

CEDAW General Recommendation No. 41 on Dismantling Gender Stereotypes and the Unequal Power Relations that Sustain them

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I. Introduction

1. The present general recommendation interprets the scope and nature of States parties' obligations under Article 5 and Article 10 (c) of the Convention to address gender stereotypes. It provides guidance to States parties on legislative, policy, and other relevant measures to ensure the implementation of their obligations under the Convention in relation to gender stereotypes.

2. Article 5 (a) of the Convention calls on States parties to “to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women.” This obligation is central to the transformative conception of equality in the Convention, requiring all branches of government to adopt appropriate measures to eliminate patterns, prejudices, and practices based on gender stereotypes. Addressing gender stereotypes should be a priority focus of laws, policies, programs, and practices. Social transformation requires immediate action to dismantle all gender stereotypes as a form and contributor of systemic discrimination, as reflected in social systems, institutions, and individual acts. The Committee calls on states to transform practices, systems, and institutions which are based on or promote gender stereotypes. Article 5 (b) is part of this

transformative approach to the implementation of the Convention, recognizing States parties' role in dismantling stereotypes concerning the family and maternity, which have limited women's participation in public and political life, education, employment, the media, culture, religious institutions, and the digital space, among other sectors. Article 10 (c) also mandates the elimination of "any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women" in the critical field of education, in which gender stereotypes are promoted and reproduced.

3. These articles must also be read in conjunction with the general obligations of States parties under Article 2.¹ Under Article 2, States parties must condemn and eliminate discrimination against women in their legislative and policy framework and in all areas under Articles 6-16 of the Convention. States must refrain from any acts or practices of discrimination against women and ensure that all public authorities and institutions act according to this obligation. This includes measures to eliminate gender stereotypes. Temporary special measures can be useful to address stereotypes that limit women's access to specific sectors, such as political and economic life, education, and employment, among others.

4. The Committee underscores intersectionality as a critical concept to understand the scope of States parties' obligations under the Convention to address gender stereotypes.² States parties must consider women's multifaceted identities in all state action to transform gender stereotypes. Women often suffer intersectional discrimination and gender stereotypes based on their sex; gender; age; Indigenous origin, status or identity; race; color; ethnicity; religion or belief; health status; HIV/AIDS status; disability; nationality; language; socioeconomic status; marital status; widowhood; class; caste; sexual orientation and gender identity, among other factors.³

5. The Committee underscores that gender stereotypes have historically impaired the exercise of women's rights in all societal spheres. As gender itself, gender stereotypes also evolve and are shaped by critical global and local issues, such as the surge of organized gender backlash, which is systematic, well-funded, and driven by nationalist, religious, and populist movements that actively undermine gender equality efforts. Other challenges include the rapid rise of artificial intelligence and technological developments, democratic regression, climate change and natural disasters, armed and non-armed conflicts, pandemics, among many others. CEDAW is a living instrument, to be interpreted and implemented taking into consideration the changing nature of global challenges, requiring ongoing, consistent, and new measures to address gender stereotypes.

6. The elaboration of the present general recommendation included consultations with women, experts, United Nations agencies, organizations, movements, and networks from all over

¹ See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 28 (2010) *on the core obligations of States parties under Article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, paras. 5-13.

² See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 28 (2010) *on the core obligations of States parties under Article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, para. 18.

³ See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 39 (2022) *on the rights of Indigenous women and girls*, para. 4; CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 28 (2010) *on the core obligations of States parties under Article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, para. 18.

the world. The Committee wishes to thank them for sharing their knowledge and experiences.⁴ In developing this general recommendation, the Committee has also taken into consideration the range of human rights mechanisms which have developed states' obligations to address gender stereotypes in law and practice, including the Human Rights Committee;⁵ the Committee on the Rights of the Child;⁶ the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;⁷ the Committee on Racial Discrimination;⁸ and United Nations Special Procedures,⁹ including the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls.¹⁰ The recommendations of these mechanisms inform the interpretation of the Convention and States parties' obligations in relation to gender stereotypes in the present general recommendation.

7. Several regional human rights bodies have also articulated state obligations to address gender stereotypes, prejudices, and stigma, including: the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;¹¹ the European Court of Human Rights,¹² and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.¹³ Various regional treaties identify state obligations to prevent and eliminate gender stereotypes, including: the *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women* ("Convention of Belém do Pará"),¹⁴ the *Council of*

⁴ The Committee acknowledges with appreciation the contributions of Rosa Celorio.

⁵ See, e.g., Human Rights Committee, *Mellet v. Ireland*, Communication No. 2324/2013, CCPR/C/116/D/2324/2013 (2013), para. 7.11.

⁶ See, e.g., Committee on the Rights of the Child, General comment No. 25 (2021) *on children's rights in relation to the digital environment*, para. 41.

⁷ See Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), General comment No. 3 (2016) *on women and girls with disabilities*, paras. 8, 17 (e), 38. See also Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 8.1.b.

⁸ See Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, General recommendation No. 25 (2000) *on the gender related dimensions of racial discrimination*, para. 5.

⁹ See, e.g., Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, A/79/316 (August 22, 2024), paras. 20, 23, 56, and 59.

¹⁰ See Report of the UN Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, UN Doc A/HRC/32/44 (2016), paras. 56-57, 65-67, 70, 96, 99, 106 (a, b).

¹¹ See, e.g., *González et. al. ("Cotton Field") v. Mex.*, Preliminary Objection, Merits, Reparations, and Costs, Inter-Am. Ct. H.R., (Series C) No. 205, paras. 398-402 (Nov. 19, 2009); *Velásquez Paiz et al. v. Guatemala*, Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations and Costs, Inter-Am. Ct. H.R., Series C No. 307, paras. 177-99 (Nov. 19, 2015); *Karen Atala v. Chile*, Merits, Reparations and Costs, Inter-Am. Ct. H. R., Series C, No. 239, paras. 118-125; 130-131; 178 (Feb. 24, 2012); *Ascencio Rosario et al. v. Mexico*, Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations and Costs, Series C No. 567 (Sept. 30, 2025), paras. 255-264.

¹² See *Carvalho Pinto de Sousa Morais v. Portugal*, App. No. 17484/15 (July 25, 2017), paras. 52-54; *Konstantin Markin v. Russia [GC]*, App. No. 30078/06 (Mar. 22, 2012), paras. 9-41, 141-142.

