

**Mauritanian For Women's Rights  
Mauritanienne Pour les Droits de la Femme  
(MPDF)**

**Parallel Report to the  
Government's Report**

**JUNE 2014**

## **Introduction**

Mauritanian women's rights is a new founded coalition but it includes several civil associations formed Over decades and including women in the media at The Network of Mauritanian Women Journalists and The Mauritanian Organization of Blind People which both care of Disabled Woman Rights In Mauritania.

In addition to rural cooperatives that are involved in the preparation of the report. The report was completed by the efforts of these organizations members that have almost all benefited of a regular formation by the IWRAW in cooperation with the National Association for the Mauritanian Blinds and The Network of Mauritanian Women Journalists.

This report aims to assess the status of women referring to the Convention of Elimination of all Discrimination Forms against Women, after 7 years of the first report and after several changes on the women conditions and efforts of advocacy teams and the activists in this field who defended women a lot and sought to make its voice heard in the international ceremonies through a partnership with many international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the best proof of this IWRAW Asia Pacific women initiative by the shadow report training.

We seek through this report to see how much progress Mauritania has realized on applying CEDAW Convention between 2007 and 2014 to assess the conditions that women live actually and this has been set using the following:

A variety of studies

Reports of field monitoring

Research and Surveys

National Population Census of 2013

National Anti-Poverty Strategy 2011 / 2015

We aims also to offer through this report a help to the concerned authorities of the government and non-governmental organizations and international organizations and ordinary citizens, or those interested in this domain in order to assess and improve equality between men and women in Mauritania.

*We must point out that we have prepared this report with our own efforts, although, we have contacted the Commission on Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society which did not support us nor financially neither morally.*

## **Organizations participating in the report preparation**

- 1 - Network of Mauritanian Women Journalists
- 2 - National Association for Blind Mauritians
- 3 - Association Will for Culture and Development
- 4 - Association of Women for Sustainable Development
- 5 - Mauritanian Federation of Media Women
- 6 - Women's Committee of the Mauritanian Association for the Physically Disabled
- 7 - Mauritanian Association for the schooling of girls
- 8 - Mauritanian Association for women with disabilities
- 9 - Mauritanian Association for the rehabilitation of disabled women
- 10 - Mauritanian Association for the Deaf Disabled
- 11 - Mauritanian Association for Social Development
- 12 - Women's Association for the Disabled
- 13- National Organization for the Protection of the child against the psychotropic substance
- 14- Association Children First

### **General context in Mauritania**

Mauritanian society has progressed with regard to its position of eliminating discrimination against women (and this does not mean that women are even now becoming equal with men, as discrimination against women persists even today. Now discrimination level is becoming much lower than it was, so women are almost equal with men in several things, including but not limited to access to education, jobs, political participation and representation in parliament and government).

The only change occurred is that discrimination takes a positive turn even more in some situations, and women's movements have helped to achieve this change, these movements are trying to empower women and prepare them to fight for their equality with men.

### **2 . The general status of women's rights in Mauritania**

The legal framework has widely improved in recent years for women, such as:

✓ Passing a specific law pension for women which amends some provisions of Law No. 67-039 Issued on February 3, 1967 to establish a social security system in order to unify the right to old-age pension for people who are meeting its necessary conditions. Activating this law, the Mauritanian state should have crossed great steps in eliminating discrimination against women.

- ✓ Positive discrimination for women by making them access to higher education eight professors
- ✓ 20 women entering the Superior School of Management
- ✓ Recruitment of two Women Judges
- ✓ Enactment of a law criminalizing FGM
- ✓ Enactment of a law criminalizing scolding women

But we still remark a relative disparity in benefit of law as a result of opposed between the traditional systems and the modern systems., Such as: what happens in family disputes

Nevertheless, women still suffer from a number of manifestations of discrimination, including:

- ✓ The lack of representation of women in local administrations
- ✓ Women can not confer their nationality
- ✓ High rate of illiteracy between women whom represent more than half of the society as a whole.
- ✓ Rural women suffering from a lack of health basic services .

### **International treaties**

As for Mauritania's international liabilities, and especially its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 2006

Which had been adopted and opened for signature, ratification and adherence by the United Nations General Assembly resolution n° 134 \ 180, dated of December 18<sup>th</sup> , 1979 which took effect on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1981.

