



OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

**ESSAY AND POSTER
COMPETITION
ON WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP**

INFORMATION BOOKLET





This competition is organized by UNDP through the SECSIP in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Human Resource and Development. SECSIP supports the national authorities to conduct credible and inclusive electoral processes. It focuses on SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) to contribute to social cohesion and the development of a pluralistic society.

SECSIP receives funding from the Government of Australia and UNDP.

1. WHAT IS 'THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOLOMON ISLANDS' INITIATIVE?

In 2019, UNDP through the Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands project (SECSIP), launched the Outstanding Women of Solomon Islands initiative in support of women leadership and gender sensitization.

The initiative responded to research on why women are frequently not considered as skilled as men at being public leaders. Findings indicated that public recognition of the ability to build good relations with the community members and bring development opportunities to their communities was seen key to obtain support from influential groups.

Taking the above into account, UNDP designed an initiative where community members were invited to reflect on the work and contributions of women to the community and to vote for one of them whom they regarded as outstanding due to her valuable leadership qualities and achievements. This resulted in more than 100 women nominated or elected as Outstanding Women (OW) throughout Solomon Islands.

The group of the nominated and elected Outstanding Women, together with the members of the Provincial Council of Women who had been partners in the implementation of the OW initiative, are part of the Outstanding Women network collaborating with UNDP and other institutions to bring visibility to women's leadership.

2. WHY THIS COMPETITION?

If we are seeking to have a more inclusive society that involves everyone in its development, it is important that we involve and listen to the views of people and in particular of the youth as they are the next generation of leaders.

With a diverse and growing population that is one of the youngest in the world – seven out of 10 Solomon Islanders are under 30 years old¹, the transformative energy of youth is key to accelerate social inclusion and in particular gender equality. It is key for the youth to reflect on the benefits of inclusive leadership and for the rest of the society to listen to their views on how women can make significant contributions at all levels of decision-making.

¹ The source of the above referred data is the Report on 2009 Population and Housing Census Basic Tables and Census Description (Volume 1) Honiara: Solomon Islands Government. The National Statistics Office is yet to release a report with age disaggregated data based on the 2019 census.

Children and youth, who are the future of the country, are not only a key group to consider in increasing women's leadership but also an entry point to the entire society. The encouragement and support of teachers is considered crucial to build knowledge and raise awareness on gender and democracy related issues.

Frequently, the work and leadership of many women is not being recognized. The OW contributes to highlight the achievements of women in their communities and wards. It supports their visibility raising awareness about the significant value and contribution that women make on a daily basis within their communities.

The competition is viewed as a tool that contributes to build knowledge on gender equality, women's leadership and political participation. It provides an opportunity to reflect on issues related to women's leadership, their work and contributions and to share these thoughts and views in an essay or through artwork bringing visibility to the women of Solomon Islands.

3. WHY IS WOMEN LEADERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

Gender inequality means that men and women are not being given the same opportunities. When this happens, the ideas and contributions of women are not taken into account and this is a loss for the whole society.

This not only holds women back but also holds entire countries back and it results in enormous financial costs delaying development for all.

However, there are many women across Solomon Islands working hard and contributing to the well being of their communities and there are two elements that there are usually common when looking at women leaders:

- ▶ 'self-belief'
- ▶ a 'track record of services.'

These elements are the pillars of the Outstanding Women of Solomon Islands initiative. The Outstanding Women booklet features the stories and the 'track record of services' which has been acknowledged by the members of their communities and villages. The stories reflected in this booklet may remind you of those of other women that you admire. Read carefully and get some inspiration!

This competition is an invitation for students and teachers to find their own Outstanding Woman and share her achievements and leadership with others.

To enter the competition, participants can write an essay or draw a poster to present the story of a woman and their views on her leadership. The idea is to listen to the participants and seek their views on the work done by many Outstanding Women of Solomon Islands!