¹³ See, e.g., African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, General Comment 2 on Article 14.1(a), (b), (c) and (f) and Article 14.2(a) and (c) to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2014), paras. 44, 60.

¹⁴ See Articles 6 and 8(b).

Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (“Istanbul Convention”);¹⁵ the *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa* (“Maputo Protocol”),¹⁶ and the *African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls*.¹⁷

II. Scope

8. The Committee has addressed gender stereotypes as a form, underlying condition, structural cause, and contributor to discrimination against women and girls.¹⁸ The Committee has observed the far-reaching and negative consequences of gender stereotypes on women’s full enjoyment of their human rights under the Convention. This General Recommendation builds on those normative developments to elaborate on States parties’ obligations to eliminate gender stereotypes in all areas of political, economic, social, cultural, and civil interaction.

A. Gender Stereotypes: Definitions, Underlying Causes, Forms, and Impact

9. Gender stereotypes are based on ideas, attitudes, and beliefs - shaped and reproduced by patriarchal systems - which prevail in all societies. They can be in the form of generalized ideas, opinions, representations, images, or classifications of women and men which project a simplified, selective, or false picture of their lives. Stereotypes can reproduce or justify existing hierarchies and restrict women’s equal exercise of human rights. It is critical for States parties not only to address gender stereotypes themselves, but also the underlying ideas, attitudes, beliefs, and patriarchal systems that give rise to them. The Committee is also concerned about the practice of gender stereotyping, which ascribes attitudes, characteristics, or roles to individuals based on their perceived membership in a social group of women or men.

¹⁵ See Articles 4 and 12 (1).

¹⁶ See Articles 2(2), 4 (2) (d), 12 (1) (b).

¹⁷ See Articles 4 (a-d).

¹⁸ See, e.g., CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 40 (2024) *on equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems*, paras. 30-31; General recommendation No. 39 (2022) *on the rights of Indigenous women and girls*, paras. 16-22; CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 28 (2010) *on the core obligations of States parties under Article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, para. 22; General recommendation No. 35 *on gender-based violence against women, updating General Recommendation No. 19* (2017), paras. 26, 30; General Recommendation No. 25 *Article 4, Paragraph 1, on Temporary Special Measures* (2004), para 7; *S.T. v Russian Federation*, CEDAW Communication No 65/2014 (2019) CEDAW/C/72/D/65/2014, para. 9.4; *R.K.B. v Turkey*, CEDAW Communication No 28/2010 (2012) CEDAW/C/51/D/28/2010, para. 8.8; *Karen Tayag Vertido v. Philippines*, CEDAW Communication No. 18/2008 (2010), paras. 8.5-8.8.

10. Gender stereotypes are rooted in established notions of women's inherent inferiority, normalization, and legitimation of gender inequality which are embedded in social norms, rules, and standards in institutions, such as the state, the economy, society, community, and the family.¹⁹ These rules and standards, and the stereotypes emerging from them, are based on ideologies that justify discrimination and exclusion.

11. The Committee considers that all gender stereotypes contribute to discrimination and therefore constitute a violation of women's human rights under the Convention. Even stereotypes that are perceived as "positive", are in fact harmful to women's enjoyment of their human rights. Notions of women's inferiority and second-class status underpin systemic discrimination and constrain the life choices and potential of both women and men. These notions become reflected in the stereotypes that emerge and become cemented in social norms, behaviors, and belief systems. Social systems are often based on gender stereotypes, permeating the actions of all government branches; normative, judicial, policy, and programmatic frameworks; and the actions of non-state actors. Gender stereotypes have an individual and collective impact, harming not only women individually, but the social fabric of communities. Gender-based violence against women is also driven by stereotypical attitudes based on men's perceived entitlement to and privilege over women, social norms regarding masculine privilege, and men's need to assert control or power.²⁰

12. Gender stereotypes have a close connection to prejudices and stigma. Prejudices are predetermined negative attitudes, opinions, and values about a group or members of a group, and can be reflected in laws, policies, and other areas of state intervention. Stigma refers to an attribute or characteristic which is considered damaged in some capacity, which results in exclusion, shame, or silence. Stereotypes, prejudices, and stigma are conceptually related rather than mutually exclusive categories.

13. Gender stereotypes are part of a pattern of sex- and gender-based discrimination against women, grounded in actual or perceived biological differences with men, and associated rigid social expectations and attributes.²¹ The understanding, interpretation, and perception of biological differences between women and men has changed significantly over time, and substantially impacts on, and is impacted by stereotypical assumptions about women in general as well as all individuals. Gender inequality and related stereotypes impact the distribution of power and resources in most societies.

14. Stereotypes also tend to shape – and be shaped - by everyday individual interactions of women and men with family, friends, teachers, colleagues, at the workplace, the community,

¹⁹ For more reading on UN Women's work on social norms, *see generally*, UN Women, *Ideologies, Institutions and Power: Addressing social norms implicated in gender equality and women's empowerment. A framework for UN Women* (Sept. 23, 2024).

²⁰ *See* General recommendation No. 35 *on gender-based violence against women, updating General Recommendation No. 19* (2017), para. 24.

²¹ *See* CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 28 (2010) *on the core obligations of States parties under Article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, para. 5.

with the authorities – in all areas of public and private life. They are influenced by historical, cultural, religious, and legal factors, values and belief systems, rooted in and promoted by patriarchy and rigid gender hierarchies, and influenced by formal and informal education systems, curricula, gendered knowledge systems, teaching practices, and learning environments, as well as by digital and social media, advertising, entertainment, and online platforms, which shape, reiterate, and reinforce norms, role models, and public narratives.

15. The Committee highlights how gender stereotypes are often embedded in traditions - which can constitute customs, beliefs, practices, behaviours, and actions. Traditions related to gender inequality are perceived as intimately linked to culture, religion, power systems, and values in all societies. Many are still used against women to perpetuate discrimination and sustain harmful practices. Traditions are dynamic and evolving, and significantly change over time, including through social change brought about by women. Traditions - and culture - are often used to control women's behaviour, appearance, and their activities to justify discriminatory practices based on gender stereotypes.

B. Gender stereotypes and intersectional discrimination

16. Women's identities are often multifaceted, shaped by the intersection of individual and group attributes, characteristics, or positions, leading to unique experiences of oppression, systemic disadvantage, and privilege. Women often suffer intersectional discrimination and gender stereotypes based on their multifaceted identities. Under Article 5, of the Convention, States parties should address gender stereotypes with a holistic and intersectional approach, taking into consideration women's multifaceted identities and their diversity.