= UN Charter affirms faith in fundamental human rights and dignity of the individual, his ability and the equality of men and women in front of law

= The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the principle of inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and fundamental freedoms in the political,

economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field and the political rights of women is confirmed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The reservation Mauritania on CEDAW targeted provisions that would conflict with Islamic law on personal status of women.

In the field of women's rights, it should be noted a relative disparity (inheritance, divorce, polygamy etc ...) is that this disparity finds re-balance in the other provisions tend to favor women (the right to alimony, cladding and obligations rests with the husband ..) This disparity must therefore be seen in terms of rights and duties corresponding which makes a sort of balance in the personal status between men and women.

### **National legislation**

Parliament approved in 2001 on the Personal Status Code, which govern all personnel aspects. The Article 57 of this code stipulates that the wife could exercise any profession outside the marital home on condition to observe the Islamic law.

In addition to the above, Article 28 gives the wife the possibility to require that her husband would not marry a second woman, (Mauritanian law does not prohibit polygamy, but it put a specific conditions and rules in case of a breach the woman may sue for divorce when the judge. These conditions include justice in the treatment of wives in addition to physical and financial ability, and without prejudice to the first wife's condition. These provisions origin is Islamic law, also in the Mauritanian society there are several calls to women's polygamy because it involves the elimination of spinsterhood and solving some of the social and economic problems faced by women, otherwise the phenomenon of polygamy more spreading in the Negro community) and not stay away for a specific period and that does not stop her from pursuing her studies or work in addition to any other requirement is not inconsistent with the purpose of the marriage contract. If the spouse fails to comply with the partial or total avoiding conditions required by the wife this leads at the initiative of the latter to the judicial annulment of the marriage and to benefit from the "pleasure duty" back which amount is to be determined at the judge discretion. (Article 19 Code of Personal Status)

In the field of women property management they have full freedom in the conduct of their property, and marriage does not impose them inability to dispose of the property in accordance with Islamic law and according to the CEDAW (Article 58 of the Personal Status Code).

<b><u>Women also have the right to obtain her passport without her husband's permission.</u></b>
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<b><u>The Islam takes woman's testimony in some cases as half of man's one: like in</u></b>
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**transactions and crimes, in return, about the issues that happen between women Islam does not accept men's testimony and make them private to women)**

The Mauritanian nationality law acknowledges also the woman's nationality as well as the man except that there is a disparity to be cleared regarding nationality transfer to their husbands and children. If the wife of Mauritanian can get citizenship through marriage, the foreign spouse of a Mauritanian wife can get citizenship by submitting a request for naturalization.

A child born of a Mauritanian mother outside the national territory is not automatically Mauritanian, but he must follow the conditions set forth in the law in order to obtain citizenship. (Article 9 of the Nationality Law)

- **Recommendation:**

Every child born of a Mauritanian mother both on the national territory or outside should automatically get Mauritanian nationality.

Criminal law enshrines the principle of equality between the sexes and translates attention to the protection of women against all forms of injustice. Thus, adultery, rape, prostitution, encouraging the outrageous ... etc. all of them are punished harshly. However Mauritanian law **does not recognize honor crimes committed against women and which are considered as crimes, like crimes of public law as it agrees with CEDAW** which defines the term "discrimination against women", in Article 1, as "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field". And also in Article 2, "States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women"

### **Labor Law**

This law ensures equal chances between men and women and take some special procedures for the benefit of women like to work at night, breastfeeding, maternity, also civil service ensure the same rights, and its also the same things in private sector, where women enjoy the same rights as men in terms of the Work Collective Convention. However, it allows women to take retirement early before men which affects the economic benefit.

### **Recommendation**

**Legalizing breastfeeding hour and make it two hours: one in the beginning time, and the other at the end, so mother can stay as long as possible with her baby.**

## 2 Equality in retirement age between two sexes

### **Our remarks on the government's report**

In this context, the country has been marked by taking many actions on the institutional, political, social and economic level specified by the original report. Which actions is seeking to activate the rights recognized for women in the treaty.

However, the application is still below the hoped results, where awareness-raising sessions on the arrangements and provisions of the Treaty and the Commission's recommendations still incomplete and the agreement terms are not known even from the supposedly spokesmen who are the "government employees".

