

NGO THEMATIC SHADOW REPORT ON OLDER WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN TANZANIA

Submitted to the 41stth session of the Committee on
the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against
Women (CEDAW)

In relation to Tanzania's *Combined fourth, fifth and sixth
periodic report of States parties*, 16 April 2007
(CEDAW/C/TZA/6)

Prepared by HelpAge International Tanzania
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Endorsements

Endorsed by the following organisations working on older women's rights in Tanzania:

1. Songea Older Persons Forum
2. Tanga Elder Women Resource Centre
3. Morogoro Retired Teachers Association
4. Chama cha Wazee Mtwara SAWATA Dodoma
5. Tanzania Association for Women Leaders in Agriculture and Environment
6. Arusha Retired Peoples Association
7. Social Concern Agency
8. Iramba Help Older People Economic Groups Association
9. Lindi Retired Peoples Association
10. Service, Health and Development for People living with HIV/AIDS
11. Southern Highlands Senility Organisation
12. Nasa Brotherhood for the Aged

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I. Introduction

HelpAge International is submitting evidence to highlight the experience of older women's realisation of rights in Tanzania. Despite the growing numbers of older women in Tanzania, the Tanzanian State Report *Combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of States parties, 16 April 2007 (CEDAW/C/TZA/6)* and *Responses to the list of issues and questions with regard to the consideration of the combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/TZA/Q/6/Add.1)* fail to sufficiently address the discrimination faced by older women or their rights in relation to implementation of the articles of the Convention.

This submission, which is supplementary to the NGO shadow report and endorsed by 12 Tanzanian organisations working on the rights of older women, sets out the context in which poor older women live and highlights the discrimination that they experience. It then focuses on gender-based violence against older women, older women carers' access to resources and support in relation to their role as carers of vulnerable children and sick adults living with HIV and AIDS, and widows' property and inheritance rights. Questions to put to the Government delegation and recommendations for Government action are made in each of the three areas.

HelpAge International Tanzania

HelpAge International is a global network of not-for-profit organisations that prioritises working with older people to realise their rights, to participate in civil society and to access to health services. HelpAge International Tanzania (HAIT) was established in 1987 and since then has been seeking to create a wider understanding and recognition of ageing issues with civil society and the Government by supporting a strong movement of older people, strengthening ageing organizations, facilitating interaction with Government and mainstreaming ageing into the development agenda.

II. Recommendations to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

We recommend that the CEDAW Committee:

Article 2: Gender-based violence against older women

- Urge the Tanzanian Government to issue a policy statement that commits District Councils to include measures in District Plans that challenge and address the intimidation, isolation, abuse and killings of older women which can result from allegations of witchcraft that are made against them.

Article 12: Access to health services

- Urge the Tanzanian Government to revise *the National Guidelines for Home-Based Care Service Providers* (Feb 2005), *the Curriculum for Training Home Based Care Service Providers* (Dec 2006) and the *National HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Plan (2003 - 2008)* to ensure they respond to the needs of older women carers of people living with HIV and AIDS and most vulnerable children.
- Urge the Tanzanian Government to identify and provide older women carers and households affected by HIV and AIDS with dedicated support, information and resources, including cash transfers, to enable them to effectively carry out their roles as carers and educators and prevent their own risk of infection.

- Encourage the Tanzanian Government to support the collection, analysis and dissemination of HIV and AIDS surveillance data for people over 49 and disaggregate this data by age and sex.

Article 16: Property and inheritance

- Urge the Tanzanian Government to take immediate action to introduce a non-discriminatory uniform inheritance law that applies equally to all Tanzanians, which does not discriminate against older women, in particular widows, and no longer contradicts the protection of women and widow's rights to access to land and property that already exist in the *Land Act CAP 113 RE 2002*, the *Village Land Act CAP 114 RE 2002* and the *Law of Marriage Act 1971*.
- Urge the Tanzanian Government to implement a law criminalising the seizure of property (property grabbing) on the death of a spouse.
- Encourage the Tanzanian Government to clarify the timetable for completion of the review of existing discriminatory laws.
- Urge the Tanzania Government to ensure that any changes to the law and mechanisms to implement them are made known at the community level particularly by poor, older, illiterate women, through village and district government structures.