17. For example, prejudicial attitudes constitute a form of and contribute to discrimination against girls, based on the intersection of their sex, gender, and age. Gender stereotypes concerning girls' development, capacity for decision-making, best interests, and needs are prevalent in all spaces of human interaction and limit their participation and educational opportunities in many societies. They often constitute a barrier for girls to receive and access critical information to exercise their rights in areas such as sexual and reproductive health. Girls tend to experience a higher share of domestic responsibilities than boys due to the gendered division of labour, resulting in less time and space for education, homework, exams, sports, leisure and other activities. Many girls are exposed to harmful practices, such as child and forced marriages, early pregnancy, FGM, and other forms of gender-based violence, which affect their development, life prospects, education, and career goals.

18. The Committee also observes that discrimination against older women is multidimensional, with the age factor combining with other forms of discrimination based on sex; gender; ethnic origin; disability; poverty; and other factors.²² The stigma against women's aging, is based on the notion that older women are no longer useful or productive in society are part of this pattern of inequality. Widowhood and divorce - and the stereotypes surrounding these issues - further exacerbate discrimination against older women. Stereotypes about their limited

²² See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 27 (2010) *on older women and protection of their human rights*, paras. 11, 13-14.

value in society often hinder their access to critical health services for serious diseases and conditions, such as diabetes, cancer, hypertension, heart disease, cataracts, osteoporosis and Alzheimer's.

19. Women and girls with disabilities are disproportionately subjected to intersectional discrimination and gender stereotypes based on their sex, gender, and disabilities.²³ This can be further exacerbated for example, by ethnicity, caste, class and economic status. Such stereotypes are reflected in laws, policies, and data collection practices. Their needs are often absent from laws, policies, and programs. Many women with disabilities face social exclusion and lack access to full education and infrastructural accommodations, Existing laws and policies limit or deny them legal capacity; all resulting in higher rates of institutionalization, gender-based violence, abuse, and exploitation. Women with disabilities frequently experience denial of sexual and reproductive health rights, services and information, as they are labelled incompetent to parent, make reproductive decisions, unreliable, and asexual.

20. Damaging practices based on gender stereotypes are common against women with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LBTI) women who are perceived to defy the social and gender expectations that are attributed to them by society, are exposed to gender-based violence and discrimination.²⁴ Their rights and needs are often ignored and absent from constitutions, laws, public policies, and programs. The state's punitive power is often reflected in laws criminalizing same-sex relationships, as well as transgender identity and expression, arbitrary detention, extrajudicial executions, sexual violence, torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, and discriminatory school policies. Judicial decisions on child custody, recognition of relationships and marriage equality for same-sex couples and change of name often discriminate against LBTI women based on the well-established binary and heteronormative notion of women.

21. Discrimination against Indigenous women is often based on gender stereotypes, racial discrimination, and preconceived notions, beliefs, and ideologies about their Indigenous origin, status, and identity.²⁵ Notions of women's inequality still constitute a paramount obstacle for Indigenous women to use and enjoy their lands, territories and natural resources, and to have their rights to free, prior, and informed consent fully respected. Indigenous women also face discriminatory decisions by State authorities in relation to custody of their children, alimony, nationality, and access to land, property, loans, and economic resources, with individual and collective impacts. Gender stereotypes can also severely limit Indigenous women's opportunities to access political and public life, education, and employment.

22. Stereotypes based on gender and race are widespread, deeply shaped by a history and present of structural and systemic discrimination, colonial legacy, racism, and violence. This has

²³ See Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), General comment No. 3 (2016) *on women and girls with disabilities*, para. 8.

²⁴ See CEDAW Committee, Individual Communication, *Rossana-Flamer Caldera vs. Sri Lanka*, CEDAW/C/81/D/134/2018 (March 24th, 2022), paras. 9.1-9.7.

²⁵ See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 39 (2022) *on the rights of Indigenous women and girls*, paras. 16-22.

promoted enduring inequalities for Afro-descendent women, such as employment segregation, economic disadvantages, reduced political and public participation, poverty, stigma and discriminatory treatment, social exclusion, sexual violence and rape, and past and contemporary forms of enslavement. Afro-descendent women are disproportionately subjected to harassment and gender-based violence by law enforcement authorities, including the police, frequently with impunity for perpetrators.

23. Women also face the consequences of gender stereotypes in the context of migration, asylum-seeking, refugee status, nationality, and statelessness.²⁶ State authorities and officials frequently discriminate against refugee, asylum-seeking, migrant, and stateless women and girls based on stereotypes grounded on their sex, gender, and immigration status. They often experience multiple rights violations during the migration and displacement cycle, including human trafficking, gender-based violence, discrimination and harassment. During asylum procedures, women are often presumed to be dependent victims, even though many women asylum-seekers are political leaders, journalists, human rights defenders, lawyers, and judges.²⁷ Sexual violence and exploitation of prostitution are seen as inevitable risks that women choose to assume by migrating in precarious conditions.

C. Prevalence of Gender Stereotypes

24. Gender stereotypes are present in all societal spheres and hinder the enjoyment of all women's rights. They are reflected in behaviour expectations for women and men based on their actual or perceived biological differences, and the reproduction of practices based on these expectations.²⁸ It is important to note that while often presented as permanent and immutable, in fact the understanding, interpretation, and perception of biological differences between women and men, at the individual and aggregate level, has changed significantly over time, and is both a contributor to, and impacted by, gender stereotypical assumptions. In this sense, women's capacity to reproduce and bear children has been consistently linked in many societies to a social obligation to be the primary care and support for their families, and in particular, the raising of children and the performance of household chores and responsibilities. The prevalence of such stereotypes has limited women's autonomy in choosing their life paths and in participating in the political and public life of their countries and communities. Gender stereotypes concerning women and their supposed inferior physical and intellectual capacities, and emotions, along with their reproductive capacity, have sustained the patriarchal perception that there is a need for male domination, power, control, and subordination of women, perpetuating gender-based violence.

25. Maternity shapes the role expectations towards women in most societies. Motherhood is often considered a duty and not a choice, and women without children are frequently seen as

²⁶ See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 32 (2014) *on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women*, paras. 7-8, 14, and 24.

²⁷ See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 32 (2014) *on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women*, para. 31.