### **CEDAW Monitoring Committee**

CEDAW Monitoring Committee has from beginning based on a Group of Organizations of NGO excluding other NGO that have larger presence and stronger defense of Woman Rights especially Women Media Bodies. This reality had unfortunately reflected negatively on its performance level as well as reporting its mission. It had also neglected the Arabic-speaking NGO, as Arabic is the official language of the Country. "First Arabic-speaking NGO Formation was in April 27th 2014 "

- ***Recommendation:***
- To promulgate law obliging CEDAW Monitoring Committee to involve the rest of civil community's groups and specially women's media organizations for its active role in the defense of women's rights.
- Involvement of all components of the civil community in all trainings programmed that should be into a Language understood by them.

And overall, the government's efforts in the field of generalization and publication of the CEDAW Committee's provisions and recommendations has remained at the stage of oriented action and needed to intensify efforts in order to achieve a real measurable impact.

Partnership with civil society were below expectations and below the commitments made at the first presentation of the report in front of the CEDAW Committee in 2007.

- ***Recommendation:***

In order to accomplish this, it is hoped that the efforts of sensitization or advocacy in

favor of the actual application of the CEDAW more prevalent, especially at the level of civil society.

### Physical, psychological and sexual violence

With regard to spousal violence, the survey achieved in 2012 on victims of the violence attests that : 6.1% of the women surveyed had experienced physical violence, and 14.6% were subjected to sexual violence, and 63.9% had experienced psychological violence. The conjugal violence is the second reason of divorce after alimony.

The phenomenon of rape are becoming increasingly prevalent as the data available in recent years as a result of the influence of the media, modern technology, scientific development and the lack of citizen's security.

The society's perception of the phenomenon of rape as a disgrace, constitute the main obstacle to the existence of an accurate data on this phenomenon.

- ***Recommendations***

1. Ensuring the implementation of the penalties provided by law against the practice of violence according to the articles 36, 146 and 336 of the Criminal Code.
2. Forcing the perpetrators of violence to compensate the victims.
3. Publication of the Personal Status Code in the media and into all the national languages.

### **Female genital mutilation**

Although the government tried to eliminate the phenomenon of female genital mutilation through:

- An advisory opinion by religious of Mauritania to abandon female genital mutilation in 2010;
- An advisory opinion to abandon female genital mutilation in 2011
- Developing of a law draft criminalizing female genital mutilation;
- Achieve a sociological study on female genital mutilation in 2010;
- Developing a training module on female genital mutilation in 2010;

- ***Recommendations***

- Firstly, the adoption of the recommendations of the CEDAW entirety

- Including:
- - The medical associations, or national women's organizations must collect and disseminate basic data about such traditional practices;
- - Provide support to women's organizations working for the elimination of female genital mutilation and other practices harmful to women;
- Encouragement of politicians, professionals, religious leaders, tribal leaders journalists and artists, to cooperate in influencing attitudes towards the elimination of female genital mutilation;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accredit a law criminalizing Female genital mutilation and the amendment of the article 12 of the criminal protection child law</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To strengthen campaigns calling to give up FGM between religious and communal leadership.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise awareness between judicial staff and particularly medical and religious authorities.</li> </ul>

## **Woman and Media**

Woman suffers, in general, of an old and renewed unfairness which mechanisms and manifestations vary and diversify according to the difference of its temporal and spatial contexts.

The Women represent more than 50.7% of Mauritania's total population according to 2013 Census. (Conducted by the National Agency for Population Register and Secured Titles)

The Media Women had their share non joining Development where prevailing mentalities in community remained considering women journalist as doing an abnormal thing, this happened despite the presence some women distinctive voices synchronizing the emergence of the State therefore woman presence in media by quantum and quality remained below man level seen in this field, so the media dimension is added to remaining spaces which incarnates imperfect justice manifestations about sex looks to due emancipation. (As provided in Article 5 of CEDAW on changing stereotypes about gender)

<p>As there is a paucity of sources in this field and where we do not receive any recommendations from the State or CEDAW organization to take as reference for</p>
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us in this subject we keep within the space of our own capabilities .

The network of women journalists in Mauritanian has recently achieved a study which has presented in detail the presence of women inside this field from number to level of education to percentage inside this institutions. We take advantage here from its general counting for 2014 (The official source for this data is the media institutions which provided it to us at The Network of women journalists in Mauritanian, and it is revised and accurate) which show the following :

Total number 1072

Men number 730 by 68%

Women number 342 by 32%

This census reveals diagnostic about vast differences between gender, whether it is about quantity as numbers show or quality, where women presence is limited mostly in presentation and broadcasting programs and news. It decreases whenever we approach to cultural programs, talk shows and round tables to ... etc. and so other types of media programs which require efficiency and considered formation .