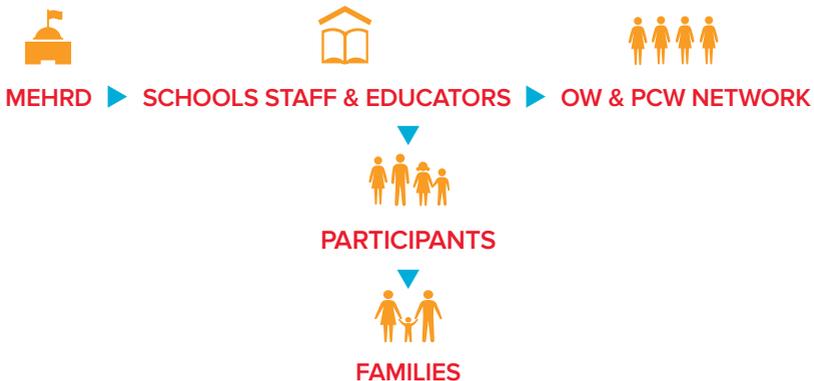
4. WHO ARE THE PARTNERS? HOW IS IT GOING TO BE IMPLEMENTED?

UNDP has, in consultation with the Ministry of Education, Human Resource and Development (MEHRD) designed this competition.

The approach is to work with secondary students, their teachers and university students as a way to build long-term support for women's leadership and more inclusive decision-making. The competition aims to provide an avenue to address barriers to women's leadership and to facilitate the engagement and discussion amongst the next generation of policy makers, youth and children, as well their teachers and parents.

The network of the Outstanding Women (OW) and the members of the Provincial Councils of Women (PCWs) will be instrumental in the implementation of this competition. They will be visiting schools in all the provinces, conducting presentations and dialogues and promoting the recognition of women's work and their visibility. It provides an opportunity for students and teachers to express their ideas on women's leadership through artwork.

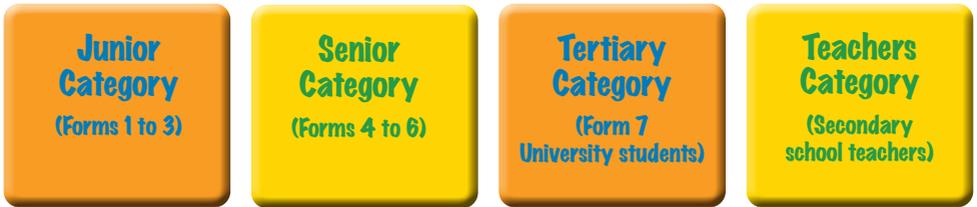
School principals, educators are instrumental to reflect and promote social change.



5. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE? WILL THERE BE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF PARTICIPANTS?

The Essay and Poster competition is open to students and teachers of secondary schools as well as to university students throughout Solomon Islands. Only nationals of Solomon Islands can participate.

Attending to age and/or level of studies, there are four different categories of participants:



All participants are invited to write an essay or to draw a poster (A3) to answer the following question:

“WHO IS AN OUTSTANDING WOMAN LEADER IN YOUR COMMUNITY?”

In each of the 4 categories, there will be a prize for the best essay and for the best poster/artwork.

REMEMBER! Each participant can only submit one entry either an essay or a poster!

6. REQUIREMENTS OF THE ENTRIES ON WHO IS AN OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

THEME: Women whose work, leadership values and overall contributions to communities can be considered outstanding.

FOR THE ESSAYS:

Based on the theme, write an essay with the following word limits:

Category	Number of words
Junior	400 to 600
Senior	600 to 800
Tertiary	800 to 1000
Teachers	900 to 1200

Can I submit my essay in Pidgin?

Essays must be submitted in English, not pidgin, The important thing to remember is to present original ideas and the overall message. Minor grammar or spelling errors are not to be penalized.

FOR THE POSTERS:

Based on the theme, create artwork in a A3 size sheet using your preferred materials (crayons, pencils, water-colours ...).

Share your thoughts and views to acknowledge the Outstanding Women of Solomon Islands!

7. HOW DO I SUBMIT THE ESSAY OR POSTER ENTRY?

All participants are asked to fill in and sign a *release form* which will be given to you by your responsible teacher or principal. This form is to authorize the competition organizers to publish your essay or artwork.

Participants submitting POSTERS will write the details below on the back of their posters. Put the release form under your poster and submit the two together to your responsible teacher or principal.

Those submitting ESSAYS will write the information below on a cover page. Put the Cover Page on top and the *release form* underneath your essay and submit these together to your responsible teacher or principal.

