

**Biographical data form of candidates to the  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

**Name:** Pramila Patten

**Nationality:** Mauritian

**Date and Place of birth:** 29 June 1958, Mauritius

**Working languages:** English, French

**Current position/function:**

- Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Member of Working Group on Communications under the Optional protocol
- Member of Advisory Panel of African Women's Rights Observatory -UN Economic Commission for Africa
- Chairperson of Working Group on General Recommendation 30 on "Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post Conflict Contexts"

**Main professional activities:**

- Practising Barrister at Law in Mauritius- specialized in Family Law;
- Founder and Member of WLAW (Women's Legal Action Watch) a non-governmental organization in Mauritius focusing on the promotion and protection of women's human rights;
- Provides consultancy services to UN Specialized agencies such as UN Women, UNFPA, ILO as well as to international organizations such as Inter Parliamentary Union, L'Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie, International Commission of Jurists in the field of women's human rights. Consultancy services include: training Government officials, judges, lawyers and other law enforcement officials, NGOs and Bar Associations on CEDAW and its Optional Protocol; conducting mock sessions for Government delegations; providing advice on the drafting of different National Action Plans including on the implementation of CEDAW Concluding Observations; reviewing draft legislation and conducting gender impact analysis of laws.

**Educational background:**

- LLB Honours (First Class)-Ealing College of Higher Education, UK (1981)
- Council of legal Education, Professional Vocational Training- Holborn, UK (1982)
- Called to the UK Bar - July 1982; Member of Gray's Inn
- Called to the Mauritian Bar - August 1982
- LLM –University College London, University of London, UK (1984)

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:**

- Member of the CEDAW Committee since 2003 and Member of Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW since 2003- to date and its

Chairperson in 2004-2005; conducted one inquiry under Article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

- Conducted Regional Consultations in connection with the elaboration of the General Recommendation on “Women in conflict prevention, conflict and post conflict” in Thailand, Ethiopia, Turkey, Guatemala and Jordan- March 2012-January 2013.
- Commissioner on the International Commission of Inquiry into the massacre in Guinea Conakry (2009)-appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General.
- Technical assistance provided to several States Parties to CEDAW on different areas covered by the Convention, including Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Ukraine, Hungary, China, India, Bangladesh, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Haiti, Oman, South Africa, Malawi, Tanzania, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Timor Leste, Afghanistan, Iraq.
- Trained Parliemantarians on CEDAW and Optional Protocol in Madagascar, Gabon, Tunisia, Hungary, Pakistan, Morocco, Tahiti, Tanzania and Malawi.
- Drafted / reviewed / conducted gender impact analysis of laws for Maldives, Burundi and Turkey.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights:**

- Published several reports, articles and manuals at the national, regional and international level on: Violence against women; Sexual harassment at the workplace; Women in the informal sector of employment; Comparative analysis of marriage laws; Women and armed conflict; Gender impact of climate change.
  - Contributed articles in Passport to Dignity-published by PDHRE, Peoples’ Movement for Human Rights Education; Circle of Empowerment.
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