

Country Gender Profile

*All data as of September 2008

A. Human Development Indicators : Progress on the MDGs

Target Number/ Indicator Number	Series name	Data for Year 2008 or whichever is latest
3/6	Education enrolment ratio, net, primary level, both sexes (UNESCO)	n.a.
3/6	Education enrolment ratio, net, primary level, girls (UNESCO)	n.a.
3/6	Education enrolment ratio, net, primary level, boys (UNESCO)	n.a.
3/8	Literacy rates, aged 15-24, both sexes, per cent (UNESCO Institute of Statistics estimates)	99.7 (2007)
3/8	Literacy rates, aged 15-24, women, per cent (UNESCO Institute of Statistics estimates)	99.8 (2007)
3/8	Literacy rates, aged 15-24, men, per cent (UNESCO Institute of Statistics estimates)	99.7 (2007)
5/14	Infant mortality rate (0-1 year) per 1,000 live births (UNDP HDR)	3 (2008)
6/16	Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births (WHO)	14 (2005)
HDI Rank		GDI Rank
25		<i>n.a.</i>
		GEM Rank
		16

B. Women in Decision making roles - Gender disaggregated data

1) Legislature

	% of women	No. of women	Total No.
National	<u>24.5%</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>85</u>
State (Provincial)			
Local Bodies (data maybe aggregated or indicative)			

2) Executive

a) Government – Ministerial Positions

	% of women	No. of women	Total No.	Comment
National	<u>0%</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20</u>	
State (Provincial)				
Local Bodies				

b) Top Bureaucracy (data as of 2005)

	% of women	No. of women	Total No.	Comment
National	<u>16%</u>	<u>227</u>	<u>1449</u>	
State (Provincial)				

3) Judiciary

	No. of women	Total No.	Comments
Supreme Court	<u>3</u>	<u>15</u>	
Subordinated Courts (2006)	<u>35</u>	<u>67</u>	

4) Political Parties *n.a.*

	% of women	No. of women	Total No.

Membership of men and women			
Women in executive committees or equivalent decision making bodies in the party			
5) Trade Union			
	% of women	No. of women	
Women in the governing bodies of major National Trade Unions	<u>19% (NTUC)</u> <i>In general: 41% female members of trade unions (Dec. 2005)</i>	<u>4 (NTUC)</u>	
Industry wise (as available in respective countries)	Industry	Male (%)	Female (%)
Initiatives for gender equality in the trade unions a) NTUC's Women Program 2006			
6) Private and public corporate business (data as of 2005)			
	Male (%)	Female (%)	
Top /middle management	<u>74 %</u>	<u>26 %</u>	
Women entrepreneurs <u>n.a.</u>			
7) Academic World <u>n.a.</u>			
	% of women	No. of women	Total No.
Top and middle academic positions			
C) Women in the workforce – Gender Disaggregated Data			
Formal Sector	Industry	Male (%)	Female (%)
	Manufacturing	<u>18.4</u>	<u>15.1</u>
	Construction	<u>7.9</u>	<u>2.5</u>
	Services	<u>72.1</u>	<u>81.9</u>
	Others	<u>1.6</u>	<u>0.5</u>
Informal Sector <u>n.a.</u>	% of women	No. of women	Total No.
	Women wage employment in non-agricultural sector as percentage of total non-agricultural employees (ILO)		
D) Policy framework for gender equality			
UN/ International Conventions ratified a) UN CEDAW ratified in 1995 with several reservations, Article 2, 9 and 16 b) ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration ratified in 2002 c) ASEAN Declaration on the Advancement on Women signed in 1988			

National policies/ plans for gender equality/mainstreaming a) Women's Charter (1961) and amendments in 1967, 1980 and 1996	
E) Institutional Mechanisms	
Role and functioning of statutory bodies	
The “ Women’s Desk ” was created by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth, and Sports as the National Women’s Machinery. It serves as the domestic focal point for gender issues and the Secretariat to the Inter-Ministry Committee on CEDAW .	
Parliamentary Committees <i>n.a.</i>	
Other	
F) Legal Equality	
Landmark legislation for gender equality in the last 25 years a) Women’s Charter Amendment Bill (1996), including provisions on domestic violence and divisions of matrimonial assets for a greater protection of women, children and the family unit.	
Discriminatory laws/ policies/practices a) Muslim Law practices affect women’s human rights b) Section 377A of the Penal Code criminalises sex between mutually consenting adult men. (Penalty includes imprisonment up to 2 years.)	
G) Affirmative Action Measures <i>n.a.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quotas • Incentives • Other 	
H) Women’s Movement in the country	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Brief history:</u> • The women’s movement of Singapore began in the 1950s. In the mid-1950s, Chinese-educated women entered politics. During the next decades women were elected members of parliament in an electoral system with mandatory voting, both for men and women. The Singapore Council of Women’s Organisations is the umbrella body of women’s groups and is recognised by the government. • <u>Main issues:</u> • Currently, there is an increased governmental understanding of women’s issues, which is expected to lead to a greater influence on national politics. • Moreover, the women’s movement focuses on international networking and related issues of concern. • <u>Achievements:</u> • Governmental recognition of women as an important work force • Policy changes in education • The opening of the Singapore Armed Forces’ merit Scholarship for women, permitting 	

<p>women to be trained in combat, engineering and psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with political parties/ movements for democracy/peace/social justice • Formation of the People's Action Party's Women's League in 1956 • Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's policy of equal opportunities for women in education, jobs and promotions (1975), however, disparities remain 	
<p>I) Issues in the country that need immediate attention for gender justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lack of specific anti-discrimination laws in the Constitution b) Lack of specific provisions on gender equality in the Constitution c) Lack of legal protection for Foreign Domestic Workers d) Weak law enforcement efforts to eradicate or prohibit trafficking of women and children (Singapore is a transit country of trafficking) 	
<p>J) Enabling factors in the country for gender justice</p>	
<p>K) Main Challenges/deterrents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Singapore's multicultural society and particularly the Administration of Muslim Law Act constitute a delicate issue in regard to the UN CEDAW 	
<p>L) Comments and regional comparisons</p>	

Sources:

- UN HDR 2008 <http://www.undp.org/>.
- United Nations Development Fund for Women <http://www.unifem.org>.
- WHO <http://www.who.int/en/>.
- Government Singapore <http://www.gov.sg/>.
- Parliament of Singapore <http://www.parliament.gov.sg/>.
- Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports <http://app.mcys.gov.sg>.
- Supreme Court Singapore <http://app.supremecourt.gov.sg>.
- NTUC <http://www.ntuc.com.sg/>.