Write down the following information:

- a. **NAME** (and in brackets write whether you are a student or a teacher)
- b. **CONTACT DETAILS** (phone number or email address or both)
- c. **CATEGORY** that you are taking part in
- d. **FORM/YEAR**, you are in (students only)
- e. Name of your secondary **SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY** and the **PROVINCE** where your school or institution is located.

8. WHEN DOES THE COMPETITION OPEN AND WHEN DOES IT CLOSE?

The competition was opened on Friday 24 September 2021 and will close on Monday 1 November 2021 at 6pm.

9. HOW CAN I PREPARE MY ESSAY OR POSTER ENTRY?

- ▶ Think of whom you consider to be an 'Outstanding Woman' in your community! There are many, just think of one that you respect and admire!
- ▶ Provide the reasons why you think she is outstanding and give examples to support your choice
- ▶ You will also show in your Essay or Poster how the leadership qualities and work of this woman are contributing to positive community development.
- ▶ Remember you are allowed to only submit one entry e.g., if you decide to write an essay, you cannot submit a poster too and vice versa.
- ▶ **Be ORIGINAL! Provide examples of exceptional leadership work that the Outstanding Woman of your choice is doing for the community.**

10. HOW CAN I GET INSPIRATION TO WRITE THE ESSAY OR DRAW THE POSTER?

- ▶ SECSIP has a network of Outstanding Women (OW) in most Wards in all the provinces of Solomon Islands as well as in Honiara.
- ▶ These Outstanding Women will be visiting schools to talk about the importance of women's leadership for the positive development of community life.
- ▶ The Outstanding Women will be accompanied by the President of the Provincial Council of Women and the presidents of the Ward Councils where your school is located.
- ▶ They will invite students and teachers to reflect on the importance of women's leadership so you can start thinking about what you want to write in your essay or draw in your poster to highlight the exceptional leadership qualities of the Outstanding Woman of your choice.
- ▶ After their awareness raising talks on women's leadership, they will give you the chance to ask as many questions as you want regarding the competition to help you in writing and drawing your competition entry.

11. MARKING AND PRIZES

The assessment and marking of the entries will be conducted within the month of November by a panel comprised of representatives from public and private institutions as well as development partners. Depending on availability, the panel may include representatives from the Ministry of Education, Human Resource and Development MEHRD; the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, MWYCFA; the Solomon Islands Electoral Office, SIEO; the Office of the Registrar of the Political Parties, ORPP; the Provincial Councils of Women, PCWs; the Australian High Commission (AHC) and other international development partners; United Nations Development Programme, UNDP; UN Women; civil society organizations, CSOs; business enterprises and media.

For students, the prize will consist in the deposit of an amount to cover school tuition fees². This money will be deposited in the bank account held by the school/education institution where the student is enrolled when the entry to the competition was submitted to cover (in full or partially) the costs of the next academic year up to the agreed maximum amount. The amount is to be deposited in the school bank account and will be exclusively dedicated to the payment of school fees of the winning student. The amounts will be considered non-transferable and should the student do not enroll in the school, the school will return the amount to UNDP. Wording to this effect will be included in the contractual arrangement with the schools.

There will be also two awards (tablets) for secondary school teachers for the best essay and best poster as their involvement and support is important for the success of the activity.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Do not hesitate to seek additional information from SECSIP on the following contacts:

Mobiles: 7469127 (Telekom) and 8464179 (B Mobile)