²⁸ See Inter-American Court of Human Rights, *Advisory Opinion 31-25, Content and Scope of the Right to Care and its Connection to Other Human Rights* (June 12th, 2025), para. 138.

incomplete. Many women and girls are compelled into motherhood through child marriages and marriages to escape poverty. This severely limits many women's ability and autonomy to choose whether or when to become mothers, the number and spacing of their children, develop educationally and professionally, fully exercise their rights within their families and other social institutions, and to take part in decision-making in their communities. Pregnancy, care, and support responsibilities have been and are still used to exclude women from leadership positions, educational opportunities, and employment. Even though significant progress has been made in providing maternity leave by law, many legal systems do not provide for parental or paternity leave, thereby upholding the notion that women continue to be the main care and support for their children in the home. Gender stereotypes associated with the so-called "unclean", "untouchable" and "impure" nature of menstruation result in many girls experiencing structural barriers to accessing educational institutions and needed sanitary products.

26. Women's care and support work in the home and in the community, although critical, is often undervalued, unpaid, unrecognized socially, and not covered by social protection systems. The Committee draws attention to how gender stereotypes shape role expectations and impact several areas of care, including caring for others, self-care, and the right to be cared by others.²⁹ Women are still expected to complete most unpaid care and support tasks in the home, and they are often the subject of higher expectations when it comes to caring and supporting for their children, partners, family members, older people, and persons with disabilities. Women are often employed as domestic workers cleaning homes and as care and support workers for children, persons with disabilities, older persons or persons with long-term illness. These professions are severely underpaid and undervalued and often involve prolonged work hours and unsafe working conditions.

27. Gender stereotypes in the family are among the most common, deeply embedded and linked to social notions concerning marriage, divorce, alimony, custody, distribution of marital property, housing and land, inheritance, guardianship, nationality, and entering contracts, among other matters. A widespread stereotype is the gendered division of labour, assuming that women are innately nurturing and predestined to be wives, mothers, and the care and support for the sick and older family members, even when they do not wish to do so. This gender stereotype conveys the notion that men are breadwinners, should control the family's economic resources, and should have a lighter share of domestic responsibilities. Girls in the home tend to experience a higher share of domestic responsibilities than boys based on the reproduction of these stereotypes. Women are also negatively hindered by gender stereotypes when they apply for credit, loans, business financing, mortgages, among other economic resources.

28. Education is a critical sector to challenge stereotypes at all levels, from pre-school to university, popular education, and the development of gender-informed curricula. However, educational institutions often institutionalize and legitimize the association of specific roles and occupations with women or men based on their sex and gender. Gender stereotypes persist in educational materials, reinforcing biases against women and girls. These stereotypes promote

²⁹ See United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico City, August 12th-15th, 2025, *The Care Society: Governance, Political Economy, and Social Dialogue for a Transformation with Gender Equality*, pages 18-19.

gender-based violence against women and girls in schools, including physical, psychological, and sexual. The Committee notes with concern the lack of age-appropriate, evidence-based, and scientifically accurate and comprehensive sexuality education in schools that promotes gender equality and challenges prevailing stereotypes.

29. Gender stereotypes also underpin many employment practices with negative consequences for women. Women face a persistent wage-gap due to prevailing gender stereotypes about their limited capacity, for example, to perform specific jobs. Women face challenges in being promoted to leadership positions in their workplaces due to stereotypes assuming that their leadership skills are weaker than those of men and assumptions about their family responsibilities. Gender stereotypes still hinder women's and girls' access to political office, corporate careers, STEM professions, the armed forces, and law enforcement, among other male-dominated fields.

30. Gender stereotypes in the health sector are present in diagnosis and treatment, pain management, medical research, data gaps, and access to services. In the area of sexual and reproductive health, stereotypes prevail regarding women's expected roles in relation to motherhood, pregnancy, and sexuality. Women can be viewed solely as reproductive instruments rather than full human beings and members of society. Doctors and health professionals often act based on gendered assumptions about women and their bodies, disrespecting the decisions and voices of women and girls seeking services. Gender stereotypes underlie and promote pervasive forms of gender-based violence, including non-consensual sterilizations, obstetric violence, and the forced continuation of pregnancies, which may amount to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment in specific circumstances.

31. Gendered ideas about women's limited ability, interest, aptitude, or time for public office, often hamper their effective participation in political and public life.³⁰ When women do hold high-level positions, they are often subjected to double-standards and judged by their physical appearance, attire, emotions, and mistakes, as opposed to their ability to lead. Women politicians are often criticized when they show assertiveness or behaviour that is falsely construed as aggressive. Nationalist, populist, and anti-democratic leaders and their misogynistic policies promote gender stereotypes, and result in women's exclusion from important decision-making roles. Women politicians are also frequently subjected to political violence, and these acts often remain in impunity. Women human rights defenders suffer threats to their lives, liberty, and security, as they challenge power structures and defy stereotypes of women as being subservient, subordinate, and passive. Assumptions based on women's weakness and inferiority have affected women and girls' opportunities in sport and recreational activities in public spaces. This is reflected in fewer women and girl-friendly sporting and recreation facilities, training opportunities, and investments in sport development for women and girls.

32. The Committee notes the prevalence of gender stereotypes in the rapidly evolving field of digital technology, including generative artificial intelligence, computer vision systems, speech and audio artificial intelligence, robotics and control systems, specialized artificial intelligence

³⁰ See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 40 (2024) *on equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems*, paras. 30-31.

systems, and hybrid artificial intelligence systems.³¹ Artificial intelligence systems reproduce and reinforce sex and gender specific biases as they rely on human input, algorithmic design, and feedback. The Committee therefore notes with concern the discrimination built into this technology, the need for gender informed regulation and sensitization, and low representation of women as creators of artificial intelligence and other careers in science and technology. There is also still a gender digital divide, with women experiencing limited access to digital technologies, which affects their education and employment opportunities, and their incursion into other important areas of public life.

33. Cultural frameworks can be a source of strength for individuals, constituting part of their identity, and their link to the present and past. Culture – under certain circumstances - can promote the advancement of women and the protection of human rights. The Committee notes, however, that cultural beliefs predicated on perceived or actual biological differences and suggesting women’s inferiority and weakness continue to nurture gender stereotypes. Customary law and cultural practices on marriage, family, divorce, and inheritance can promote and reproduce gender stereotypes. Gender stereotypes also make women’s contribution to culture – in areas such as science and the arts – invisible or undervalued.

