

Mary Shanthi Dairiam (Malaysia)

Date and Place of Birth: 17 September 1939 / Malaysia

Working Language: English, Malay

Current Position:

CEDAW Committee Member, 2005-2008; CEDAW Committee, Rapporteur, 2007-2008; Member, Gender Equality Task Force, UNDP, 2007- present; Member, Advisory Panel, Disability Rights Fund, Boston, USA. 2008-present Member of the Board of Directors, International Women Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP), Malaysia, 1996-Present; Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Institute for the Empowerment of Women. Member of the Advisory Committee, Malaysia, 2007- Present; The National Advisory Council on Women, Member, Malaysia, March 2005-present

Main Professional Activities:

- Member of the Board of Directors, International Women Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP), Malaysia, 1996- Present
- Executive Director, International Women Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP), Malaysia, 1993-2004
- Project Officer, Women and Development Programme, Commonwealth Secretariat, United Kingdom, March – July 1992
- Programme Associate, Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development (APWLD), Malaysia, 1988 – 1990
- Head, Programme and Technical Division, Federation of Family Planning Associations, Malaysia, 1982 – 1985

Educational Background:

- University of Sussex, United Kingdom, MA Gender and Development, 1991
- University of Madras, India, MA English Literature, 1962
- University of Madras, India, BA English Literature, 1960

Other Main Activities Relevant to CEDAW:

United Nations-Trained advocates in Aceh, Indonesia to promote women's right to equality through law reform that is compliant with the CEDAW Convention, 2007; Trained Governments of Sierra Leone and Liberia in the preparation of their reports to the CEDAW Committee, 2005 and 2007; Did a need assessment for the implementation of the Convention in Afghanistan, 2006; Trained governments of Cambodia, Malaysia, Samoa, Tajikistan and Thailand to prepare them for the review of their compliance with their obligations under the Convention by the CEDAW Committee, 2004-2006; Personal Consultant to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for East Timor, October 2000-January 2001;

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)-Carried out an analysis of the draft Gender Equality Law in Tajikistan to assess comprehensiveness and compliance with the requirements of CEDAW, March 2003; Conducted a review of the compliance of the laws of Tajikistan with the requirements of the CEDAW Convention, August 2002

List of Most Recent Publications:

The Practice of Child Marriage in South Asian Countries: A Gross Form of Gender Based Discrimination and a Violation of Human Rights, July 2006; The Relevance of the Links between Human Rights, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals, February 2005; A Rights Based Approach to Women's Health:

Relationship between Research and Policy, October 2004; Building Capacity for Change: Training Manual on the Application of the Principles of the Convention to Promote Women's rights, Editor, IWRAP Asia Pacific. 2001/2002