

What is CEDAW?



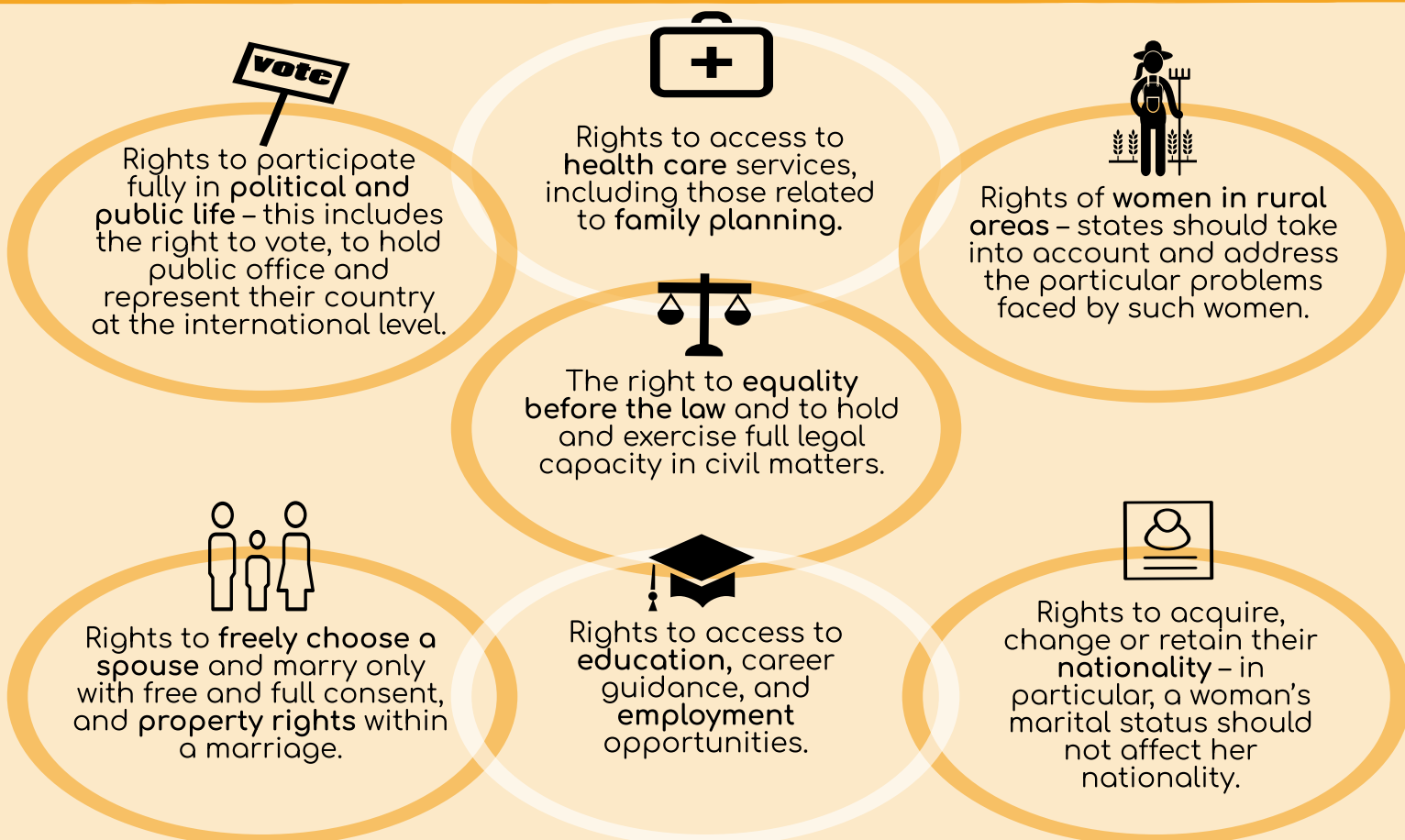
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ("CEDAW") is the most detailed international treaty on women's human rights and is often described as an international bill of rights for women. It was adopted on 18 December 1979 during the 34th session of the UN General Assembly.
- An Optional Protocol to CEDAW was adopted in 1999. This creates an individual complaints procedure which allows individuals from states party to CEDAW to lodge a complaint directly with the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The Committee will examine submissions and evidence from the individual and the state to determine whether there has been a violation of CEDAW.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia ("RGC") ratified CEDAW in 1992, and ratified the Optional Protocol to CEDAW in 2010.