34. Cultural beliefs and ideologies grounded on stereotypes about women’s and girls’ inferiority often promote harmful practices, including female genital mutilation, child and/or forced marriage or unions, polygamy, and crimes in the name of so-called honor.³² Harmful practices are committed, tolerated or condoned by both state and private actors, including family members, individuals, and religious and community leaders. The Committee is concerned over justifications of harmful practices based on sociocultural and religious customs and values, as well as constitutional and other provisions uncritically protecting the rights to culture and religion. The Committee observes that culture is dynamic, can evolve, and has the power to positively shape and challenge prevailing gender stereotypes.

35. The Committee notes that gender inequalities and related stereotypes underlie a vast array of religious practices. The Committee has underscored how “some misinterpretations of religion and culture can shape gender stereotypes” hindering the enjoyment of women’s human rights.³³ The teachings, texts, practices, and leadership of many religions are still largely male-dominated and patriarchal, treating women and girls as inferior, impure, subservient, and secondary to their male counterparts. Gender-based violence against women and girls may occur in the environment of religious institutions and/or be justified by religious beliefs grounded on gender stereotypes. Many religions also reject LGBTI women and girls and their communities. The Committee encourages States parties to invite religious leaders and faith-based actors to dialogues with the goal of promoting women’s rights in religion.

³¹ See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 40 (2024) *on equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems*, para. 30.

³² See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 31 (2014) *on harmful practices*, paras. 17-30.

³³ See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 40 (2024) *on equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems*, para. 30.

III. Obligations of States Parties

36. Under Article 5(a), States parties have a general obligation to adopt measures to name, identify, challenge, dismantle, and remedy gender stereotypes, and the systems that support them in all societal spheres. Firstly, States must take steps to *name* prevailing stereotypes in all areas of state action. Secondly, States must *identify* the means through which these stereotypes manifest themselves and how they discriminate against women. Thirdly, States must take steps to *challenge* and *dismantle* prevailing stereotypes. Fourth, States need to ensure the availability of an adequate *remedy* for women who are affected by gender stereotypes and the hindrance of their rights under the Convention. All these actions should be joined by a comprehensive and well-resourced prevention policy focused on the elimination of gender stereotypes, and its ongoing monitoring, to identify trends and changes in stereotypes and their manifestations.

37. The Committee calls on states – including all branches of government - to conduct research studies to name and assess the prevalence of gender stereotypes, prejudices, and stigma. Gender stereotypes are often present in the legislative, institutional, and policy frameworks of states, as well as in the judicial system and in the authorities’ practice and service provision. Public officials tend to impose their stereotypical views and assumptions about women and men, thereby limiting women’s visibility, their credibility, their autonomy, dignity, life plans, or infringing on those that do not conform to prevailing stereotypes. States frequently regulate, penalize, stigmatize, or marginalize women who defy prevailing patriarchal norms. This assessment will contribute to determining the scope of the problem, the purposes of these stereotypes, and the resulting harms on women. An evidence-based approach, including the collection of statistical data on prevailing stereotypes – can be a critical part of the assessment. States should be particularly vigilant of implicit stereotypes and forms of institutionalized stereotyping, which can involve the labelling of women by law enforcement authorities and executive, legislative, and judicial branch officials based on entrenched stereotypes related to sex, gender, race, color, LGBTI status, among other intersecting identities.³⁴

38. States parties should also identify the conditions and means through which stereotypes manifest themselves. This can be in constitutions, laws, policies, institutions, systems, services, and practices. It also entails determining how gender stereotypes facilitate discrimination against women, considering their multifaceted identities. States parties should be particularly attentive to legislation, policies, and measures that, though intended to protect women, run the risk of reinforcing stereotypes and creating new ones.³⁵ The Committee also calls on States parties to be particularly vigilant of non-state actors and how their activities reinforce stereotypes.

39. States parties should take urgent action to challenge and dismantle the stereotypes that they have identified. This requires a holistic set of activities – executed in coordination with concerned authorities, non-state actors, communities, and individuals, and at the federal, state, and local levels. Actions to dismantle gender stereotypes can include the needed reform of

³⁴ See, for example, CEDAW Optional Protocol, *Canada Inquiry Report* (March 30, 2015), paras. 138-140.

³⁵ See, for example, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *Case of Maria Eugenia Morales de Sierra vs. Guatemala*, paras. 31-39, <https://cidh.oas.org/annualrep/2000sp/capituloiii/fondo/Guatemala11.625.htm>

legislation, policies, institutions, processes, practices, and services; education, training, and awareness-raising initiatives; the development of guidelines and protocols; close work with communities; the production of knowledge and research; and specific actions to address gender stereotypes and intersectional discrimination which affects women with multifaceted identities. Immediate and concrete steps to dismantle gender stereotypes – as well as a comprehensive assessment of their prevalence at the government level – are critical to adopt prevention policies and monitoring mechanisms that are adequate and effective in this area.

40. States should promote engagement with men and boys in dismantling gender stereotypes. Men and boys are negatively impacted by gender stereotypes and have a critical role in addressing and preventing stereotypes. Men and boys' collaboration is key to challenging patriarchal norms and behaviours, promoting gender equality as a shared responsibility, and transforming institutions and communities.

41. States should also ensure that all components of the justice system are ready to offer an adequate and effective remedy for women who suffer the far-reaching consequences of gender stereotypes. This involves ensuring that civil, criminal, administrative, family, and customary justice systems conform to the Convention and its transformative approach to addressing gender stereotypes, and are well equipped and trained to name, identify, challenge, dismantle, remedy, and prevent stereotypes, in all justice system activities.

42. The Committee also calls on States parties to be vigilant of practices based on stereotypical ideas that promote and reproduce gender-based violence against women and girls, by both state and non-state actors. The Committee underscores the continued prevalence of gender-based violence in many social settings, including the family, education institutions, the workplace, on the streets, businesses, and in the digital space. The Committee recognizes the wide range of measures that many States parties have adopted to address gender-based violence, including laws, policies, programs, victim support services, shelters, and reporting mechanisms. Three regions in the world have also adopted treaties prohibiting gender-based violence against women – the Americas, Africa, and Europe. However, a multi-layered state strategy is still needed to adequately prevent and address gender-based violence, including measures to challenge and dismantle patriarchal ideas and practices that are based on notions that women and girls are inferior to men and boys.

