CEDAW Optional Protocol Complaint Mechanism

Inadmissible
- failure to exhaust domestic remedies
- has been or is being considered through another international mechanism
- complaint is “manifestly ill-founded” or is not sufficiently substantiated
- facts occurred before state ratified the OP

Complaint
Individuals injured submit a “Communication” to CEDAW Committee

Transmitted to state (confidential)

State’s written response, including:
- arguments in support of inadmissibility
- statement of any remedial measures taken

CEDAW Committee determination
- reviews Communication and state’s response (in closed meetings)
- transmits its views to parties (public):
  - violation? If yes,
  - recommendations for remedial measures

Remedial measures include:
- compensation
- prevent ongoing & future injury
- reform laws & practices

State’s written response, including:
- statement of responsive measures taken

Committee may ask the state:
- for further information on responsive measures
- to include in its next periodic report any responsive measures taken

Interim measures

Within six months