Email: OWcompetition@yahoo.com

² Up to a maximum amount per winning entry agreed by UNDP

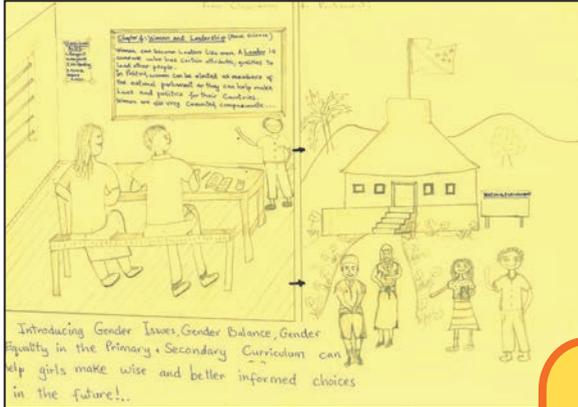
ESSAY MARKING CRITERIA

Skills		Score
Message impact	The overall assessment of the impact in terms of gender advocacy, support for equal representation in politics, and the quality of ideas presented to educate the public. <i>Give a rating from 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 or 0</i>	/10
Structure and cohesion	Clear and captivating introduction, ideas developed to support opinion, details are relevant and answer the question, conclusion is memorable and impressive and remain linked to discussion. <i>Give a rating from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 or 0</i>	/5
Message substantiation	Ideas and examples are drawn from relevant situations/contexts and used effectively to demonstrate good understanding and convincing discussion about the topic, message is very clear. <i>Give a rating from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, or 0</i>	/5
Originality of ideas	Ideas reflect the experiences of the writer in terms of their roles or status, able to place appropriate emphasis where necessary, strong reflection is made, clear indication of desired change. <i>Give a rating from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, or 0</i>	/5
Relevance to the topic	The ideas used present aspects on the theme <i>Give a rating from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, or 0</i>	/5
Total		/30

POSTER MARKING CRITERIA

Skills		Score
Overall quality of work and tone of message	The design of art-work effectively demonstrates care in thinking about the message. Message is positive, encouraging and creative. <i>Give a rating from 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 or 0</i>	/10
Structure and cohesion	<i>Title clearly conveys message and therefore answers the question. Artwork layout helps to achieve the understanding of the message intended. Captions are relevant and prompt thinking and reflection.</i> <i>Give a rating from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 or 0</i>	/5
Visual Clarity and Appeal	The poster has an excellent design and layout. Content is neat and easy to understand.	/5
Colours, Fonts, Neatness, understanding content	Effective Colours, Effective Fonts, Neat appearance, Ease of understanding content, Appearance is not to crowded.	
Appearance, Text and background	Pleasant contrast between text and background <i>Give a rating from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, or 0</i>	
Pictures/Graphics	Artwork is hand-drawn and original, clear, appropriate to the question, and creative.	/5
Depicts the question and answer	Artwork clearly reflects ideas in response to the topic <i>Give a rating from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, or 0</i>	
Relevance to the issue		
Hand drawn		
Required Elements	<i>These requirements are clearly visible, organised and well placed:</i>	/5
Size of poster	A3 size Poster	
Name Legibility (Able to read 2 meters away)	Artist's NAME <i>Legibility (Able to read 2 meters away)</i>	
Avoid Acronyms, abbrev Comprehensive	No use of Acronyms, abbrev Comprehensive <i>Give a rating from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, or 0</i>	
Total		/30

SAMPLES FROM PREVIOUS POSTERS AND ESSAY QUOTES



◀ Artwork by:
Sarah Houkura
Tuvuruhi Community High School
Female Overall Winner
Category: Teacher, 2018

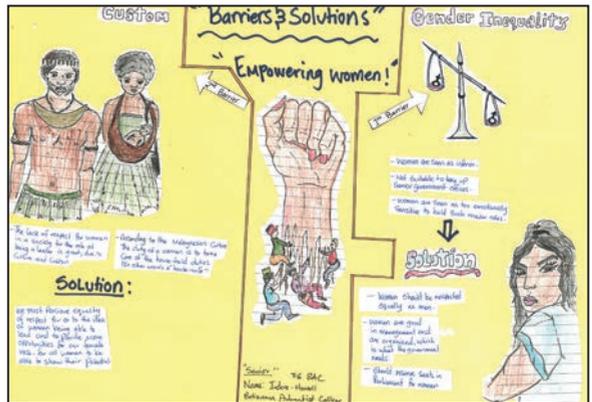
“Women have not been part of the nation’s growth in terms of leadership. What we are experiencing today are the results of men’s actions.”

– Melinda Houhou
Bishop Epalle Catholic School, 2016



◀ Artwork by:
Richard Ngatulu
Betikama Adventist College
Male Runner-up
Category: Teacher, 2018

▶ Artwork by: Indere Howell
Betikama Adventist College
Female Runner-up
Category: Senior, 2018



“Women have been managers and leaders in many aspects in the long history of existence of the human race. Yet very little recognition is shown to them.”