**• Recommendations**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We must support initiatives held by women associations especially in the field of promoting the awareness about the importance of the role of woman journalist.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We must impose regulations supporting positive discrimination.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We must seek for adoption of gender approach inside media institutions.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We must create linking mechanisms between the staffs working in the field of media focused on women and specialists active in the field of social sciences, media sciences and communication.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We must support journalist women pen through institutions in which they work by any act seeking awareness and sensitization about different social issues.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We must pen new perspectives of training and formation in front of woman journalist in order to strength her capabilities.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We must show the necessity of using a fair outlook about woman roles and responsibility especially in the media field.</li></ul>

## **Women and Health:**

Despite the great progress that country achieved in last years in health field as general, reproductive health especially according to that latest Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of 2011 indicate that mortality rate of mothers in 2011 were up to 226 deaths per 100.000 living birth. The proportion of infected congenital fistula.

So here we keep recommendations as following to reduce mortality of mothers children and fight fistulae congenital. About AIDS seropositive rate between women is 0,7% according to HIV Revelation 2013 source GARPR. Fistula operations has registered 50 cases end 2013 according to Fistula Program / RNFR.

- **Recommendations**

1. Provision of health coverage in every rural group containing 100 women.
  2. Financial motivation for every birth in the health point.
  3. To search about women infected in congenital fistula and ensure their treatment in free and fully confidential manner.
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1. Financial motivation for every woman who distance 3 years between 2 births. As woman may have an average of one birth by year in some eradicated place separating every two birth cases by 3 years will improve either woman and child health conditions.
  2. To start intense and continuous campaigns of sensitization targeting men before women. (This is because the women in Mauritania, despite their possession of freedom and status envy of her sister Arab and Negro, they always considered the man as the master of the house and the family, therefore, any sensitization on the importance of birth spacing shall be directed to the man in particular)

## **Women and work**

Despite The State efforts in recruitment of woman in public sector and the appointment of many them in administrative functions with high levels such as: "The Ministry of foreign affairs, the general inspector of the State, and general director of national television the the judiciary corps, the first national women list , the first chairperson urban group of Nouakchott in the country since autonomy even today ".

Woman access to administrative positions and diplomacy is still low, accordingly, we recommend

- **Recommendations**

1. To approve an annual women specific competition to introduce women into civil service.
2. To enforce durable training for state staff with positive discrimination for women employee.
3. To increase grants allocated to girls from 6% to 10% as an additional share of scholar grants.
4. To raise participation rate from 21% (This is the percentage of women in parliament after the recent legislative elections 2014) to 33% until we get to the requirements of the Millennium Development Goals in next elections.
5. To represent disabled women in all areas by 10%.
6. To represent women in syndical councils by 33%, and so in political parties.
7. To give women a position in each stages of upgrading in ministerial departments and public institutions.
8. To represent woman by 33% ( in order to reach the requirements of the Millennium Development Goals of the representation of women by 33% in the centers of decision-making ) in supreme bodies such as:
  - National Observatory of Elections Monitoring.
  - Independent National Committee of Elections
  - Supreme Court
  - Constitutional Council
  - Economic and Social Council
  - Human Rights National Committee- raise women representation's level in diplomatic and administrative appointments.
9. To induce work inspections to apply equality principle incase of conflicts.

**Women in decision-making positions, political participation and Administration**

Although the Mauritanian state worked on entry of 7 ministers in current government but this considered as a gift (not provided by laws) and no law is establishing it so this percent exposed to decrease in any time,

- So present woman candidate from each circle from 3 deputies to impose a certain women rate as percent
- 31 deputy parliamentary as ratio of 21%, which is far rate of specified millennium goals 33 %
- 8 women senators
- 1,372 women town councilor (35,38 %.

But women presence in administration is still weak - the rate of women in administration is 14% and vary whenever and we go upstairs to the top ranging the percentage is what between 1 and 3 %. (According to statistics carried out by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family in cooperation with the National Office of Statistics).

