As an instrument that addresses the circumstances that affect women’s lives and enjoyment of rights in a diverse world, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is slowly but surely making its mark on the development of international and national law. Using national case studies from South Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, Australia, Canada and Northern Europe, Women’s Human Rights examines the potential and actual added value of the CEDAW in comparison and interaction with other equality and anti-discrimination mechanisms. The studies demonstrate how state and non-state actors have invoked, adopted or resisted the CEDAW and related instruments in different legal, political, economic and socio-cultural contexts, and how the various international, regional and national regimes have drawn inspiration and learned from each other.

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ANNE HELLUM AND HENRIETTE SINDING AASEN

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She was a scientific director of the EU Network of Legal Experts in the Non-Discrimination Field, and she has been an expert adviser to the proposed Single Equality Bill in Northern Ireland, the Equalities Review in the UK, the Canadian Review of Federal Labour Law, the UN Human Rights Commission working group on national action plans against racism, the UN Working Group on Women’s Rights, the World Development Report 2013 and Indian gender discrimination legislation. She is a Fellow of Gray’s Inn and holds an academic tenancy at Old Square Chambers.

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The international human rights regime consists of a broad range of instruments and monitoring bodies that all contribute to uphold respect for human rights. This book situates the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in a legal landscape where states are under multiple international, regional and national obligations to respect, protect and fulfil women’s civil, political, social and economic rights.

The idea of this book grew out of the research project ‘Should states ratify human rights conventions?’ headed by Professor Andreas Follesdal and Professor Geir Ulfstein at the Center for Advanced Studies (CAS), Norway, in 2009 and 2010. The book is the outcome of the international conference From Ratification to Implementation: CEDAW in International and National Law, held in Oslo on 11–12 March 2009. This conference provided an arena for exchange of ideas between human rights scholars and practitioners from Northern Europe, South Asia, Australia, Canada and Southern Africa.

The conference was organized and funded by CAS and the research group Rights, Individuals, Culture and Society (RIKS) at the Department of Public and International Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Oslo. We are particularly grateful to the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), which funded the participation of scholars and practitioners from the Global South. We are also very grateful to Elisabeth Wenger Hagene from the Department of Public and International Law for her excellent administrative support before and during the conference.

A number of people have commented on the papers presented at the conference and reviewed the draft chapters in this book. In addition to two anonymous reviewers from Cambridge University Press, we would like to thank Kirsten Ketscher, Hege Skjeie, Malcolm Langford, Cees Flinterman, Rebecca Cook, Helen Keller, Andrew Byrnes, Mads Andenas, Ingunn Ikdahl, Geir Ulfstein and Andreas Follesdal for valuable comments on the conference papers and the draft chapters. We are
Preface and acknowledgements

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AAAQ</td>
<td>Available, Accessible, Acceptable Services of Good Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACHR</td>
<td>American Convention on Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA</td>
<td>Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (New South Wales, Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIPPA</td>
<td>Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Zimbabwe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALRC</td>
<td>Australian Law Reform Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>APAFEJE</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Advisory Forum on Judicial Education on Equality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APWA</td>
<td>All Pakistan Women’s Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>CERD</td>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>CESCR</td>
<td>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHR</td>
<td>Commission on Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIDA</td>
<td>Canadian International Development Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMW</td>
<td>International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNCDH</td>
<td>Commission nationale consultative des droits de l’homme/National Advisory Commission on Human Rights (France)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COs</td>
<td>Concluding Observations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>CSCE</td>
<td>Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe</td>
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<td>CSOs</td>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
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<td>CSW</td>
<td>Commission on the Status of Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAW</td>
<td>Division for the Advancement of Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECHR</td>
<td>European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECJ</td>
<td>European Court of Justice</td>
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<td>ECtHR</td>
<td>European Court of Human Rights</td>
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<td>EEA</td>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
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<td>EEC</td>
<td>European Economic Communities</td>
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<td>EFTA</td>
<td>European Free Trade Association</td>
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<td>EHRC</td>
<td>Equality and Human Rights Commission</td>
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<td>EOC</td>
<td>Equal Opportunities Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equality Act</td>
<td>Act on Equality between Women and Men (Finland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>East and Southern African</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCR</td>
<td>economic, social and cultural rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAFIA</td>
<td>The Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action</td>
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<td>FGM</td>
<td>female genital mutilation</td>
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<td>GCs</td>
<td>General Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNU</td>
<td>Government of National Unity (Zimbabwe)</td>
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<td>GPA</td>
<td>Global Political Agreement (Zimbabwe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HALDE</td>
<td>Haute autorité de lutte contre les discriminations et pour l’égalité/High Authority to Combat Discrimination and Promote Equality (France)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRC</td>
<td>Human Rights Committee</td>
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<td>HRCP</td>
<td>Human Rights Commission of Pakistan</td>
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<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
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<td>ICERD</td>
<td>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</td>
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<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
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<td>ICJ</td>
<td>International Court of Justice</td>
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<td>ICPD</td>
<td>International Conference on Population and Development</td>
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<td>ICTR</td>
<td>International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda</td>
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<td>ICTY</td>
<td>International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia</td>
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<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
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<td>INSTRAW</td>
<td>International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRS</td>
<td>Individual Rights Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IWRAW-AP</td>
<td>International Women’s Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>JORF</td>
<td>Journal officiel de la République française</td>
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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JSCOT</td>
<td>Commonwealth Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (Australia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JURK</td>
<td>Free Legal Advice for Women (Norway)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAM Act</td>
<td>Legal Age of Majority Act 1982 (Zimbabwe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBT</td>
<td>lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maputo Protocol</td>
<td>Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMR</td>
<td>maternal mortality ratio</td>
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<td>MWD</td>
<td>Ministry of Women’s Development (Pakistan)</td>
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<td>NAWO</td>
<td>National Alliance of Women’s Organisations (India)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCHR</td>
<td>Norwegian Centre for Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCs</td>
<td>Native Commissioners</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCSW</td>
<td>National Commission on the Status of Women (Pakistan)</td>
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<td>NGOs</td>
<td>non-governmental organizations</td>
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<td>NHRIs</td>
<td>National Human Rights Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>OAS</td>
<td>Organization of American States</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CEDAW</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSAGI</td>
<td>Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSCE</td>
<td>Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSA</td>
<td>Public Order and Security Act (Zimbabwe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RDA</td>
<td>Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth) (Australia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SADC Protocol</td>
<td>Southern African Development Community Protocol on Gender and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDA</td>
<td>Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth) (Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGP</td>
<td>Staatkundig Gereformeerde Partij/The Reformed Political Party (Netherlands)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSCC</td>
<td>Strategy of Social and Cultural Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSS</td>
<td>Social Support Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>UDHR</td>
<td>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNCHR</td>
<td>United Nations Commission on Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Fund for Population Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNGA</td>
<td>United Nations General Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIFEM</td>
<td>United Nations Development Fund for Women</td>
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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UPR</td>
<td>Universal Periodic Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAW</td>
<td>violence against women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VWL</td>
<td>Victorian Women Lawyers’ Association (Australia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEL</td>
<td>Women's Electoral Lobby (Australia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WG</td>
<td>Working Group on Laws that Discriminate against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<td>WLSA</td>
<td>Women and Law in Southern Africa Research Trust</td>
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<td>WNC</td>
<td>Women's National Commission (UK)</td>
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<td>WOZA</td>
<td>Women of Zimbabwe Arise</td>
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<tr>
<td>WWW</td>
<td>Women Who Want to be Women (Australia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZLR</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Law Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZWLA</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Women Lawyers’ Association</td>
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</table>