
**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

Convention against discrimination in education. Adopted on 14 December 1960 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its eleventh session, held in Paris from 14 November to 15 December 1960

Official texts: English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Registered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 29 May 1962.

**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR L'ÉDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**

Convention concernant la lutte contre la discrimination dans le domaine de l'enseignement. Adoptée le 14 décembre 1960 par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture, à sa onzième session, tenue à Paris du 14 novembre au 15 décembre 1960

Textes officiels anglais, français, russe et espagnol.

Enregistrée par l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture le 29 mai 1962.

No. 6193. CONVENTION¹ AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
IN EDUCATION. ADOPTED ON 14 DECEMBER 1960
BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION AT ITS ELEVENTH SESSION,
HELD IN PARIS FROM 14 NOVEMBER TO 15 DECEMBER
1960

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, meeting in Paris from 14 November to 15 December 1960, at its eleventh session,

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the principle of non-discrimination and proclaims that every person has the right to education,

Considering that discrimination in education is a violation of rights enunciated in that Declaration,

Considering that, under the terms of its Constitution,² the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has the purpose of instituting collaboration among the nations with a view to furthering for all universal respect for human rights and equality of educational opportunity,

Recognizing that, consequently, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, while respecting the diversity of national educational systems, has the duty not only to proscribe any form of discrimination in education but also to promote equality of opportunity and treatment for all in education,

¹ In accordance with article 14, the Convention came into force in respect of the following States on 22 May 1962, three months after the date of deposit of the third instrument of ratification or acceptance (a) with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization :

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit</i>
France	11 September 1961
Israel	22 September 1961
Central African Republic	22 February 1962 (a)

The Convention shall come into force, in respect of the following States, three months after the deposit, on the dates indicated below, of their instruments of ratification or acceptance (a) :

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	
Ireland	14 March 1962 (a)
United Arab Republic	28 March 1962 (a)
Liberia	17 May 1962

In accordance with article 15, the Government of the United Kingdom notified the Director-General on 11 April 1962 of the application of the Convention to Bahrain.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 4, p. 275; Vol. 18, p. 383; Vol. 21, p. 336; Vol. 34, p. 382; Vol. 43, p. 336; Vol. 45, p. 319; Vol. 53, p. 407; Vol. 68, p. 261; Vol. 98, p. 264; Vol. 126, p. 346; Vol. 161, p. 360; Vol. 166, p. 368; Vol. 172, p. 326; Vol. 190, p. 376; Vol. 191, p. 358; Vol. 213, p. 369; Vol. 243, p. 302; Vol. 250, p. 289; Vol. 253, p. 307; Vol. 256, p. 326; Vol. 257, p. 359; Vol. 300, p. 298; Vol. 307, p. 300; Vol. 316, p. 271; Vol. 353, p. 308; Vol. 383, p. 310; Vol. 387, p. 322; Vol. 393, p. 307; Vol. 415, p. 423; Vol. 423, p. 278, and Vol. 425, p. 300.

Having before it proposals concerning the different aspects of discrimination in education, constituting item 17.1.4 of the agenda of the session,

Having decided at its tenth session that this question should be made the subject of an international convention as well as of recommendations to Member States,

Adopts this Convention on the fourteenth day of December 1960.

Article 1

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "discrimination" includes any distinction, exclusion, limitation or preference which, being based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic condition or birth, has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing equality of treatment in education and in particular :

- a. Of depriving any person or group of persons of access to education of any type or at any level;
- b. Of limiting any person or group of persons to education of an inferior standard;
- c. Subject to the provisions of Article 2 of this Convention, of establishing or maintaining separate educational systems or institutions for persons or groups of persons; or
- d. Of inflicting on any person or group of persons conditions which are incompatible with the dignity of man.

2. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "education" refers to all types and levels of education, and includes access to education, the standard and quality of education, and the conditions under which it is given.

Article 2

When permitted in a State, the following situations shall not be deemed to constitute discrimination, within the meaning of Article 1 of this Convention :

- a. The establishment or maintenance of separate educational systems or institutions for pupils of the two sexes, if these systems or institutions offer equivalent access to education, provide a teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard as well as school premises and equipment of the same quality, and afford the opportunity to take the same or equivalent courses of study;
- b. The establishment or maintenance, for religious or linguistic reasons, of separate educational systems or institutions offering an education which is in

keeping with the wishes of the pupil's parents or legal guardians, if participation in such systems or attendance at such institutions is optional and if the education provided conforms to such standards as may be laid down or approved by the competent authorities, in particular for education of the same level;

- c.* The establishment or maintenance of private educational institutions, if the object of the institutions is not to secure the exclusion of any group but to provide educational facilities in addition to those provided by the public authorities, if the institutions are conducted in accordance with that object, and if the education provided conforms with such standards as may be laid down or approved by the competent authorities, in particular for education of the same level.

Article 3

In order to eliminate and prevent discrimination within the meaning of this Convention, the States Parties thereto undertake :

- a.* To abrogate any statutory provisions and any administrative instructions and to discontinue any administrative practices which involve discrimination in education;
- b.* To ensure, by legislation where necessary, that there is no discrimination in the admission of pupils to educational institutions;
- c.* Not to allow any differences of treatment by the public authorities between nationals, except on the basis of merit or need, in the matter of school fees and the grant of scholarships or other forms of assistance to pupils and necessary permits and facilities for the pursuit of studies in foreign countries;
- d.* Not to allow, in any form of assistance granted by the public authorities to educational institutions, any restrictions or preference based solely on the ground that pupils belong to a particular group;
- e.* To give foreign nationals resident within their territory the same access to education as that given to their own nationals.

Article 4

The States Parties to this Convention undertake furthermore to formulate, develop and apply a national policy which, by methods appropriate to the circumstances and to national usage, will tend to promote equality of opportunity and of treatment in the matter of education and in particular :

- a.* To make primary education free and compulsory; make secondary education in its different forms generally available and accessible to all; make higher