

RESUMÉ IN ENGLISH

ENGLISH TITLE OF THE THESIS: OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The thesis is concerned with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (adopted in 1999 and entered into force on December 22nd, 2000). This international treaty offers women two significant mechanisms to protect their rights – the possibility to submit an individual communication to the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women against a State Party to both the Convention and the Protocol and the competence of the Committee to carry out investigations into grave and systematic violations of rights set out in the Convention.

The first chapter focuses on the context of and reasons for the adoption of the Protocol. Firstly, the CEDAW, its origins and implementation mechanisms are introduced. The need for an optional protocol clearly arose from the insufficiency of the protection mechanisms enshrined in CEDAW itself in the quest of protection of women in their everyday encounters with discrimination. The chapter describes the new implementation mechanisms introduced by the Protocol.

Furthermore, the second and third chapters compare the protection mechanisms laid down in the Protocol and similar mechanisms offered in the framework of protection of child's rights by the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and within the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The comparison made with the abovementioned instruments is particularly significant as girls younger than eighteen years of age and women of color belong to particularly vulnerable groups of discriminated women.

Lastly, a more practical approach to the Protocol is used in the fourth and fifth chapter. In the fourth chapter, five individual communications submitted by women – victims of violations of their rights set out in the Convention – considered by the Committee are described. The communications are sorted in four subchapters according to the rights they concern: violence against women, reproductive health, labor issues and identity issues. The fifth chapter briefly depicts the first report of the Committee on inquiry into grave and systematic violations of the rights set out in the Convention i. e. the report concerning inquiry into abductions, rape and murders of women in Ciudad Juárez, State of Chihuahua, in the United States of Mexico.