

**Timor Leste:** *"The Committee is concerned about the prevalence in the State party of a patriarchal ideology with firmly entrenched stereotypes and the persistence of deep rooted adverse cultural norms, customs and traditions, including forced and early marriage, polygamy and bride price or dowry (barlake), that discriminate against women, result in limitations to women's educational and employment opportunities and constitute serious obstacles to women's enjoyment of their human rights."*<sup>121</sup>

**Viet Nam:** *"The Committee reiterates its concern about the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes, including the preference for male offspring, regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men within the family and society at large. These stereotypes present a significant obstacle to the implementation of the Convention, are a root cause of violence against women and put women in a disadvantaged position in a number of areas, including in the labour market and in political and public life."*<sup>122</sup>

During the review of State Party reports, the Committee clarified that cultures should be regarded as dynamic components of a country's social fabric and are therefore subject to change. It urged the State Parties to put in place without delay a comprehensive strategy, including the review and formulation of legislation, to modify or eliminate traditional practices and stereotypes that discriminate against women, in conformity with Articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention.

Such measures should include concerted efforts, with a clear time frame and in collaboration with civil society, to provide education and raise awareness about the harmful impact of gender-based stereotyping, and should target women and men at all levels of society, and should involve the school system, the media and community and religious groups and leaders.

DOCS  
CA1 EA3 2014W55 ENG  
Dairiam, Shanti, author  
Women's right to equality : the  
promise of CEDAW  
.B4354084

121. Concluding Observations: Timor Leste, CEDAW/C/TLS/CO/1, 2009., para 27

122. Concluding Observations: Vietnam, CEDAW/C/VNM/CO/6, 2007., para 12