

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shanthi Dairiam, a Malaysian human rights and women's rights advocate has been involved in the promotion of women's right to equality and non-discrimination for the past 35 years. Her work has focused on building capacity for the domestic application of international human rights norms and standards through law and development policy reform at the national level, to achieve gender equality.

In 1993, Ms Dairiam founded the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, a regional and international independent, non-profit NGO, based in Malaysia that monitors and facilitates the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She has served as Vice President, of Women's Aid Organization Malaysia (a program to combat domestic violence), was a past member of National Advisory Council of Women, Malaysia, past Executive Committee member of the National Council of Women's Organizations, Malaysia (NCWO) and was a member of the Gender Equality Task Force of UNDP between 2007 and 2008.

Ms Dairiam has also served as an expert assisting key UN agencies such as APGEN, the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and provided technical services to several governments in the Asia Pacific Region, in selected countries of Africa and in Latin America to build capacity for the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She holds a Masters in Literature from the University of Madras, India and a Masters in Gender and Development from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, United Kingdom.

Ms Dairiam served as a member of the UN Committee on The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) from 2005-2008, and was its rapporteur from 2007-2008.