A. Executive Level

43. Executive branch officials often act, or fail to act, based on gender stereotypes. They frequently make decisions or public statements that discriminate against women and negate their choices, based on gender stereotypes. States parties must prohibit institutional practices, conduct, and discourse from public officials based on gender stereotypes. The executive branch must ensure that policies, regulations, programmes, administrative procedures, and institutional structures are designed to promptly and comprehensively challenge prevailing gender stereotypes, including ensuring that women are well represented in leadership positions. States parties should also adopt and provide adequate budgetary resources for institutional measures to address gender stereotypes and the factors that contribute to them.

B. Legislative Level

44. Many laws and norms are predicated on the idea that women are incapable of making decisions on their own. Constitutions, laws, and policies often discriminate against women or deny them full legal capacity and equal rights. Criminal codes often criminalize women's and men's behaviour based on stereotyped role expectations. States parties must conduct a review of national laws and policies, and repeal those that are based on, apply, condone, or perpetuate gender stereotypes. Legislators must also refrain from treating women as a homogenous group and take into consideration their multifaceted identities and diversity.

C. Judicial and Law Enforcement Levels

45. Gender stereotypes are prevalent throughout justice systems. This includes judicial and other justice system actors, who frequently apply, reinforce, and perpetuate gender stereotypes in civil, criminal, family law, administrative, and customary law proceedings. These actors – through their actions or omissions – fuel disbelief in women plaintiffs and defendants, in women in conflict with the law, as well as victims, and take into consideration disreputable personal attributes to blame and discredit women. Judicial gender bias constitutes a barrier to women's access to justice free from discrimination.

46. Gendered assumptions, rather than the relevant facts and evidence, are often reflected in judicial proceedings and the interpretation of legislation. They are often present at the reporting stage, in the collection of evidence, the investigation, trial, and sentencing stages. Gender stereotypes tend to affect the weight and credibility afforded to women's testimony and arguments during judicial proceedings. At times, the use of cultural defense arguments—combined with gender-insensitive interpretations—also contributes to the legal perpetuation of stereotypical and harmful value judgments. The Committee further draws attention to gender stereotypes that negatively affect the judicial processing of cases of women in conflict with the law and women in detention. Law enforcement authorities – including the police – may mistreat, blame, and revictimize women when they report gender-based violence and other crimes, due to prevailing views about women's subordinate status. Process laws, rules, protocols, guidelines, and accountability mechanisms must ensure that justice officials – and law enforcement authorities – have the tools to name, identify, challenge, and dismantle victim-blaming beliefs and other stereotypes concerning women.

D. Non-State Actors

47. Under Article 5 of the Convention, States parties should act expeditiously and consistently in the adoption of measures to eliminate gender stereotypes, prejudices, and practices promoted by non-state actors. Gender stereotypes are frequently present and influence the actions of many non-state actors, including the family, businesses, corporations, the media, religious and educational institutions, workplaces, the artificial intelligence and digital space, and powerful social media outlets, among others. States parties should oversee and regulate the activities of these non-state actors and require them to create effective self-regulatory mechanisms aimed at the elimination of gender stereotypes through their services and platforms. States parties can forge alliances and collaborations with all these non-state actors to name,

identify, and challenge stereotypes and raise public awareness on the need to eliminate them as forms of and contributors to discrimination against women.

48. The Committee underscores the critical role that media entities – including social media – can play in challenging prevailing gender stereotypes. These actors have millions of followers, a wealth of resources, and vast public reach, which makes them very capable of advancing messages of gender equality and non-discrimination. The Committee is concerned that many of these entities are active contributors to the reproduction of gender stereotypes, prejudices and stigma, projecting oversimplified and stereotyped images of and ideas about women. They can also sexualize and objectify women and deprive them of the ability to be seen for their capacities, intellect, and economic potential. Social media outlets are also a setting in which many women and girls participate as users and influencers, but suffer forms of harassment, violence, and silencing based on stereotypical ideas. However, with regulation, gender sensitization, and codes of conduct, these entities have the potential to change, transform their narratives, and challenge gender stereotypes. States parties can forge key alliances with media entities to promote the principles and values embraced by the Convention and other human rights treaties. Social media outlets can serve as powerful spaces for women to participate as influencers and leaders in all social areas.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

49. States parties must have a positive and powerful role in transforming practices, systems, norms, and institutions that are based on or promote gender stereotypes. The persistence of patriarchal norms and practices based on long-established expectations for women, are barriers to women's enjoyment of their human rights under the Convention. States are key actors in achieving the real social transformations embodied in the Convention.

50. States parties' action under the Convention also requires strong collaboration and dialogue mechanisms with non-state actors to eliminate prevailing gender stereotypes, prejudices, and stigma. This engagement can be paramount in naming, identifying, dismantling, challenging, and remedying prevailing stereotypes. States parties can join forces and resources with non-state actors in raising awareness about gender stereotypes; launching educational campaigns; conducting mandatory, recurrent, quality, and formal and informal gender-sensitive capacity-building and training; collecting data; developing guidance; and producing knowledge in this area.

51. The Committee urges States parties to implement the recommendations listed below, and promote enforcement by non-State actors, with an intersectional and dynamic approach, considering women's multifaceted identities, and the changing nature of gender stereotypes in the context of present times and future challenges.

A. General Recommendations

52. The Committee recommends that States parties:

- (a) Conduct research surveys, studies, and assessments to name and better understand the complexities of prevailing gender stereotypes and identify their means, enablers, purposes, and harms.
- (b) Develop data collection initiatives on gender stereotypes with participation from women with multifaceted identities and civil society organizations.
- (c) Implement well-funded government measures to challenge, dismantle, and prevent gender stereotypes, including the following:
 - i. Repeal, reform, and adopt laws, policies, and plans;
 - ii. Launch awareness-raising programs, educational campaigns, and community awareness initiatives, including men and boys;
 - iii. Implement effective, comprehensive, and ongoing training and capacity-building programs for government officials and public servants;
 - iv. Develop guidelines, protocols, codes of conduct, and roadmaps;
 - v. Adopt temporary special measures to promote access for women to fields in which they are underrepresented, including political life, education, employment, business, and technology, among others. Temporary special measures in this area may include resource allocations, quotas to increase women's representation, and measures to ensure that parity considerations – instead of gender stereotypes - guide recruitment and promotion in different employment areas.
- (d) Integrate an intersectional perspective - which recognizes the complex interweave of contributing factors to discrimination - into all laws, policies, budgets, programmes, and participation spaces to prevent and eliminate gender stereotypes, considering the needs of women with multifaceted identities and their diversity.
- e) Develop measurable quantitative and qualitative indicators for each government sector, to monitor policy and plan implementation and assess their impact in reducing stereotypes and prompting gender equality.
- f) Establish compliance monitoring mechanisms, including regular data and statistics collection, and the creation of monitoring teams composed of representatives from relevant ministries, civil society, gender experts, and women with multifaceted identities, to evaluate progress, identify challenges, and develop corrective action plans as needed.
- (g) Ensure that legislation to combat gender-based violence includes measures to challenge prevailing gender stereotypes, including appropriate budgets, implementation, and monitoring mechanisms.
- (h) Establish collaboration and dialogue mechanisms and spaces with key non-state actors, including businesses, the media, religious and educational institutions, health services, entities working in the fields of artificial intelligence and technology, and social media outlets, among others, on strategies to address prevailing gender stereotypes, promoting the following measures:
 - (i) Create effective self-regulatory mechanisms;

