

The main purpose of the paper is to present an analysis of instruments and to contribute to the historical-logical interpretation of the issues of equality of men and women, with an emphasis on the analysis of the most important problems associated with implementation of the international standards. The analysis of the legal documents pertaining to the prohibition of discrimination has also been carried out with regard to the historical development of women's issues as a part of a social process. The history of treaty documents after World War II when the protection of women and prohibition of gender-based discrimination was laid down in both universal and regional treaties; and the examination extends up until the current versions of more than 30 conventions focused on women's issues.

The initial examination of this topic is contained in Part I of this paper, which deals with the evolution of the principle of equality from the times when gender relations were formed up to international regulation and which analyses the legal documents pertaining to the prohibition of discrimination in the sphere of the UN. Part II is concerned with the history of equality and the prohibition of discrimination in both European systems; this is followed by Part III with a focus on equality and the prohibition of discrimination in the case law of the European Court of Justice; and part IV examines the historical development in the Czech legislation. The prohibition of discrimination was examined in international legal documents where it is contained either in the form of one of the many guaranteed rights or as the exclusive scope of regulation. The author aimed to focus her attention on the basic matters associated with the prohibition of discrimination; considerable attention is paid to the case law of the judicial authorities of the given system.

The core of the paper was the analysis of the crucial document intended exclusively for women and their protection from discrimination, which is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The paper examines the role of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which plays an irreplaceable part in evaluation of procedures and assessment of reports and individual complaints, while also allowing for current interpretation of these issues. Attention was mainly paid to the mutual interconnection of the rules of law and to whether they are in accordance with the basic legal documents as well as to the application of the concept of equality in governmental policies.