

# Selected Issues in Family Law

Editor  
Nora A. Hak



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EDITED BY

NORA A. HAK



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## CHAPTER 10

### THE IMPACT OF CEDAW ON MUSLIMS MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: THE MALAYSIAN PERSPECTIVE

By

Nora Abdul Hak

#### Introduction

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)<sup>1</sup> is the international human rights treaty that is exclusively devoted to gender equality. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 September 1979 and entered into force on 3 September 1981.<sup>2</sup> As of 1 March 2010, CEDAW has 186 States parties,<sup>3</sup> representing almost the entire international community. It is one of the most widely accepted human rights treaties and is often described as an international bill of rights for women. The Convention which is consisted of a preamble and 30 articles defines discrimination

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<sup>1</sup>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly Resolution 34/180 on 18 December 1979, entered into force on 3 Sept. 1981, 1249 UNTS 13, (hereinafter referred as CEDAW).

<sup>2</sup>*CEDAW Convention: A Short History of the Convention*, United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.177/7.

<sup>3</sup>See status of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary General of the UN, <http://treaties.un.org/pages/participationStatus.aspx> (viewed on 30 November 2010). The United States is the only industrialized country that has not ratified CEDAW. By not ratifying, the US is in the company of countries like Iran, Sudan, and Somalia; See <http://hrw.org/campaigns/cedaw/> (viewed on 30 November 2010).

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