

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Acronyms	5
Foreword	7
Women's Rights to Equality: The Promise of CEDAW	9
Introduction	10
I. The Role of Women and Women's Organizations	12
Human rights as the 'rights of men'	12
Then came the World Conferences on Women	14
The adoption of CEDAW of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	14
The Concepts of Equality and the Meaning of Discrimination	15
Formal Equality: equal to whom	15
Equalizing at the lower level	16
The Anti-Discrimination Approach	17
The problem of finding a comparator	17
The falseness of neutrality: group categorical versus group salient distinctions	19
The Individualizing of Rights	20
The need for an individual perpetrator	21
The Merits of Substantive Equality	22
Goals of Substantive Equality	24
II. Impediments to the Concept of 'Substantive Equality'	26
Conflict of Rights	26
Public/Private Dichotomy	26
Culture as an impediment to equality	28
The Promise of CEDAW	29
The Situation in South East Asia	30
III. Applicability of the Convention in the domestic courts, legal provisions for substantive equality and the definition of 'discrimination'	33
Provisions for temporary special measures or guarantees for redistribution of opportunities and resources	36
Negative cultural practices and stereotyping	36
IV. Conclusion	39