



Marion Bethel

**BAHAMIAN CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION TO
THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN FOR 2021-2024**

Endorsed by:



CARICOM



MARION BETHEL
CANDIDATE OF THE BAHAMAS TO THE CEDAW 2021-2024

NAME: Marion Bethel

NATIONALITY: Bahamian

WORKING LANGUAGES: English (fluent) Spanish & French (working knowledge)

As an active and committed member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and a Bahamian human rights expert, Ms. Marion Bethel has engaged in many activities and roles related to the CEDAW, Women's Rights, Human Rights, and gender equality. Ms. Bethel has made a positive contribution and impact on The Bahamas, the Caribbean region and the international community through her tenure on the Committee. She wishes to continue to contribute to the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, in order to promote substantive equality and non-discrimination and the advancement of human rights, social justice, and peace for all.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- ❖ 1990: **Master of Arts, Law** (Cambridge University, Cambridge, England)
- ❖ 1985: **Utter Barrister** (Honourable Society of Gray's Inn)
- ❖ 1985: **Certificate in Legal Education** (Council of Legal Education, London, England)
- ❖ 1984: **Bachelor of Arts, Law** (Cambridge University, Cambridge, England)
- ❖ 1976: **Master of Arts, Curriculum & Teaching** (Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York)
- ❖ 1975: **Bachelor of Arts, Spanish with Honours** (Faculty of Arts, McGill University, Montreal, Canada)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CEDAW

Current positions and functions:

- January 2019 – December 2020: **Chair of the Working Group on Inquiries** of the Optional Protocol of the CEDAW Convention. The Working Group oversees the procedure for the inquiry mechanism for investigation of grave or systematic violations of the Convention
- January 2018 to present: Member of the CEDAW **Working Group on Trafficking in Women & Girls in the context of global migration**, CEDAW Committee
- January 2018 to present: Member of the CEDAW **Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals**
- January 2018 – December 2019: Member of the CEDAW **Working Group on Cooperation with National Human Rights Institutions**
- January 2018 – December 2020: Member of the CEDAW **Working Group on Working Methods** that has oversight for improving and harmonising working methods within the Committee and with other treaty bodies
- January 2017 – December 2020: **Member of the CEDAW Committee** of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):

In 2019

- November 2019: **CEDAW Expert:** Dialogue on Climate Crisis, Resilience, Adaptation and Climate Financing post Hurricane Dorian with Caribbean Women's Network, Nassau, Bahamas
- November 29, 2019: **CEDAW Expert:** Panellist at Round Table, Women's Human Rights and Gender-based Violence against Women and Girls, 16 Days of Activism, Zonta, NP, Bahamas
- November 25, 2019: **CEDAW Expert:** Presented on CEDAW, international standards & norms and gender-based violence against women and girls, Sponsored by The Bahamas Crisis Centre, Nassau, Bahamas
- October 3-4, 2019: **CEDAW Member:** Addressed Zonta International District 11 on The Human Rights of Women and Girls, in celebration of Zonta Int'l – Centennial Anniversary, Orlando, Florida

- July 2019: CEDAW Member: Legal Expert for Equality and Justice Alliance/Sisters for Change, commissioned to elaborate a Report on Criminalisation of Marital Rape in Commonwealth countries
- July 3, 2019: CEDAW Member: Briefed and engaged with OHCHR Indigenous Fellows on UN CEDAW and other UN mechanisms and the rights of Indigenous Persons, Palais des Nations, Geneva
- June 28, 2019: CEDAW Panellist: The Rights of Older Women, presented on CEDAW's General Recommendation No. 27 of 2010 on the Rights of Older Women, sponsored by the UN Human Rights Council, Palais des Nations, Geneva
- May 16, 2019: CEDAW Panellist: Consultation on Right to Nationality & Statelessness, sponsored by UNHCR, University of the Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas
- April 23-25, 2019: CEDAW Panellist: Consultation on Equal Nationality Rights & Statelessness, sponsored by Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, Istanbul, Turkey
- April 3-4, 2019: CEDAW Expert: Prepared a presentation on Marital Rape and Law Reform in Commonwealth countries, hosted by Sisters for Change, Singapore
- March 2019: CEDAW Member: Drafted a **Foreword to the IRAW-Asia Pacific Guide on Women's Right to and at Work**, published in March 2019
- January 2019: CEDAW Participant: Consultation on **Trafficking in Women & Girls in the context of global migration**, sponsored by IRAW-Asia Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

In 2018

- December 2018 from January 2017: Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Inquiries of the Optional Protocol of the CEDAW
- November 21-22, 2018: CEDAW Member: Attended the public launch of **DEMUS Women Lawyers CSO's Shadow Report** for the CEDAW Committee, Lima, Peru
- November 14, 2018: CEDAW Expert: Presentation on UN CEDAW to the **Human Rights Class** of Professor S. Zwingel at Florida International University, Florida
- October 2, 2018: CEDAW Panellist: Gender & Trade: Aligning Gender, Rights & Trade at the World Trade Organization, sponsored by Women at the Table, Geneva
- July 2018: CEDAW Member: participated in adoption of CEDAW Inquiry Report under Article 8 of the Optional Protocol concerning the Kyrgyz Republic in regard to bride kidnapping, rape and forced marriage in Kyrgyzstan
- June 23, 2018: CEDAW Member: Addressed the National Women's Advisory Council of The Bahamas on UN CEDAW, Nassau, Bahamas
- June 11-12, 2018: CEDAW Participant: Consultation on **Corruption & Human Rights**, Centre for Civil & Political Rights, Geneva Academy and the OHCHR, Geneva
- June 4-8, 2018: CEDAW Panellist: UN CEDAW at the Caribbean Studies Association Conference, coordinated by Professor S. Zwingel of Florida International University, Havana, Cuba
- March 2018: CEDAW Member: participated in approval and adoption of General Recommendation No. 37 of 2018 on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change.

In 2017

- Member of CEDAW Task Force on **Women, Peace and Security, Resolution 1325**
- Member of CEDAW Working Group on **the Sustainable Development Goals**
- Member of Working Group on **Inquiries of the Optional Protocol of CEDAW**
- Member of CEDAW Working Group on **General Recommendation No. 36 of 2017 on The Right of Girls and Women to Education**
- July 2017: CEDAW Member: participated in adoption of CEDAW Inquiry Report under Article 8 of the Optional Protocol concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in regard to restrictive access to abortion for women and girls in Northern Ireland.
- July 2017: CEDAW Member: participated in adoption of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 35 of 2017 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19