APPENDIX B:
Text of International Human Rights Instruments

RIGHT TO LIFE

International and Regional Treaties

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Universal Declaration)
*Article 3*
Everyone has the right to life….

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Civil and Political Rights Covenant)
*Article 6*
Every human being has the inherent right to life.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (Children’s Rights Convention)
*Article 6*
States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life.

African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (Banjul Charter)
*Article 4*
Every human being shall be entitled to respect for his life….

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
(Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa)
*Article 4(1)*
Every woman shall be entitled to respect for her life and the integrity and security of her person. All forms of exploitation, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited.

American Convention on Human Rights (American Convention)
*Article 4*
Every person has the right to have his life respected.

European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention)
*Article 2*
Everyone’s right to life shall be protected by law.
**International Consensus Documents**

Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD Programme of Action)

*Principle 1*

Everyone has the right to life....

**RIGHT TO SECURITY OF PERSON**

**International and Regional Treaties**

Universal Declaration

*Article 3*

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.  

Civil and Political Rights Covenant

*Article 9(1)*

Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person.

Children’s Rights Convention

*Article 19*

States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

Banjul Charter

*Article 4*

Human beings are inviolable. Every human being shall be entitled to respect for his life and the integrity of his person. No one may be arbitrarily deprived of this right.

*Article 6*

Every individual shall have the right to liberty and to the security of his person. No one may be deprived of his freedom except for reasons and conditions previously laid down by law.

Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

*Article 4(1)*

Every woman shall be entitled to respect for her life and the integrity and security of her person. All forms of exploitation, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited.

American Convention

*Article 7(1)*

Every person has the right to personal liberty and security.
European Convention
*Article 5(1)*
Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person.\(^{16}\)

**International Consensus Documents**

ICPD Programme of Action
*Principle 1*
Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.\(^{17}\)

**RIGHT TO HEALTH**

**International and Regional Treaties**

Universal Declaration
*Article 25(1)*
Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family.…\(^{18}\)

*Article 25(2)*
Motherhood … [is] entitled to special care and assistance.\(^{19}\)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Covenant)
*Article 10(2)*
Special protection should be accorded to mothers during a reasonable period before and after childbirth.\(^{20}\)

*Article 12*
The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.\(^{21}\)

*Article 15(1)(b)*
The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.\(^{22}\)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
*Article 12(1)*
States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning.\(^{23}\)
Article 12(2)
States Parties shall ensure to women appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period, granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation.24

Children’s Rights Convention
Article 24(1)
States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.…25

Article 24(2)(d)
States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures: (d) To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers.26

Article 24(2)(f)
States Parties … shall take appropriate measures: To develop preventive health care, guidance for parents and family planning education and services.27

Article 24(3)
States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children.28

Banjul Charter
Article 16(1)
Every individual shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical and mental health.29

Article 16(2)
States Parties to the present Charter shall take the necessary measures to protect the health of their people and to ensure that they receive medical attention when they are sick.30

Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa
Article 14(2)
States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to:
a) provide adequate, affordable and accessible health services, including information, education and communication programmes to women especially those in rural areas; b) establish and strengthen existing pre-natal, delivery and post-natal health and nutritional services for women during pregnancy and while they are breast-feeding; c) protect the reproductive rights of women by authorising medical abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape, incest, and where the continued pregnancy endangers the mental and physical health of the mother or the life of the mother or the foetus.31
Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador)

*Article 10(1)*

Everyone shall have the right to health, understood to mean the enjoyment of the highest level of physical, mental and social well-being.\(^{32}\)

*Article 10(2)*

In order to ensure the exercise of the right to health, the States Parties agree to recognize health as a public good and, particularly, to adopt the following measures to ensure that right: (a) Primary health care, that is, essential health care made available to all individuals and families in the community; (b) Extension of the benefits of health services to all individuals subject to the State’s jurisdiction; (c) Universal immunization against the principal infectious diseases; (d) Prevention and treatment of endemic, occupational and other diseases; (e) Education of the population on the prevention and treatment of health problems, and (f) Satisfaction of the health needs of the highest risk groups and of those whose poverty makes them the most vulnerable.\(^{33}\)

