

# Oppression of the Devoted

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## Introduction

Dominated by patriarchy, women are still struggling to break through layers of oppression to enjoy the same basic human rights as men. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) international treaty sought to alleviate this oppression and promote gender equality worldwide, yet the lack of enforcement mechanisms and enduring cultural restraints have impacted the extent of the treaty's impact on women's rights progress in the 187 CEDAW countries. Religion and religiosity are key components in shaping and maintaining these cultural values and traditions that impact women's societal statuses, and thus, as significant cultural influences, religion and religiosity notably impact the success of the implementation of CEDAW's provisions.

## Hypotheses

Ratifying the CEDAW treaty positively impacts women's rights progress in education, politics, health, and employment.



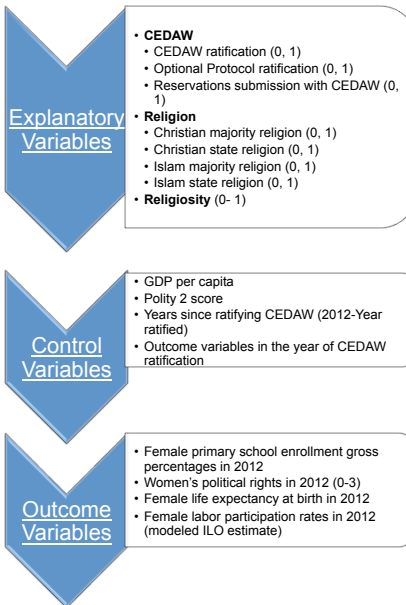
Religion and religiosity undermine the effects of the CEDAW treaty and negatively impact women's rights advancements.

## Methods

Ordinary Least Square Regressions

- Absorbs regional effects
- Significance level ( $\alpha$ )= 0.05

## Data and Variables



**2- WAY INTERACTION VARIABLES**  
Accounts for the simultaneous effects of CEDAW- and religion, CEDAW and religiosity, and religion and religiosity

	CEDAW	OPTIONAL PROTOCOL	RESERVATIONS	RELIGIOSITY
Christian majority	X	X	X	X
Christian state religion	X	X	X	X
Islam majority	X	X	X	X
Islam state religion	X	X	X	X
Religiosity	X	X	X	

## Results

Figure 1: Ratifying the Optional Protocol and Female Primary School Enrollment Rates

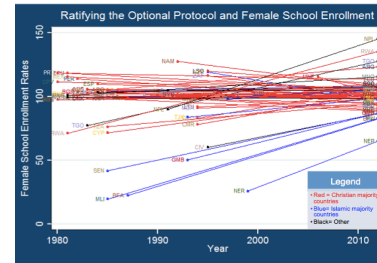


Figure 2: Religiosity and Women's Political Rights in Christian Majority Countries

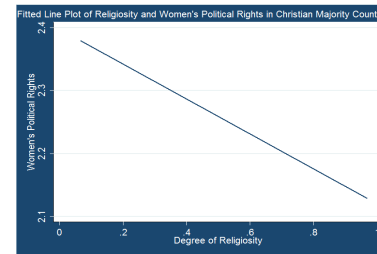


Table 1: CEDAW Treaty Effect on Female Life Expectancy at Birth

Female Life Expectancy at Birth in 2012	Coefficient	Standard of Error	t	P> t
CEDAW	-7.934089	2.293399	-3.46	0.001
Female Life Expectancy Rate in t1	0.6341493	0.0506547	12.52	0
Polity 2 Score in 2012	-0.023673	0.0458697	-0.52	0.607
GDP per capita in 2012	0.0000309	0.0000234	1.32	0.189
Years Since Ratification	0.3108082	0.0436134	7.13	0

Table 2: Islam State Religion Impact on Female Labor Participation Rates in CEDAW + Optional Protocol Countries

Female Labor Participation Rate in 2012	Coefficient	Standard of Error	t	P> t
Optional Protocol	1.272339	2.403126	0.53	0.598
Islam State Religion	11.93613	5.836071	2.05	0.045
Degree of Religiosity	-1.258405	7.187963	-0.18	0.862
Optional Protocol x Islam State	-2.283305	6.220025	-0.37	0.715
Islam State x Religiosity	-5.692622	5.49273	-1.04	0.304
Optional Protocol x Religiosity	2.704748	3.625248	0.75	0.458
Female Labor Participation Rate in t1	0.5539302	0.0706956	7.84	0
Polity Score in 2012	-0.431916	0.1615921	-2.67	0.01
GDP per capita in 2012	0.0001816	0.0000589	3.08	0.003
Years Since Ratification	0.4943208	0.1541707	3.21	0.002

## Key Findings

- Ratifying the Optional Protocol resulted in a significant **negative** effect on female primary school enrollment rates (Figure 1).
- The higher the degree of religiosity in Christian majority states, the **worse** the status of women's political rights (Figure 2).
- Ratifying the CEDAW treaty had a significant **negative** effect on female life expectancy at birth (Table 1).
- Of the CEDAW countries that ratified the Optional Protocol, having Islam as the state religion had a significant **positive** influence on women's labor participation rates (Table 2).

## Conclusion

- Ratifying only the CEDAW treaty had **no significant impact** on women's political rights, primary school enrollment rates, or labor participation rates, but it has a **significant negative effect** on female life expectancy at birth.
- The extent of CEDAW's impact on women's rights advancements was highly influenced by the number of years since each country's CEDAW ratification and the initial status of women's rights in the year of ratification.
- The Christian and Islamic religion in CEDAW countries varied in their correlations with women's rights progress based on the people's overall degrees of religiosity and the extent to which the government enforced the religion upon the people.

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