



Provisions on Gender Equality in Industrialized Democracies

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**PROVISIONS ON GENDER EQUALITY
IN INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES**

COUNTRY	DATE OF CONSTITUTION OR LAW	PROVISIONS
Australia	Sex Discrimination Act 1984	Written to give effect in Australia to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
Belgium	Provisions in numerous laws, beginning with the 1978 Law on Economic Reorganization	Title V devoted to equal rights of men and women in employment conditions and opportunities.
Canada	Constitution Act 1982	Art. 15 (1)—no discrimination based on sex.
France	Constitution 1958 (as amended through 1992)	Art. 3—men and women have equal opportunities to run for elective office and positions.
	Criminal Code	Art. 225-1 makes discrimination based on sex a crime; punishment outlined in art. 225-2.
Germany	Constitution 1949 (as amended through 1998)	Art. 3—all are equal before the law. Men and women are equal. The state supports the effective realization of equality of women and men and works towards abolishing present disadvantages.
Greece	Constitution 1975	Article 4—all Greeks are equal before the law. Greek men and Greek women have equal rights and obligations.
Ireland	Constitution 1937 (as amended through 1995)	Art. 40—all equal before the law.
Italy	Constitution 1947	Art. 3—all citizens possess an equal social status and are equal before the law, without distinction as to sex.
Japan	Constitution 1947	Art. 14—no discrimination based on sex.
Korea, S.	Constitution 1948	Art. 11—all equal before law, no discrimination based on sex.
The Netherlands	Constitution 1983	Art. 1—all persons in the Netherlands shall

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		be treated equally in equal circumstances. Discrimination on grounds sex or on any other grounds whatsoever shall not be permitted.
Poland	Constitution 1997	Art.33--Men and women shall have equal rights in family, political, social and economic life in the Republic of Poland. Men and women shall have equal rights, in particular, regarding education, employment and promotion, and shall have the right to equal compensation for work of similar value, to social security, to hold offices, and to receive public honors and decorations.
Portugal	Constitution 1976	Art. 13--all citizens have the same social dignity and are equal before the law. No one is privileged, favored, injured, deprived of any right, or exempt from any duty because of sex.
Russia	Constitution 1993	Art. 19--The state guarantees the equality of rights and liberties regardless of sex. Man and woman have equal rights and liberties and equal opportunities for their pursuit.
Spain	Constitution 1978	Article 14--Spaniards are equal before the law, without any discrimination for reason of sex.
Sweden	Constitution 1975	Art.16--no Act of law or other statutory instrument may entail the discrimination of any citizen on grounds of sex, unless the relevant provision forms part of efforts to bring about equality between men and women or relates to compulsory military service or any corresponding compulsory national service.
Switzerland	Constitution 1998	Art.8--No discrimination based on sex. Men and women have equal rights. The law provides for legal and factual equality, particularly in the family, during education, and at the workplace. Men and women

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COUNTRY	DATE OF CONSTITUTION OR LAW	PROVISIONS
		have the right to equal pay for work of equal value.
Taiwan	Constitution 1946	Art. 7—all citizens equal before law, irrespective of sex.
United Kingdom	No written constitution as such—this provision from 1992 British embassy document. Also adopted Sex Discrimination Act 1976.	§4—everyone is equally entitled to all rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind, including that based on sex.

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