CEDAW defines "discrimination against women" 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."

CEDAW requires state parties to:

- Adopt appropriate legislative and other measures prohibiting discrimination against women;
- Ensure effective protection of women against any act of discrimination;
- Refrain from any act or practice of discrimination against women;
- Take all appropriate measures, including temporary measures to accelerate equality in practice between men and women, to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise;
- Take all appropriate measures to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women.

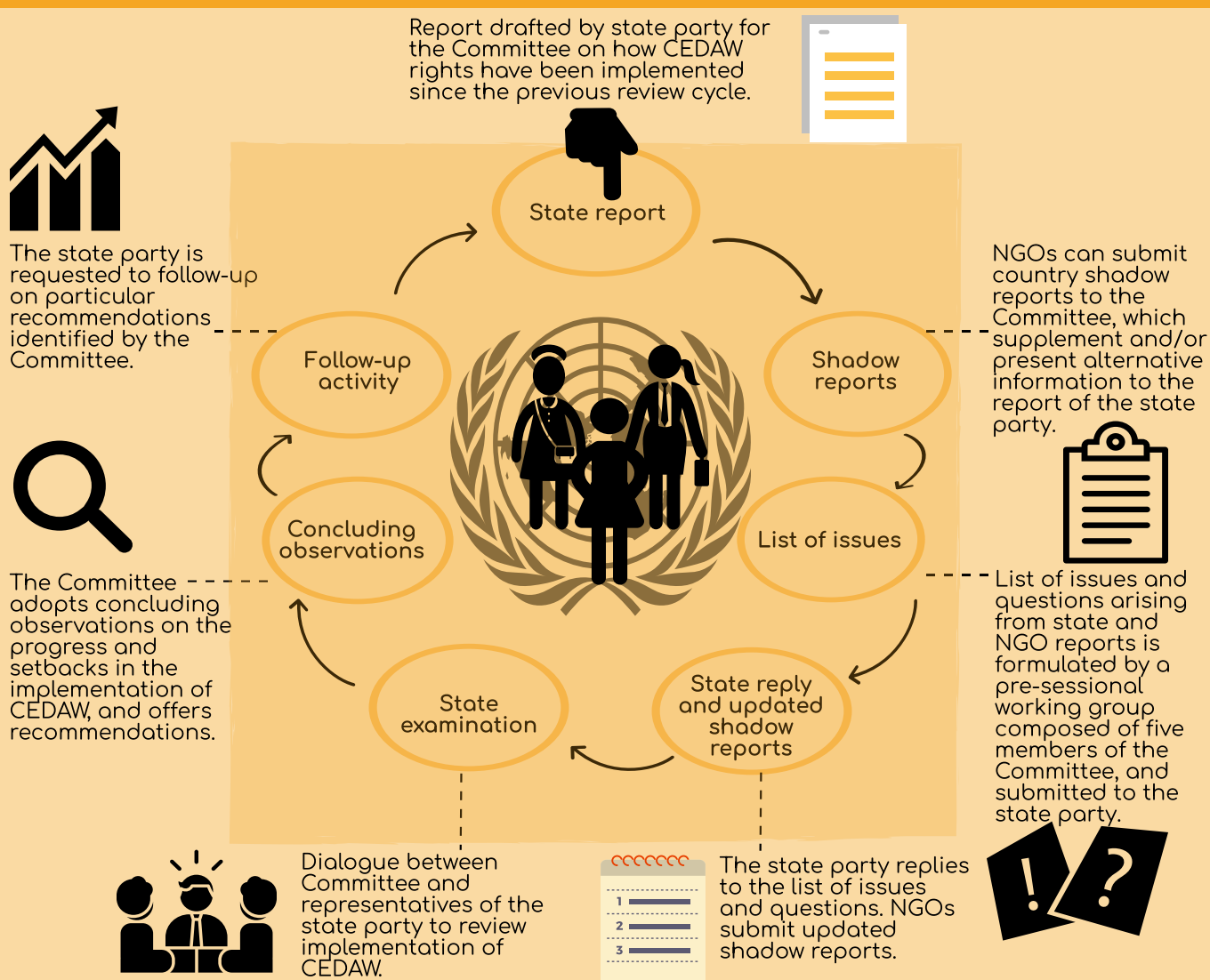
State parties must take all appropriate measures to ensure equality with men and non-discrimination against women in a number of areas:



The Review Process



State parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee every 4 years



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