– Don Credflo Kekegolo
Coronation Christian School, 2016

BREAKING BARRIERS



**BREAK A BARRIER
RAISE
A NATION.**

▲
Artwork by:
Rowena Morgan
King George VI
Female Overall Winner
Category: Senior, 2018



▲
Artwork by:
Jayleen R. Qoqonokana
King George V
Female Runner-up
Category: Junior, 2018

“Our country needs the participation of women in all levels of our society.”

– Christolyn Dee
Norman Palmer School, 2017

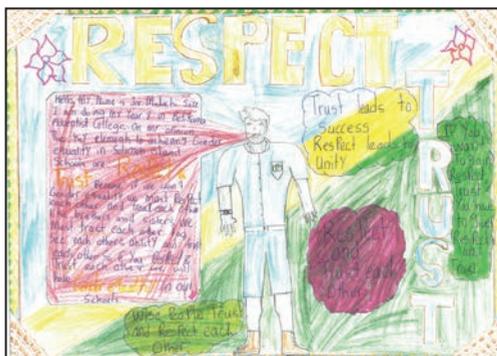
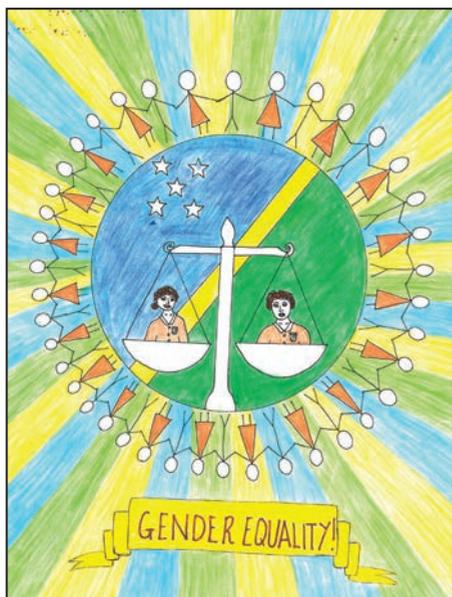
“In decision-making processes regarding elections, members of households do not independently vote for candidates. Women, girls, and young people often vote for the head of household’s favourite candidate. The right to be able to vote for the preferred candidate is neglected which can be seen as hi-jacking the right to freedom of choice.”

– Alena Ramo
Betikama Adventist College, 2016

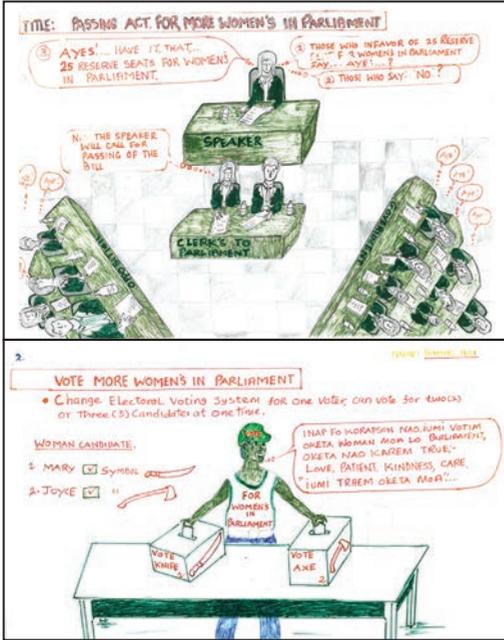
“Men act as though leadership roles were made for them.”

– Eugene Talairamo
Bishop Epalle, 2017

Artwork by:
Danielle Baura
Woodford International School
Female Overall Winner
Category: Junior, 2018



▲
Artwork by: Malachi Sore Junior
Betikama Adventist College
Male Runner-Up
Category: Junior, 2018



“Women’s collective contribution of ideas can promote peaceful coexistence and prosperity in our country.”

