



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

FLASH REPORT

Country:	Malta
Title:	Ratification of CEDAW Optional Protocol
Date:	18 March 2019
Expert:	Romina Bartolo
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Women's rights, Gender equality discrimination, Optional Protocol Cedaw Convention
Grounds of discrimination:	Gender, Sex
Field of application:	All fields
Source:	Policy development
Applicable law:	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Content

Policy development: The Maltese Government has signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) thus granting Maltese women who have been discriminated against, the possibility of taking their case before a CEDAW investigative board, once they have exhausted all local remedies.

Key points of analysis: Although Malta had ratified the CEDAW Convention in 1991, it had not signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to-date. This ratification will now give an additional forum for women who have experienced discrimination after having exhausted all local remedies. There have been very few cases on sex or gender discrimination in Malta. This additional forum may spur women to come forward with their discrimination cases and help reduce the under-reporting phenomenon. In the meantime the Ministry for European Affairs and Equality has published an online consultation¹ on gender equality mainstreaming aimed to provide governmental entities, social partners, civil society organisations and the general public with an opportunity to provide specific proposals to Government with regard to the development of the Gender Equality Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan as well as the Gender Equality Mainstreaming Bill.

Internet link source:

<https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20190316/local/malta-ratifies-protocol-to-elimination-of-discrimination-against-women.704709> accessed 18 March 2019

¹ https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MEAE/Pages/Consultations/Towards-a-Gender-Equality-Mainstreaming-Framework.aspx accessed 18 March 2019.