

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON THE ELIMINATION
OF GENDER-BASED CULTURAL DISCRIMINATION AND
WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS IN OGUN STATE, NIGERIA**

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF
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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, COLLEGE OF
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, COVENANT
UNIVERSITY, OTA, NIGERIA.**

NOVEMBER, 2020

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this thesis is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota.

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DECLARATION

I, **UDOH, OLUWAKEMI DEBORAH (04AH00721)**, declare that this research work was carried out by me under the supervision of Prof. Sheriff F. Folarin of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria and Prof. Victor A. Isumonah of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. I attest that the thesis has not been presented either wholly or partially for the award of any degree. All sources of data and scholarly information used in this thesis are duly acknowledged.

UDOH, OLUWAKEMI DEBORAH

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Signature and Date

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this thesis titled, “**International Conventions on the Elimination of Gender-Based Cultural Discrimination and Women’s Property Rights in Ogun State, Nigeria**” is an original research work carried out by **UDOH, OLUWAKEMI DEBORAH (04AH00721)** in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Prof. Sheriff F. Folarin and Prof. Victor A. Isumonah. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degree in International Relations.

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DEDICATION

This thesis is respectfully dedicated to the Almighty God, my Anchor and the Father of Light, who shone His light on my path and without whose help the success of this programme would have been impossible.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACHPR	African Charter on Human and People's Rights
ACW	Association of South-East Asian Nations' Committee on Women
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
ATR	African Traditional Religion
BPLOA	Beijing Platform of Action
CEAPDI	Community Education Advancement of Peace and Development Initiative
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFRN	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
COWAN	Country Women Association of Nigeria
CRLP	Centre for Reproductive Law and Policy
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DEDAW	Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
DVAC	Domestic Violence Action Centre
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GENDI	Gender Development Initiative
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IWY	International Women's Year
LGA	Local Government Area

NASS	National Assembly
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NGO	Non-governmental Organisations
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
PPMC	Pearson's Product Moment Correlation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
UDHR	United Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlement Program
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WACOL	Women Aid Collective
WiLDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa
WIN	Women in Nigeria
WWII	Second World War
VAPP	Violence Against Persons' Prohibition

ABSTRACT

Women's rights to property are vital in determining the living conditions of women in most parts of the world. In fact, in rural agrarian economies where families depend on agricultural produce to feed, women constitute a large percentage of the agricultural workforce. Their rights to property have also been identified as a crucial factor in establishing gender equality. However, across different parts of the world, women are discriminated against in the enjoyment of these rights which is often as a result of prevailing customs and traditions. Global attempts at addressing the issue of discrimination against women culminated in the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other treaties on women's rights. Despite the fact that Nigeria signed and ratified the Convention, it has not yet implemented it within its national laws and women still encounter challenges in enjoying their rights to property. Hence, this study examined the ways in which the Ogun State government has been able to protect women's property rights in the state within the provisions of CEDAW. Liberal feminism provided the theoretical framework for this study because, as a variant of feminism, it advocates gender equality and proposes the intervention of legal institutions in the enforcement of women's rights. The cross-sectional survey design was adopted for the study while a mixed method of data collection was utilised. Structured questionnaire and interview schedules were used to elicit responses from various stakeholders among the population of study in Ogun State. Data obtained from administered questionnaire was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22.0 and the four hypotheses were tested using the regression, Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and one sample t-test techniques. Responses from interviews were analysed thematically. The study established that there is a significant positive relationship between CEDAW and women's property rights in Ogun State as the state, through its Ministries of Women's Affairs and Social Development as well as Justice, has made efforts in developing measures (which align with state-obligations in the convention) to enforce the protection of women against any violation of their rights to property. It also revealed that certain factors such as education, customs and traditions as well as religion had impacts on the actualisation of these rights in the State. The study concluded that there are implemented policies in Ogun State that draw their bearing from CEDAW. These policies have ensured, to a very large extent, women's rights to own property even though customs and traditions remain major impediments. This study recommended that there should be different avenues of creating awareness among the women such as leveraging on mass media platforms like radio programmes. Finally, the study suggested that future researches interrogate the impact of the migration of women, from one geo-political zone in Nigeria to another, on women's property rights in Nigeria.

Keywords: CEDAW, culture, property rights, religion, women's rights