

# THE CIRCLE OF EMPOWERMENT

## Twenty-Five Years of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling, Editor  
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Adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is the most important human rights treaty for women ever created. The United States is the only industrialized country that has yet to ratify it.

Essays and personal reflections written by 42 former and current members of CEDAW's Committee and 5 UN staff members reveal the profound impact this Convention has had on women's lives around the world. With examples and moving reminiscences from Korea to Egypt, from Russia to the Caribbean and beyond, this collection addresses CEDAW's impact on women in personal status laws, labor markets, migration, human trafficking, politics, as well as the obstacles created by cultural stereotypes.

A member of the CEDAW Committee since 1989, **HANNA BEATE SCHÖPP-SCHILLING** is currently a lecturer and consultant on women, gender, youth, and human rights in Europe and Asia. **CEES FLINTERMAN**, a member of the CEDAW Committee since 2003, is a professor of international law at Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

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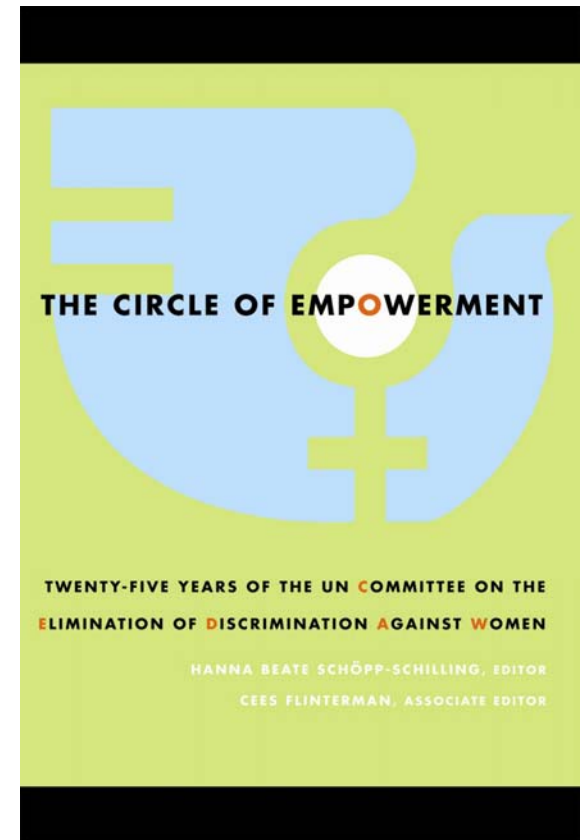
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