

Reference: C.N.150.2019.TREATIES-IV.8 (Depositary Notification)

CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

NEW YORK, 18 DECEMBER 1979

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND: PARTIAL  
WITHDRAWAL OF RESERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF BERMUDA <sup>1</sup>

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicates the following:

On 16 April 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland notified the Secretary-General of the partial withdrawal of reservations made by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in respect of the territory of Bermuda on 16 March 2017. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland notified the Secretary-General that, under Bermuda's Defence Amendment Act 2018, conscription has ended; hence, that part of the reservation made by the Government of Bermuda that refers to the effect that none of Bermuda's obligations under the Convention shall be treated as extending to "any act done for the purpose of ensuring the combat effectiveness of the Armed Forces of Bermuda" is withdrawn.

The remaining reservations shall henceforth read as follows:

(Original: English)

"I have the honour to refer to the extension of the ratification by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ("the Convention") to the territory of Bermuda. I have the further honour to inform you that the Government of Bermuda expresses its consent to be bound by the Convention, subject to the same declarations and reservations as those made in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, except that they apply to the territory and its laws, and subject to the additional Reservations below.

The Government of Bermuda regards the Bermuda Constitution and the Human Rights Act 1981 as embodying the principle of equality of men and women as prescribed by Article 2 of the Convention. The Constitution enshrines the fundamental rights and freedoms of every person whatever that person's race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex, and the Human Rights Act 1981 recognizes the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family and makes better provision to affirm these rights and freedoms and to protect the rights of all members of the community.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to depositary notification C.N.127.2017.TREATIES-IV.8 of 16 March 2017 (Territorial application in respect of Bermuda: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

In the light of the definition contained in Article 1 of the Convention, the extension of the ratification of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on behalf of Bermuda is subject to the understanding that none of Bermuda's obligations under the Convention shall be treated as extending to the affairs of religious denominations or orders.

As it may deem necessary from time to time, the Government of Bermuda reserves the right to apply Article 15 (4) and other provisions of the Convention, subject to section 11 (2) (d) and 11 (5) (c) of the Bermuda Constitution and section 27A of the Bermuda Immigration and Protection Act 1956. Section 11 (2) (d) of the Constitution imposes restrictions on the movement or residence within Bermuda of any person who does not belong to Bermuda. Under section 11 (5) (c) a foreign national wife belongs to Bermuda if, by decree of a court or a deed of separation, she does not live apart from a husband who possesses Bermudian status, or a husband who has been granted a certificate of naturalization. However, section 11 (5) (c) does not apply to the foreign national husband of a wife who possesses Bermudian status. Section 27A of the Bermuda Immigration and Protection Act 1956 provides for an additional condition to apply to the foreign national husband of a wife who possesses Bermudian status in order for him to remain and reside in Bermuda, i.e. that he has no relevant convictions."

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The notification of withdrawal of the above-mentioned reservation took effect on 16 April 2019 in accordance with article 28 (3) of the Convention which reads as follows:

"Reservations may be withdrawn at any time by notification to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall then inform all States thereof. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received."

6 May 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. L.', located at the bottom right of the page.