Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Articles 1-5 contain the essential principles of CEDAW, also known as the Women’s Convention, and A comprehensive Women’s Bill of Rights.

**Article 1: Definition of Discrimination**

“discrimination against women” any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex, which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by all women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Article 2:**
Outlines the obligations of the state to take all possible steps to eliminate discrimination and to promote equality for women.

**Article 3:**
Outlines the obligation to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Article 4:**
States clearly that affirmative action used to accelerate achievement of equality for women, is not discrimination. Such action shall be discontinued when equality is achieved.

**Article 5:**
Outlines state obligation to change social and cultural patterns to eliminate prejudices and customary practices which are harmful to women. State shall ensure a clear understanding of maternity as a social function, and child rearing as shared responsibility between men and women.