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# WOMEN'S CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: MAKING THE CONNECTION





### WHYTHIS BOOKLET?

Gender equality and the protection of human rights, especially of children and those most vulnerable, are fundamental principles of the United Nations. These rights cut across all aspects of the UN's work and are crucial to long-term progress, including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Yet in our compartmentalized world, the rights of women and those of children have often been promoted in isolation from one another. Separate international treaties have been forged and specialized UN agencies, government ministries and non-governmental organizations created for whom women or children are the primary focus. The purpose of this advocacy booklet is to explore the human rights links between these two groups, the practical implications of considering them together, and four areas for strategic action.

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This section provides a conceptual framework for understanding human rights. It also offers a brief look at the evolution of the women's and children's rights movements and explains why an emphasis on women in development eventually gave way to a focus on gender equality. Finally, it describes the legal instruments and mechanisms that have been created to protect and promote these rights, foremost among them the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It shows where the rights of women and children intersect and how both conventions and the committees that monitor them can be successfully employed to safeguard these rights.

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