- (ii) Establish avenues to receive complaints;
- (iii) Implement mandatory, recurrent, quality, and gender-sensitive capacity-building and training on combatting gender stereotypes.

B. Recommendations by areas

i. Education, Employment, and Economic Activities

53. The Committee recommends that States parties:

- (a) Implement measures to ensure that all educational institutions – public and private – eliminate gender stereotypes in teaching, syllabi, curricula, school programmes, teaching methods, and textbooks, including the following:
 - (i) Implement assessments in all educational institutions to name prevailing gender stereotypes and identify their means, enablers, purposes, and harms.
 - (ii) Adopt legislation banning gender stereotypes in all educational institutions, public and private.
 - (iii) Enforce comprehensive and well-resourced national strategies to challenge, dismantle, and prevent gender stereotypes at all levels of education.
 - (iv) Systematically audit textbooks and teaching materials to remove sexist language, imagery, and role stereotyping.
 - (v) Integrate mandatory, age-appropriate education at all levels aimed at transforming discriminatory gender norms, including education on gender equality and the elimination of gender stereotypes; consent and bodily autonomy; shared family responsibilities and the equal valuation of care and support work; positive, non-violent masculinities; and media and digital literacy addressing online misogyny and gender stereotypes in gaming and social media.
 - (vi) Implement training programs for all education professionals – public and private – on gender stereotypes, unconscious bias and their impact, gender-responsive pedagogy, and the prevention of school related gender-based violence.
 - (vii) Integrate teaching on gender stereotypes and gender equality in the curricula of teacher education programs in all educational institutions.
- (b) Promote the education and employment of women in areas in which they are underrepresented due to gender stereotypes, including science, technology, engineering, mathematics, information and communications technology, and artificial intelligence, which may include the adoption of temporary special measures.
- (c) Require educational institutions to adopt gender equality policies and codes of conduct to address gender stereotypes.
- (d) Establish accessible and adequate complaint procedures for students experiencing discriminatory treatment in schools, including that based on gender stereotypes.
- (e) Adopt effective measures to eliminate gender stereotypes in the field of employment, including legislation, policies, awareness raising, and capacity building.

- (f) Adopt laws, policies, and institutional measures to eliminate the gender wage gap and ensure equal pay for women.
- (g) Provide mandatory, recurrent, quality, and gender-sensitive training and capacity-building on gender stereotypes and gender equality for professionals in charge of approving credit, loans, business financing, mortgages, and other economic resources for women.

ii. Family Sphere

54. The Committee recommends that States parties:

- (a) Implement awareness-raising programs, educational campaigns, community awareness initiatives, and gender-informed parental educational programs related to gender stereotypes in the family sphere, including men and boys.
- (b) Repeal and amend all laws that are based on gender stereotypes, in areas such as marriage, divorce, alimony, custody, distribution of marital property, housing and land, inheritance, guardianship, nationality, and entering contracts, among others.
- (c) Criminalize and prosecute adequately and effectively gender-based violence in the family context, including marital rape, domestic violence, and child and/or forced marriages or unions.
- (d) Establish mandatory, recurrent, quality, and gender-sensitive training and capacity building programs for judges, law enforcement, and youth welfare officers to prevent and challenge prevailing gender stereotypes in areas such as marriage, divorce, alimony, custody, distribution of marital property, housing and land, inheritance, guardianship, nationality, and entering contracts.

iii. Care and Support

55. The Committee recommends that States parties:

- (a) Integrate care and support as a central priority in laws, policies, plans, programs, services, and budgets, free from all gender stereotypes.
- (b) Incentivize the equal sharing of unpaid care and support responsibilities between women and men, including the following measures:
 - (i) Adopt parental and paternity leave policies;
 - (ii) Promote work policies favouring remote or flexible schedules for all workers;
 - (iii) Adjust work schedules to mirror those of school schedules;
 - (iv) Fund community initiatives oriented towards the provision of care and support.
- (c) Provide adequate numbers of publicly funded, affordable, and quality care and support services for children, older persons, and persons with disabilities and long-term illness.
- (d) Ensure that women working in the home, including those engaged in unpaid care and support work, are covered by social protection schemes.
- (e) Ensure that women employed in care and support, including domestic workers in private households, and in the informal economy, have access to adequate pay, decent and safe

conditions of work, social and pension benefits, and promote their transition to the formal economy.

- (f) Investigate and prosecute adequately and effectively reported cases of gender-based violence against women and girls employed in private households.

iv. Health

56. The Committee recommends that States parties:

- (a) Adopt measures to prevent and eliminate gender stereotypes in all health sector practices, including in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services, mental health services, the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable and autoimmune diseases, and pain management, including the following:
 - (i) Establish mandatory, recurrent, quality, and gender-sensitive training and education programs on gender stereotypes for doctors, nurses, and other health professionals;
 - (ii) Develop gender-sensitive protocols and guidelines of action that prioritize the prevention of gender-based discrimination and violence in health care settings;
 - (iii) Design protocols for health professionals to ensure that women's free, prior, and informed consent is secured before performing any medical procedures, considering the needs of women with multifaceted identities.
- (b) Establish justice and accountability mechanisms that are adequate and effective to hold health sector officials accountable for gender stereotypes and related practices, such as gender-based violence and discrimination against women;
- (c) Adopt measures to decriminalize abortion and ensure affordable and comprehensive access to safe and quality abortion, post-abortion services and information, and modern contraceptives, free from intersectional discrimination and gender stereotypes.