In Minister cabinet we take for example the the ministry of communication and contact, relations with parliament there is one woman of 7 in the Cabinet

the number of women mayors is 6 on 218 and the number of women town councilor in municipal councils is 1372 on 3722 town councilor so the rate is 35.38 %

- **Recommendations**

- We are calling for increasing women's number in municipal councils because of its impact in basic development and which affect woman in directly as women lives in large numbers in the countryside.
- We call for the integration of woman in strategies elaboration
- Woman should also at the head chairs of one of the two parliamentary chambers.
- Women must get up to 33% in each of the Economic and Social Council. The Supreme Judicial Council, the Constitutional Council, the Supreme Council for Fatwa and grievances and the Independent National Commission for Elections
- The integration of women in the preparation of a total vision for basic development
- To institute a legislation that determines a specific quota of women ministers
- To institute a legislation determining a specific quota of women in the secretaries of the ministries
- To institute a legislation that determines a specific quota of women mayors
- To put a legislation determining a specific quota of women members of the Parliament
- To determination a women's quota in each Minister's cabinet
- To determine a women's quota of Courts Heads

## **Woman And Disability**

Despite that Mauritanian State as other states and countries ratified all international agreements keeping disabled persons right , and despite the fact that the disabled have received 100 new jobs (According to a decree issued by the Council of Ministers on 04.12.2013), including women and offers annual support for their organizations, and the management of their own but they still suffer from some social obstacles as the lack of access to infrastructure and upgrade management.

The accurate statistics indicate related this strata that the rate of disabled people in Mauritania is between 7-10% of the total population for the year 2000 of where the total population was 2508159 people which make so almost 300,000 disabled people and so women make 150,000 .

### **Recommendations**

- Permanent integration of disabled women in gender policy
- Knowledge of legislation and the facilities available for people with disabilities: In line with strategies and policy, that the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family intends to carry out. It is about a process of sensitization and awareness of the rights of this segment and as well as related laws. So we must pay a particular attention for women with disabilities in this field.
- To remove all barriers and laws that prevent the integration of women with disabilities to work.
- She should also have the right to equal opportunities
- The empowerment of disabled women in order to unfetter themselves
- Women with disabilities must enjoy their right in jobs that are corresponding to their remaining abilities and they should be trained on the diverse skills that benefit them in practical life in accordance with technological developments.

## **Women Promotion**

According to CEDAW, the Ministry of Social Affairs, childhood and family is the ministry entrusted to them the rights of women and has the means of material and financial resources to accomplish its mission and holds the application of state policy in the field of development depending on the gender approach, and in spite of this, the Ministry of Women's Affairs has seen a decline in its mechanisms, it has created such as writing to the State for Women's Affairs in 1991, then turned to the Ministry of women Promotion and children and the family family in 2007, and finally the Ministry of Social Affairs, childhood and family, and in spite of this institutional progress, the financial resources allocated to upgrade the women of Mauritania is considered weak, with a budget of the Ministry of Social Affairs, childhood and family a little more than about a billion Ouguiyas of the weakest Ministry in the ministerial budgets and budget policy concerned with gender were not effective.

Mauritania is still, although certified CEDAW, suffering from the delay in the establishment of an effective institutional mechanism for the development of women's rights. This issue is assigned often to a Ministry having others issues coming before women rights. Thus, the institutional adjustments recently achieved in the country has disappeared entirely women of the social affairs sector.

Accordingly, we recommend :

- **Recommendations**
- Disconnect the Ministry of Women of Social Affairs Ministry, and give it powers to monitor the execution of all strategies own to women followed by others ministries, in the other hand, it would be a tutelary on all other ministries in questions regarding gender policies.

## **Woman And Education**

The phenomenon of school dropout is the biggest obstacle facing the Mauritanian women for the sake of learning, and the phenomenon of school dropout is when girls enrolled in school leave their school before completing their primary studies or secondary education before the age of fourteen.

Despite the measures taken by the State in order to eliminate school dropout, (The illiteracy rate between women is up to 53% compared to its rate between

men 33%, according to the statistics of OMD 2010), however, this phenomenon is still rampant in Mauritanian society, especially in rural areas and rural areas.