III. CEDAW and older women

In its Decision 26/III *Ending discrimination against older women through the Convention*, the Committee for the Elimination to Discrimination Against Women (hereafter the Committee) recognised that the Convention "*is an important tool for addressing the specific issue of the human rights of older women*"¹. In particular the Committee recognised that discrimination against women throughout their lifespan has a severe and compounded impact on women in old age. It recognised the lack of statistical data disaggregated by age and sex, including the incidence of poverty and violence against older women, and the need for improving older women's economic, physical, mental and social well-being as well as their participation in society. Given its concern for the situation of older women, in particular poor rural older women, we urge the Committee to continue to highlight discrimination against older women and encourage states to systematically address the rights of older women when reporting on their progress in implementing CEDAW.

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) was endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2002. It provides detailed recommendations to member states on how it can realise the rights of older people through the three main areas of development, advancing health and well-being into old age and enabling and supportive environments. It has a strong gender perspective, recognising that women and men experience old age differently and as such provides a clear framework for realising the rights of older women. We urge the Committee to take into account member states' commitment to MIPAA when considering recommendations and concluding observations on the rights of older women.

¹ CEDAW, *Ending discrimination against older women through the Convention*, 07/05/02, A/57/38 (Part 1), para 430-436 (Decision)

IV. The national context: older women in Tanzania

As women tend to live longer than men, there are more older women than older men in Tanzania. In 2006, the life expectancy at 60 for women was 17 years, but only 15 years for men². In 2006 there were 79 men for every 100 women over 60 in Tanzania but only 63 men per 100 women over 80³. The UN predicts that by 2050 the number of older people in Tanzania over the age of 60 will have dramatically increased from just over two million in 2006 to nearly over seven million in 2050⁴. As the population ages, the number of older women will increase.

Older women and men experience ageing differently in Tanzania. Older women are less likely to remarry after the death of a partner and are more likely to be divorced or abandoned by their partner. In 2006 only 41% of older women were married compared to 82% of older men⁵.

The majority of older women, 84% according to the last census live in rural areas⁶.

Lack of data on older women in Tanzania is a major challenge to assessing the extent to which their rights are being realised. No data is available on the number of older women who live below the poverty line. This lack of data is a major barrier to ensuring that appropriate programmes are designed and sufficient funds allocated to addressing poverty and the health service and social protection needs of older women and their families.

V. Discrimination and older women's rights in Tanzania

HelpAge International and its partners' experience over the last 21 years has been that older women in Tanzania face discrimination on the basis of their gender, age and poverty.

The fact that older women live longer and are less likely to remarry than older men tends to leave more older women living in vulnerable conditions, relying on the goodwill of relatives and neighbours for economic security. The majority of older women have no access to formal social security in a country where only 5 per cent of the total labour force has access to it⁷.

Widowhood profoundly changes the status of women in Tanzania and undermines their security. Customary laws deny widows the right to inherit common assets (for example a house or land). Widows can be inherited by their deceased husband's brother and must abide by these laws or risk being ostracised and left without income and assets at a time of trauma and bereavement.

For older widows, discrimination compounds the effects of a lifetime of poverty and gender discrimination. This can result in extreme impoverishment and isolation, both for the widows themselves and any dependents they care for. Their situation is worsened by a lack of knowledge of their legal rights, of how to access appropriate information and where to seek impartial advice and guidance. In a sample survey carried out in three Districts (Kwimba,

² UNDESA, *Population Ageing Chart*, UNDESA 2006, <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/ageing/ageing2006table.xls>

³ UNDESA, *Population Ageing Chart*, UNDESA 2006, <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/ageing/ageing2006table.xls>

⁴ UNDESA, *Population Ageing Chart*, UNDESA 2006, <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/ageing/ageing2006table.xls>

⁵ UNDESA, *Population Ageing Chart*, UNDESA 2006, <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/ageing/ageing2006table.xls>

⁶ 2002 Population and Housing Census www.tanzania.go.tz/census/tanzaniatotal.htm

⁷ Minister of Finance, Zakhia Meghji, quoted in *The Guardian*, 16 November 2007, *Social security funds cover five per cent of labour force*, and cited in *NGO Report on The Implementation of the ICESCR in Tanzania, January 2008*, page 35

Kahama, Shinyanga Rural) by HelpAge International in 2006, only 8% of older women were aware of their rights under the law compared to 39% of older men⁸.