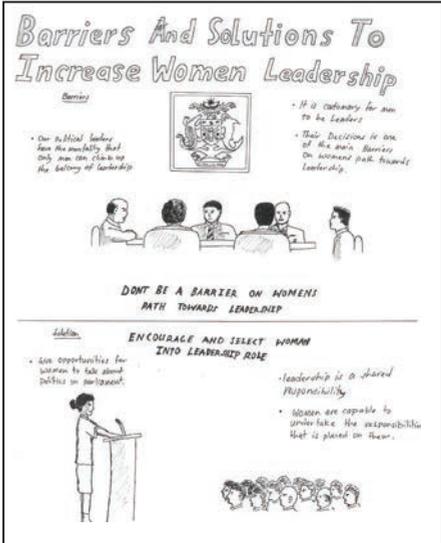
– Christolyn Dee
Norman Palmer School, 2017

◀ Artwork by:
Samuel Hou
Sarawasi Community High School
Male Overall Winner
Category: Teacher, 2018

“Women are becoming active not only regarding their right to vote but also their right to be heard regarding socio-economic services.”

– Alena Ramo
Betikama Adventist College, 2016

▶ Artwork by: Shaun Belo
Florence Young Christian School
Male Runner-Up
Category: Senior, 2018





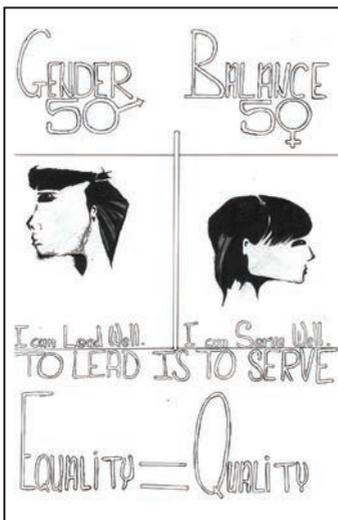
“Our country needs the participation of women in all levels of our society.”

– Christolyn Dee
Norman Palmer School, 2017

“Tell yourself, if men can do it, why not me!”

– Lois Toiramo,
NBokonavera School, 2016

▲
Artwork by:
Philemon Akao
Bishop Epalle
Male Overall Winner
Category: Junior, 2018



▲
Artwork by: John Garo Junior
Bishop Epalle
Male Overall Winner
Category: Senior, 2018

Artwork by: xKaren Paul
Jones Adventist College
Female Runner-up
Category: Teacher, 2018



GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Discrimination is the intended or accomplished differential treatment of persons or social groups for reasons of certain generalized traits.

Discrimination against women is defined by the CEDAW as “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 women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.” Indirect discrimination against women may occur when laws, policies and programmes are based on seemingly gender-neutral criteria which in their actual effect have a detrimental impact on women.

Empowerment can be defined as “the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Central to this process are actions which both build individual and collective assets and improve the efficiency and fairness of the organizational and institutional context which govern the use of these assets.”

Equity refers to the concept of fairness and involves access to equal opportunities and the development of basic capacities. To ensure equity, it is necessary to recognise that some groups have been disadvantaged and even though the rules do not specifically discriminate against some people, they could, in fact, induce some forms of discrimination when social inequalities are overlooked. Therefore, equity could necessitate special measures to compensate for the disadvantages. Equity is an essential element to equality.

Gender is defined as the social meanings given to biological sex differences. It refers to the socially constructed roles held by women and men in a specific society, including their responsibilities, behaviours and attitudes towards each other. Even if they sometimes look natural, these roles are learned and could be different from one society to another and are changing over time.

Gender equality refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognising the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women's issue but should concern and fully engage men as well as women.

Social Inclusion. This is the process of improving the terms in which individuals and groups take part in society -improving the ability, opportunity and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity and circumstances. Disadvantage is often based on social identity, which may be derived from gender, age, location, occupation, race, ethnicity, religion, citizenship status, disability, and sexual orientation and gender identity, among other factors.

Temporary Special Measures (TSM). In accordance with article 4 of CEDAW, these are measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women. The use of the term ‘measures’ encompasses a wide variety of legislative, executive, administrative and other regulatory instruments, policies and practices, such as outreach or support programmes; allocation and/or reallocation of resources; preferential treatment; targeted recruitment, hiring and promotion; numerical goals connected with time frames; and quota systems. They are considered ‘special’ because they are designed to serve a specific goal and shall not be considered discrimination. Their nature is ‘temporary’ because they shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved.

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**Australian
Aid** 



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