- **Recommendations**

1. To increase grants allocated to girls from 6.5% , according to 2011 statistics made by the PNDSE to 10% as an additional grants share.
2. To build a school canteen especially for poor girls.
3. To include topics in school program that could change stereotypes about women.
4. To fund income-generating activities for the benefit of poor families who taught their daughters in school.
4. To grant an incentive awards to schools that have the lowest rate of school dropout.
5. To allow a special attention to girls with disabilities inside schools
6. To accommodate school infrastructure to permit access disabled people.

## **Slavery in Mauritania**

Despite the passage of three decades on the abolition of slavery in Mauritania and the criminalization of the phenomenon seven years ago and establishment of a special court to look into the crimes of slavery on 31 December 2013 , the after-effects of slavery still exists in this country and especially the economic after-effects :

- **Recommendations:**

Seeing that slavery after-effects in Mauritania manifested in the economic side we are calling for allocating a specific budget to merge affected people in the active life.

And also opening literacy classrooms targeting groups missing education

## **The status of Malian refugees in Mauritania:**

Despite the efforts carried out by Mauritanian government and charitable international and national organizations, the Azawadian refugees, especially women, suffer a lot and need an urgent intervention to save them. According to the Mauritanian Initiative for Azawadian refugees Relief the support system followed by ( HCR ) In refugee camps of Amberrah gives one tent for every four families, many of them without shelter and their lines become with 700 people instead of 500 in the past, and suffer from a lack of ambulances and lack of health care for pregnant women who's proportion of death is becoming higher every day.

Regarding supply, it is continuously decreasing. These organizations have distributed in the first months of 2014 12 kg by person and in June it becomes 7 kg of rice without meat or milk or vegetables, and without any means to enable them to cook what they got .

Women are also suffering in the camps of injustice and marginalization even dress they do not have sufficient.

## **Recommendations**

- We must aid women in refugee camps of Ambarrah with basic health services.
- We must provide appropriate supply for each family with all its requirements..
- We must provide shelter

## **Conclusion:**

CEDAW recommended that the Mauritanian institutional and legal system should be based on the principle of full equality between men and women, as specified in the treaty.

According to Mauritanians legal consultants, this option is incompatible with the system of Islamic law applied in Mauritania, which is based on the principle of complementarity between men and women more commonly known as gender approach .

According to Mauritanians religious scholars, the treaty can not be applied in Islamic law in its view of equality between men and women, where women identified their rights in Islam, whose laws does not accept amendment of its and they are good for every time and place .

In spite of this, the legal texts of Mauritania does not discriminate between the sexes and does not object to women's access to the sum of administration functions, including administration and diplomacy. Since Mauritanian diplomacy is led at the moment by a woman while it is an issue of mentality in the case of Justice rather than a question of law which that can be overcome at the end of the day.

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- A national survey on violence based on gender
- Statistics on the status of women in Mauritania, which was carried out by civil society including media organizations.
- Ministry of Social Affairs, childhood and family .
- Mauritanian Ministry of Health .
- Ministry of Communication and Relations with Parliament .
- Independent Electoral Commission .
- National Health programs
- National program in charge of reproductive health

## **ANNEX I**

### **Participants in the training session organized recently by IWRAP in Nouakchott :**

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## **ANNEX II**

### **Labour Code Articles**

#### **Article 2: Regional Application**

This law is applicable on every employment contract concluded to be executed in The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, wherever it is concluded and regardless its parties place of residence.

#### **Article 4: Definition**

Employment contract is an agreement by which the worker is committed to put his professional activity in the interest of the employer under management of the latter's authority in return of a salary.

Worker is anyone whatever his sex, nationality or legal status who is related with the employer by a legal relationship of dependency.

Employer is a natural or legal person of the public or private law persons, regardless his legal status.

#### **Article 5: Principle of work freedom and prohibition of forced work**

Worker is committed to work with all his freedom. Forced or compulsory work which obligate someone to do a work or a service under a threat of punishment and that this person does not offer voluntarily is prohibited.

Also is prohibited any working relationship, even if not under a contract of employment by which anyone is asked to do a work or service that he do not want to do.

Any violation of the following provisions subjects to criminal penalties stipulated in Article 5 of Law No. 2003/025 on eradication of human trafficking

#### **Article 11: the penalty**

Each contract which does not meet the conditions stipulated in Articles 9 and 10 as short or undetermined term employment contract according to the explicit agreement between the two parties in case where it is obvious that the test were good.

**Seeking for funding participating names & address**

<b>Full name</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Organisation's address</b>
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