The resulting impoverishment that being disinherited can have affects older women's ability to access the entitlements that are theirs by right. For example, they cannot afford to pay for transport to reach health posts nor any charges for services or prescriptions that may be demanded of them.

Older women are very unlikely to have received any education. The 2000/1 Household Budget Survey revealed that women were twice as likely as men to have had no education and 41% of all women were illiterate⁹. Data from District Education Officers and the Adult Education Departments shows illiteracy rates are higher amongst older women. In 2006, 54% of older women compared to 39% of all women were illiterate in Kwimba District, 57% of older women compared to 49% of all women in Kahama District, and 95.5% of older women compared to 57% of all women in Shinyanga Rural District¹⁰. This illiteracy level is compounded by age discrimination and seriously limits older women's access to information on their rights and their ability to participate in development and community activities.

Older women are more likely than older men to suffer violations of their rights in the form of violence and abuse, for example as a result of witchcraft accusations often levelled at older women.

Despite this, older women continue to contribute to their families and households. According to UN statistics, 60% of older women over 60 are still in the labour force¹¹, the vast majority in the informal sector. Older women also play a vital role in passing on family history and moral, cultural and spiritual beliefs. Older women are playing a vital role in caring for both adults and children affected by HIV and AIDS.

VI. Older women and the implementation of CEDAW in Tanzania

Article 2: All forms of discrimination against women: Gender based violence against older women in Tanzania

Article 2 commits states to adopting legislative and other measures prohibiting discrimination against all women and taking measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organisation or enterprise. CEDAW recognises that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men¹².

Tanzania has also ratified the 2003 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, Article 22 of which commits States to protecting older women from violence and abuse, whereby States Parties undertake to:

b. ensure the right of elderly women to freedom from violence, including sexual abuse, discrimination based on age and the right to be treated with dignity.

Tanzania attended the Second World Assembly on Ageing and endorsed the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) in 2002. MIPAA recognises that *older women*

⁸ Sample survey by HelpAge International, June 2006

⁹ National Bureau of Statistics, 2000/01 Household Budget Survey, www.nbs.go.tz

¹⁰ Data collected by HelpAge International, June 2006

¹¹ UNDESA, *Population Ageing Chart*, UNDESA 2006,

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/ageing/ageing2006table.xls>

¹² CEDAW, *General Recommendation No 19*, 11th Session, 1992, para 1

face greater risk of physical and psychological abuse due to discriminatory societal attitudes and non-realisation of the human rights of women. Some harmful traditional and customary practices result in abuse and violence directed at older women, often exacerbated by poverty and lack of access to legal protection (para 108). It provides recommendations to contribute towards the elimination of all forms of neglect, abuse and violence of older persons and the creation of support services to address elder abuse. These include:

- Abolish widowhood rites that are harmful to the health and well-being of women (110 b)
- Enact legislation and strengthen legal efforts to eliminate elder abuse (110 c)
- Eliminate harmful practices involving older persons (110 d)
- Minimising the risks to older women of all forms of neglect, abuse and violence by increasing public awareness of, and protecting older women from, such neglect, abuse and violence, especially in emergency situations (110 f)

We welcome the government's subsequent efforts to include violence against older women in the National Policy on Ageing (NAP) 2003, a specific objective of which is challenging outdated customs that are harmful, including the killing of older women as a result of witchcraft allegations (Section 3.9). Similarly the target of eradicating of all forms of abuse and discrimination against women is included in the poverty reduction strategy, the *National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty*, June 2005, also known as the Mkukuta (Cluster 3, Goal 4.17). The Mkukuta also recognises older people as a vulnerable group.

Despite this older women continue to experience gender-based violence. In particular older women are often subject to accusations of witchcraft which can result in psychological abuse, intimidation, banishment from their homes and communities, isolation, violence and in extreme cases, killings of older women. Whilst accusations are common across the country, the extent to which these result in violence varies from region to region, being most extreme in the North Western parts of Tanzania. However reports in the media have indicated that killings of older women have spread to Rukwa region in the south west of the country¹³. Even in regions where witchcraft is not associated with extreme violence, it has negative social consequences, boosting the occult economy in divination and protection, deflecting savings of the poor and eroding social capital.

