

Guidelines for Writing an NGO Report

NGO Reports

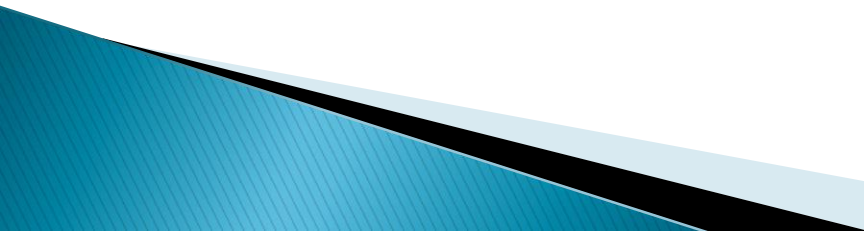
- ▶ SHADOW REPORT

is a critique of what is included and what is not included in the official report submitted by the government

- ▶ ALTERNATIVE REPORT

is independent of the government report either because it is not available or it is not yet written

Purpose of the NGO Report

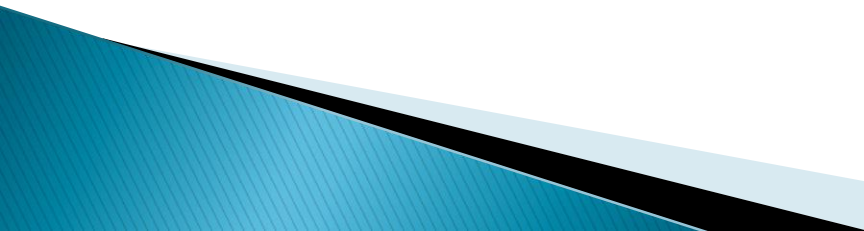
- Provide CEDAW Committee with information on:
- ▶ the discrepancies between the standards and provisions of the Convention and domestic legislation, i.e. *de jure status* of the substantive rights outlined in the Convention
 - ▶ the achievement or lack of it of substantive rights outlined in the Convention, i.e. on the *de facto* status of the right, especially in terms of
 - Access
 - Exercise
 - Enjoyment
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Purpose of the NGO Report

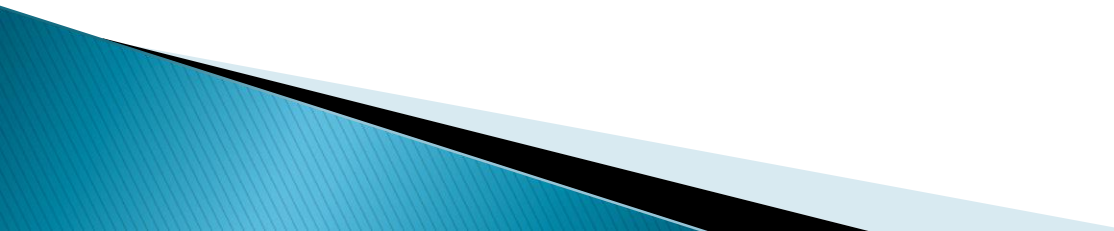
- ▶ Provide a critical analysis of the information in the State Party Report commenting on the validity and comprehensiveness of:
 - The data used
 - The issues covered (missing issues?)
 - The population covered (missing groups?)
 - The geographical areas covered (missing parts?)

Purpose of the NGO Report

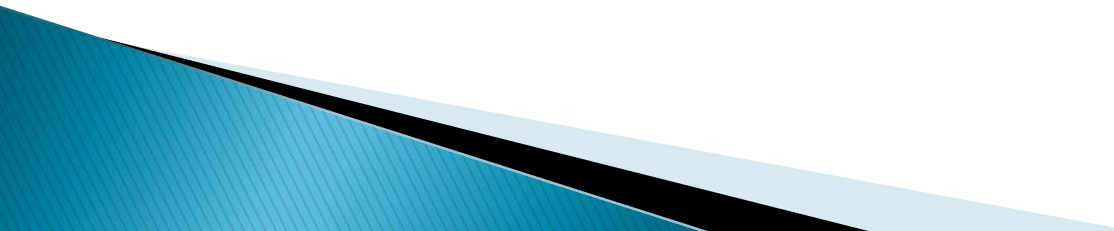
Provide alternative information/data on

- ▶ The real situation of women
 - ▶ Impact and progress made by the State
 - ▶ Violations of the human rights of women
 - ▶ Inadequacies and gaps in laws & policies and their enforcement or implementation
 - ▶ Obstacles to the realisation of the human rights of women
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Purpose of the NGO Report


- ▶ Provide a critical analysis of why government actions to implement the Convention are not adequate or effective
 - ▶ **Provide recommendations** for Government action to accelerate implementation of the CEDAW Convention
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NGO Report – Steps

- ▶ Identification of priority issues through a coordinated effort
 - ▶ Collection and analysis of alternative information
 - ▶ Preparation of the Report
 - ▶ Dissemination of the Report
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Collecting Information by services organisations

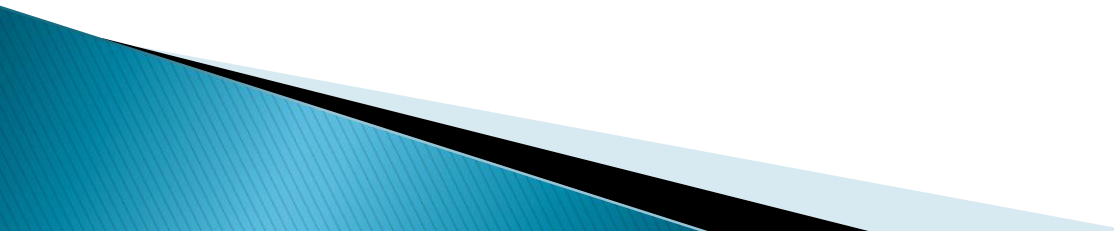
A practical guideline

- ▶ Identify the discrimination, evidence, data, case studies
 - ▶ What are the contributing factors
 - ▶ State intervention—what has the state done?
 - ▶ Impact or effectiveness of the state intervention
 - ▶ Recommendations
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The Shadow Report