v. Justice

57. The Committee recommends that States parties:

- (a) Ensure that all justice mechanisms – including those in the civil, criminal, administrative, family, and customary realms – are adequate and effective to process complaints and reports of violations based on gender stereotypes, including the following measures:
 - (i) Provide mandatory, recurrent, quality, well-resourced, and gender-sensitive capacity-building and training programs for all officials working in the justice sector, including in the civil, criminal, family, administrative, and customary law systems;
 - (ii) Develop guidelines and protocols related to gender stereotypes and the processing of cases related to discrimination against women and gender-based violence;
 - (iii) Undertake assessments to name and identify intersectional discrimination and gender stereotypes that impact women with multifaceted identities, including stereotypes towards women as complainants, defenders, or witnesses, in the role of defendants or victims;

- (iv) Establish mechanisms to receive complaints of rights violations based on gender-stereotypes and ensure that these are processed and investigated thoroughly and promptly.
- (b) Launch capacity-building and training programs on the impact of intersectional discrimination and gender stereotypes on women with multifaceted identities and the special care needed in the processing of their cases and matters.
- (c) Develop data collection initiatives on gender stereotypes in the justice system, including the participation of civil society organizations and women with multifaceted identities.

vi. Participation in Political and Public Life

58. The Committee recommends that States parties:

- (a) Implement mandatory, recurrent, quality, and gender-sensitive capacity-building and training for all actors engaged in politics – including public officials, candidates, political parties, national and local organizations, entities working in the digital realm, and others – on the need to name, identify, challenge, and prevent gender stereotypes and the importance of gender equality.
- (b) Adopt measures to adequately fund the political activities, campaigns, and training of women candidates, including women with multifaceted identities.
- (c) Adopt a parity strategy at the local national, regional, and international levels, and corresponding national plans, based on cutting-edge data on prevailing gender stereotypes.³⁶
- (d) Establish adequate and effective mechanisms to report forms of political violence and to guarantee their proper investigation and prosecution with due diligence.
- (e) Adopt measures to prevent and dismantle gender stereotypes which negatively affect the activities of women and girl human rights defenders, including the creation of safe conditions to carry out their work and the prevention of criminalization and threats to their life and integrity.

vii. Media and Social Media

59. The Committee recommends that States parties:

- (a) Establish collaboration mechanisms with all media and social media actors to condemn, monitor, and ensure accountability for gender stereotypes, including the following measures:

³⁶ See CEDAW Committee, General recommendation No. 40 (2024) *on equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems*, para. 26 (c).

- (i) Provide mandatory, recurrent, quality, and gender-sensitive training to professionals working in the media, including editorial boards, regulatory bodies, advertising, social media, and digital outlets;
 - (ii) Launch educational campaigns for the public on challenging gender stereotypes, sexism, misogyny, and discrimination;
 - (iii) Collect data on how media and social media activities, publicity, and messages promote and reproduce gender stereotypes;
 - (iv) Establish codes of conduct for professionals working in all media and social media outlets guided by the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination;
 - (v) Develop clear guidelines for professionals working in all media and social media outlets on how to name, identify, challenge, and dismantle gender stereotypes;
 - (vi) Create internal units in media and social media entities to monitor the presence of gender stereotypes and adopt the needed strategies to challenge, dismantle, and prevent them.
- (b) Adopt legislative, regulatory, and oversight measures to actively regulate the activities of media and social media outlets, considering the prevalence of gender stereotypes and the need to dismantle them.
- (c) Establish adequate and effective mechanisms to report cases of digital gender-based violence against women and ensure that these complaints are adequately and thoroughly investigated with due diligence.
- (d) Create spaces for periodic dialogue between the media, social media entities, and the public on gender stereotypes and strategies to name, identify, challenge, and prevent them.

viii. Digitalization, Artificial intelligence, and Cybersecurity

60. The Committee recommends that States parties:

- (a) Adopt and enforce a gender-responsive, human-rights based, and intersectional regulatory framework for artificial intelligence, digitalization, and cybersecurity, requiring the prevention, identification, mitigation and redress of gender bias and stereotypes.
- (b) Establish codes of conduct and clear guidelines for artificial intelligence and digital technologies, which focus on the prevention and response to gender stereotypes.
- (c) Encourage the participation of women and girls – including those with multifaceted identities - in the design and development of digital applications, and in monitoring the impact of technology on stereotypes.
- (d) Develop digital media campaigns, AI boards, mobile applications, and content platforms promoting equality and challenging stereotypes, prevent cybercrimes, and publish implementation results in a simplified and transparent manner to enhance social awareness.
- (e) Establish dialogue mechanisms between states and non-state actors working in the fields of digitalization, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, social media, and other digital settings to prevent and address prevailing gender stereotypes.

- (f) Promote the equal and inclusive representation of women and girls in the development of artificial intelligence, digitalization process, cloud system, and cybersecurity.
- (g) Establish effective mechanisms to report acts of digital gender-based violence against women, ensure these complaints are promptly and thoroughly investigated, and perpetrators are held accountable.

ix. Culture, Religion, and Harmful Practices

61. The Committee recommends that States parties:

- (a) Implement comprehensive awareness-raising programs and initiatives to challenge prevailing gender stereotypes in culture, including public officials, civil society organizations, non-state actors, academia, communities, and individuals.
- (b) Integrate diverse women and girls in initiatives to identify gender stereotypes that need to be dismantled in cultural norms and practices, including those with multifaceted identities.
- (c) Adopt measures that are holistic and community-based to address harmful practices, including steps to challenge and eliminate gender-based stereotypes that often underlie the beliefs, ideologies, and notions that sustain these, including:
 - (i) Provide training on the content and impact of gender stereotypes and the Convention for judicial and law enforcement personnel, healthcare providers, and front-line professionals;
 - (ii) Launch public information campaigns on the need to challenge prevailing stereotypes and related practices;
 - (iii) Build effective partnerships with mainstream media;
 - (iv) Implement joint initiatives with community, cultural, and religious leaders.
- (d) Engage with religious leaders and communities to address gender stereotypes, harmful practices, the importance of gender equality, and potential areas of tension between religious principles and human rights, considering the Faith for Rights Framework of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- (e) Promote the inclusion of women in the clergy of religious institutions and ensure their active participation in leadership and decision-making processes to identify, challenge, dismantle, and remedy prevailing stereotypes.