The context in which accusations of witchcraft are made is complex. Deep seated cultural beliefs, the low status of women, poverty, and the need to apportion blame and seek redress for a negative event, such as a death in the family or crop failure, all contribute to a culture in which these allegations and subsequent violence is tolerated. Older women are often targeted due to their low status, their low levels of literacy, their inability to defend themselves and, in the event of widowhood, family members wishing to take control of property and assets.

Exact statistics are hard to come by and figures reported in the media and from other sources vary as to the extent of the killings. The statistics on the number of killings 2000 – 03 provided by the Government in their *Combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of States parties*, 16 April 2007 (CEDAW/C/TZA/6) (page 24) only include those killings reported to the police. As many of the attacks go unreported, it has been estimated that as many as 1000 people lose their lives annually to witchcraft related violence¹⁴. The majority of those falling victim to witchcraft related violence are women over the age of 50¹⁵. A report in This Day newspaper on 8 July 2006 reported that between 2003 – 2006 there had been 2,700 killings in the Mwanza and Shinyanga regions, 92 per cent of which were of older women¹⁶.

¹³ Mwanza, S'wanga discuss ways to stamp out albino killings, The Guardian 19 March 2008

¹⁴ Duff, O. 2005, Tanzania suffers rise of witchcraft hysteria, London, The Independent, 28th November 2005 and Mesaki, S. 2006, Vulnerable Lives: Witch-Killing and the Tragedy of Ageing in Sukumaland, Tanzania in L Brandt, (ed) *Cultural Analysis and the Navigation of Complexity: Influences of Gerlach's Anthropology on Studies of Environmental Policy and Resource Management*. University Press of America, c2007

¹⁵ Miguel, E. 2005, *Poverty and Witch Killing*, Review of Economic Studies 72, 1153-1172.

¹⁶ Crowds kill 2,700 for witch fears, This Day, 8 July 2006

The Government recognises this as a national problem and policymakers are aware of the violent consequences of witchcraft accusations. On his appointment in March 2008 as Chairman to Human Rights Commission, Justice Manento stated that the killings cannot be justified and amount to a gross violation of human rights¹⁷. However the Government has yet to formulate effective policies and responses to it. HelpAge International and its partner organisations have shown that it is possible to reduce killings by up to 90% in communities in Sukumaland through interventions that offer older women paralegal advice and engage with village and district government structures, traditional healers who play a key role in accusing older women of witchcraft and local militia, who have been paid to carry out the murders¹⁸.

Government awareness raising campaigns are not enough to address this issue and reduce the number of killings. As part of the decentralisation process, the Local Government Reform Programme centres delivery of services at District level through District Councils and District Plans. Measures that challenge these witchcraft accusations and prevent killings need to be included in these District Plans. District Councils have the authority to chose what is included in their District Plans. However, statements can be issued by Central Government to ensure that specific issues are addressed, for example the District Councils are requested by the Central Government to commit 10% of their income in supporting women and youth's activities in their districts. A similar statement is necessary from Central Government to ensure the issue of violence against older women is addressed at this level.

Question for the Committee to ask the Government

What is the Government doing to ensure that District Councils include measures in District Plans that challenge and address the intimidation, isolation, abuse and killings of older women that can result from allegations of witchcraft?

Recommendations

We recommend that the CEDAW Committee:

- Urge the Tanzanian Government to issue a policy statement that commits District Councils to include measures in District Plans that challenge and address the intimidation, isolation, abuse and killings of older women which can result from allegations of witchcraft that are made against them.

Article 12: Older women's access to health in Tanzania

CEDAW recognises older women's right to access to health care services.