- ▶ Writer or writers will gather and write from what they have collected from NGOs

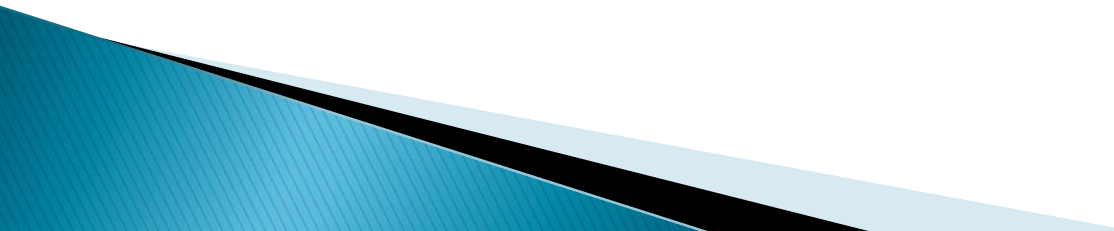
Content of the Report: Background Documents

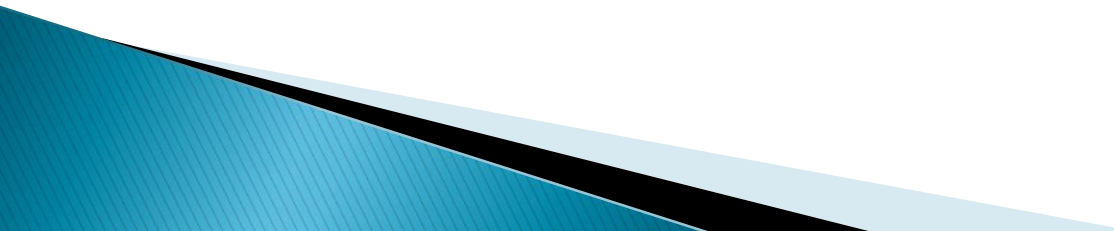
- ▶ CEDAW Convention
 - ▶ **Common Core Document**
 - ▶ State Party Report
 - ▶ CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations
 - ▶ General Recommendations
 - ▶ Reports of other UN Human Rights Mechanisms
 - ▶ Concluding Comments of other UN Treaty Bodies like UPR, CRC etc.
 - ▶ Summary Records
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Content of the Report: Outline

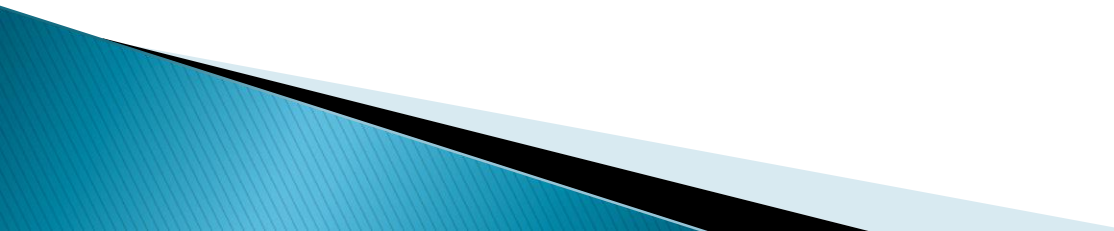
- ▶ Executive Summary
 - Summary of the main critical points by Articles
 - Summary of the recommendations
- ▶ Commentary on Articles 1–5
- ▶ Commentary on Articles 6–16
- ▶ Commentary referring to relevant General Recommendations
- ▶ Other Issues – Reservations, Optional Protocol, Implementation of Outcomes of UN Conferences, Summits and Reviews

Content of the Report: Situation Analysis

- ▶ Evidence of Disparity – existing situation of women vis a vis men
 - ▶ Evidence of Discrimination – analysis of causes & contributory factors leading to disparity in outcomes
 - ▶ State Obligations – constitutional guarantees, legal provisions, policy commitments, treaty obligations & international commitments
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- ▶ Current State Actions/Initiatives – laws in effect, policies in place and programmes in implementation
 - ▶ Assessment of State Actions/Initiatives – adequacy & effectiveness measured against long term progress towards equality
 - ▶ Identification of Gaps – shortcomings in state action in terms of strategy, content and process
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Content of the Report: Structure of Commentaries

- ▶ State Actions to date
 - What has been done? Formal incorporation in constitution, legislation and policy? Institutional mechanism for implementation and monitoring ? Resources made available?
 - What needs to be done? Identification of gaps, inadequacies, constraints and challenges
 - Recommendations
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Usefulness of the NGO Report

- ▶ **Helps CEDAW Committee** to:
 - Raise issues not presented in the official report
 - Cross-check validity of information in official report
- ▶ **Helps NGOs** to:
 - Build consensus on prioritisation of issues
 - Build consensus on what is to be done
 - Develop research capacity
 - Adopt a rights-based approach to programme design and implementation, policy formulation and law reform

Usefulness of the NGO Report

- ▶ Can be used by other HR mechanisms and/or committees set up under other treaties
 - ▶ Can be used for community education – important therefore to use accessible language and produce the vernacular in quantities sufficient for widespread distribution
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