council were invited to pursue their efforts in advancing the status of women in developing countries and to take appropriate measures that would lead to special assistance by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in this regard,

Noting with satisfaction General Assembly resolution 1679 (XVI) of 18 December 1961 in which the Assembly decided to increase the resources of the advisory services programme in human rights in order to permit the provision of a number of human rights fellowships each year, in addition to the seminars,

Considering that under the United Nations Development Decade it is now appropriate to develop and co-ordinate the various programmes of the United Nations, of the specialized agencies and of the United Nations Children's Fund designed to advance the status of women in developing countries,

Believing that, in order to achieve this goal, the co-operation of the Governments, the specialized agencies and the United Nations Children's Fund, and of non-governmental organizations in consultative status is indispensable,

1. *Recommends* to Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies that they make full use, for the purpose of promoting and advancing the status of women in developing countries, of the services presently available under the regular programme and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, as well as of the advisory services programme in human rights and the advisory social welfare services, by requesting the advisory services of experts, by promoting the attendance at seminars and other meetings, and by taking advantage of the availability of fellowships and scholarships;

2. *Invites* the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, in co-operation with the United Nations, to strengthen and to expand their programmes designed to meet the needs of women in developing countries, and to seek new methods to achieve this purpose;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To direct his attention, when planning the various United Nations programmes of assistance, to the needs of women in developing countries and to include in these programmes projects especially directed to meet such needs;

(b) To continue to utilize the available resources of

the United Nations to advance the condition of women in the developing countries, by holding seminars dealing with the status of women, by providing experts on women's rights at the request of Governments and by offering human rights fellowships and scholarships to persons concerned with the status of women, and to make available to Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status all information concerning the facilities available for the advancement of women;

4. *Urges* women's non-governmental organizations in consultative status to co-operate with the Secretary-General, by stimulating public opinion with regard to the programmes of the United Nations which contribute to the advancement of women and by supplementing the efforts of the United Nations on the international and national levels through the holding of regional, national or local seminars, including if possible in the future an international seminar, the provision of fellowships, scholarships and expert advice, and other related activities.

1224th plenary meeting,
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F

ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAMME

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the continuing interest among Member States in regional seminars relating to the status of women, and the valuable materials developed in connexion with those already organized in this field,

Believing that topics relating to the status of women can be usefully examined also in seminars conducted among smaller groups of countries and at the national level,

Realizing that national seminars can also help to co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies for the advancement of the status of women,

Noting resolution 3 (XIV) adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, requesting the Secretary-General to develop plans and, as appropriate, to provide experts to assist Governments of Member States, at their request, in the organization of seminars at the national and local level, with the purpose of advancing the status of women,

Requests the Secretary-General to continue his plans for annual regional seminars on the status of women and to give favourable consideration also to requests for assistance in the organization of seminars among small groups of Member States, under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights.

1224th plenary meeting,
16 July 1962.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 7, E/3606/Rev.1, paras. 115 to 124.