Advancing health and well-being into old age is one of the three priority directions of MIPAA. It promotes:

- a life-course approach to health and well-being, particularly for women, *as they face obstacles throughout life with a cumulative effect on their social, economic, physical and psychological well-being in their later years* (64)
- *the elimination of social and economic inequalities based on age, gender or any other ground, including linguistic barriers, to ensure that older persons have universal and equal access to healthcare* (74)
- *the provision of adequate information, training in caregiving skills, treatment, medical care and social support to older persons living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers* (80)

¹⁷ Human rights chairman censures elderly killings, Daily News, 18 March 2008

¹⁸ Mengele & Joel, *Final evaluation of The Sukumaland Older Women's Programme, Phase 2*, Dept of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Dar Es Salaam Oct 2007

Difficulties in accessing the free health care to which vulnerable older people are entitled¹⁹ in Tanzania is an issue for both older women and men, in terms of proving they are “vulnerable”, having the identification necessary to prove their eligibility and travelling long distances to health posts, although high levels of illiteracy can further disadvantage women.

It is in the context of the HIV epidemic that older women are being denied access to the support and services that they need. 64% of children who have lost both parents to HIV and AIDS are living in a household headed by older people²⁰. No national data exists on the number of older women caring for vulnerable children or sick adults living with HIV and AIDS but it is often older women who carry the burden of caring for them. In a survey of four urban wards carried out by HelpAge International’s partners in December 2005, older women made up 64% of the older people caring for vulnerable children and 60% of the older people caring for sick adults²¹. The emotional and financial impact of this caring role can be enormous, particularly on older widows who have no source of regular income with which to support themselves or their dependents.

Despite this, the national guidelines for home-based care service providers lack an understanding of the specific needs and role of older women with the underlying assumption all carers are mobile adults, literate, energetic, productive and that the family has the necessary economic means to pay for medication, water, adequate food and shelter. As a result the urgent needs of older women carers arising from their caregiving roles - physical, medical, financial and emotional - have not been targeted by local, provincial or national service providers.

Older women continue to be excluded from HIV and AIDS programmes both as carers, as recipients of prevention and care information and as an at risk group of HIV infection, since surveillance data for people over 49 is not analysed, disaggregated by age and sex or disseminated.

Questions for the Committee to ask the Government

What plans does the Government have to incorporate the needs of older women carers in national HIV and AIDS policies, guidelines and treatment plans?

What is the Government doing to ensure that older women, particularly poor, illiterate older women in rural areas, have access to and fully understand information on HIV and AIDS prevention, care and support and of the related services available to them?

Recommendations

We recommend that the CEDAW Committee:

- Urge the Tanzanian Government to revise *the National Guidelines for Home-Based Care Service Providers* (Feb 2005), *the Curriculum for Training Home Based Care Service Providers* (Dec 2006) and the *National HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Plan (2003 - 2008)* to ensure they respond to the needs of older women carers of people living with HIV and AIDS and most vulnerable children.
- Urge the Tanzanian Government to identify and provide older women carers and households affected by HIV and AIDS with dedicated support, information and resources, including cash transfers, to enable them to effectively carry out their roles as carers and educators and prevent their own risk of infection.

¹⁹ *National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty*, June 2005, also known as the Mkukuta (Cluster 2, Goal 5.5).

²⁰ *The cost of love, Older people in the fight against AIDS in Tanzania*, HelpAge International, 2004, page 4

²¹ HelpAge International and partners, Survey carried out in Mtwivila Ward, Iringa Municipality, Pongwe Ward, Tanga City, Masuguru Ward, Tanga City and Tandale Ward, Dar Es Salaam, December 2005

- Encourage the Tanzanian Government to support the collection, analysis and dissemination of HIV and AIDS surveillance data for people over 49 and disaggregate this data by age and sex.

Article 16 (h): Property and inheritance rights

Existing laws that govern widows' inheritance rights continue to a) contradict laws on the right to access to land and rights related to marriage, b) discriminate against women and girl children and c) are discriminatory in that different laws apply to different people. As mentioned above, disputes over property and inheritance are often the underlying causes of witchcraft allegations and violence against older women.

In its *Combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of States parties*, 16 April 2007 (CEDAW/C/TZA/6) the Government states that it is currently reviewing discriminatory laws that prevent women from inheriting land and property²² and has put in place two land laws (Land Law Act No. 4, 1999 (also referred to as Land Act CAP 113 RE 2002) and the Village Land Act No. 5, 1999 (also referred to as the Village Land Act CAP 114 RE 2002) that reverse discriminatory customary practice over women's rights to land²³. Nevertheless, Local Customary Law (Declaration) Order No. 4 Cap.358 R.E 2002, which denies widows the right to inherit property on the death of their husband²⁴ and is contradictory to the above land acts, remains in force. Customary law that permits widow inheritance by a relative of the deceased, and denies widows the right to custody of her children also remains in force²⁵.

Denial of the right of a widow to inherit within customary law is also at odds with the spirit of the more progressive provisions in the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 regarding the division of marital property upon divorce. As a result a woman is granted more rights to marital property on divorce than on the death of her husband. A widow's right to reside wherever she wishes on the death of her husband and to remain unmarried if she so chooses is also enshrined in the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 (Article 68).

There is no uniform inheritance law that applies equally to all Tanzanians, inheritance being governed by a series of laws²⁶ that apply to individuals depending on their religion, tribal origin, or whether they live their lives according to customary practices.

Under this discriminatory system, individuals from different backgrounds are treated differently and confusion can arise over which system of law should govern the distribution of the deceased's estate. Provisions for inheritance vary under each system: under customary law the widow cannot inherit the house and land; under Islamic law there is provision for minimal inheritance; and under the Indian Succession Act 1865 she can inherit 50%. This not only violates women's right to equality under the Constitution and international law, but it also fails to take cognizance of the fact that Tanzania is an increasingly mixed and multi-cultural society, inter-marriages between tribes and religions are more common and the importance of the clan system is diminishing with increased migration and urbanisation. Attempts to apply different laws based on the factors that are becoming increasingly blurred is difficult, complicated, and creates confusion.

²² *Combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of States parties*, 16 April 2007 (CEDAW/C/TZA/6), paragraph 53

²³ *Combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of States parties*, 16 April 2007 (CEDAW/C/TZA/6), paragraph 54

²⁴ Rule 27, Local Customary Law (Declaration) Order No. 4 CAP 358 R.E 2002

²⁵ Rules 62 – 70, Local Customary Law (Declaration) Order GN 279, the Law of Persons, 1963

²⁶ Including Local Customary Law (Declaration) Order No. 4 CAP 358 R.E 2002, Indian Succession Act 1865, Islamic Law, Probate and Administration of Estates Act CAP 352 RE 2002

Despite committing to reviewing laws on "*succession, inheritance, customary, Marriage Acts and other laws that provide equal rights to children, women and men, girls and boys*" in the Mkukuta (Cluster 3, Goal 4, Laws and Gender 4.1.3), the Government has given no indication as to when the review of the inheritance and other discriminatory laws will be completed.

A survey of 480 women and men of all ages carried out by HelpAge International and its partners in 2005 demonstrated the confusion people had concerning the law and discrepancies between what people said happened in practice and what they believed the law to be. Despite existing customary law that denies widows' right to inherit marital property, 70% of respondents thought they widows were legally entitled to inherit the house and land; 23% thought that widows could remain in the house without owning it and only 7% thought the law supported eviction²⁷.

Questions for the Committee to ask the Government

When will the Government complete its review of discriminatory legislation, including intestate succession laws?

How does the Government intend to amend the intestate succession laws? Has it considered creating one uniform inheritance law that applies equally to all Tanzanians instead of the existing discriminatory multi-law system?

Will the Government consider implementing a law that criminalises the unlawful seizure of property after the death of a spouse?

How will the Government ensure that changes to the law are understood and implemented at the village and community level, particularly by those it most affects, including older women and widows?

Recommendations

We recommend that the CEDAW Committee:

- Urge the Tanzanian Government to take immediate action to introduce a non-discriminatory uniform inheritance law that applies equally to all Tanzanians, which does not discriminate against older women, in particular widows, and no longer contradicts the protection of women and widow's rights to access to land and property that already exist in the *Land Act CAP 113 RE 2002, the Village Land Act CAP 114 RE 2002 and the Law of Marriage Act 1971*.
- Urge the Tanzanian Government to implement a law criminalising the seizure of property (property grabbing) on the death of a spouse.
- Encourage the Tanzanian Government to clarify the timetable for completion of the review of existing discriminatory laws.
- Urge the Tanzania Government to ensure that any changes to the law and mechanisms to implement them are made known at the community level particularly by poor, older, illiterate women, through village and district government structures.

²⁷ HelpAge International survey, 2005

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