**International Consensus Documents**

ICPD Programme of Action

*Paragraph 7.2*

Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes.\(^{34}\)

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing Platform for Action)

*Paragraph 94*

[Men and women have the right to access] appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth….\(^{35}\)

*Paragraph 106(c)*

[Governments should] remove all barriers to women’s health services and provide a broad range of health-care services….\(^{36}\)

*Paragraph 106(e)*

[Governments should] provide more accessible, available and affordable primary health-care services of high quality, including sexual and reproductive health care, which includes family planning information and services, and giving particular attention to maternal and emergency obstetric care….\(^{37}\)

*Paragraph 106(i)*

[Governments should] reduce ill health and maternal morbidity and achieve world wide the agreed-upon goal of reducing maternal mortality by at least 50 per cent of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further one half by the year 2015….\(^{38}\)
RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

International and Regional Treaties

Civil and Political Rights Covenant
Article 2(1)
Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion....

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Covenant
Article 2(2)
The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, [or] language....

CEDAW
Article 1
...the term ‘discrimination against women’ shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

Children’s Rights Convention
Article 2(1)
States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind....

Banjul Charter
Article 18(3)
The State shall ensure the elimination of every discrimination against women and also ensure the protection of the rights of the woman and the child as stipulated in international declarations and conventions.

Article 28
Every individual shall have the duty to respect and consider his fellow beings without discrimination....
Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

*Article 2(1)*

States Parties shall combat all forms of discrimination against women through appropriate legislative, institutional and other measures. In this regard they shall:

a) include in their national constitutions and other legislative instruments, if not already done, the principle of equality between women and men and ensure its effective application;
b) enact and effectively implement appropriate legislative or regulatory measures, including those prohibiting and curbing all forms of discrimination particularly those harmful practices which endanger the health and general well-being of women;
c) integrate a gender perspective in their policy decisions, legislation, development plans, programmes and activities and in all other spheres of life;
d) take corrective and positive action in those areas where discrimination against women in law and in fact continues to exist;
e) support the local, national, regional and continental initiatives directed at eradicating all forms of discrimination against women.\(^{45}\)

American Convention

*Article 1(1)*

The States Parties to this Convention undertake to respect the rights and freedoms recognized herein and to ensure to all persons subject to their jurisdiction the free and full exercise of those rights and freedoms, without any discrimination for reasons of race, color, [or] sex….\(^ {46}\)

European Convention

*Article 14*

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, [or] race….\(^ {47}\)

**International Consensus Documents**

ICPD Programme of Action

*Principle 1*

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, [or] religion….\(^ {48}\)

**RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE SELF-DETERMINATION**

**International and Regional Treaties**

CEDAW

*Article 10(h)*

States Parties shall … ensure … [a]ccess to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning.\(^ {49}\)
**Article 16(1)(e)**
States Parties shall ... ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women: The same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights.  

**Banjul Charter**

*Article 4*

Human beings are inviolable. Every human being shall be entitled to respect for ... the integrity of his person.

*Article 6*

Every individual shall have the right to liberty and to the security of his person.

*Article 9(1)*

Every individual shall have the right to receive information.

**Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa**

*Article 14(1)*

States Parties shall ensure that the right to health of women, including sexual and reproductive health is respected and promoted. This includes:

a) the right to control their fertility;
b) the right to decide whether to have children, the number of children and the spacing of children;
c) the right to choose any method of contraception;
d) the right to self protection and to be protected against sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;
e) the right to be informed on one’s health status and on the health status of one’s partner, particularly if affected with sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, in accordance with internationally recognised standards and best practices;
f) the right to have family planning education.

**International Consensus Documents**

*ICPD Programme of Action*

*Paragraph 7.3*

[Reproductive] rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so .... [The definition of reproductive rights] also includes their right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, as expressed in human rights documents.

*Paragraph 7.12*

The aim of family-planning programmes must be to enable couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information and means to do so and to ensure informed choices and make available a full range of safe and effective methods.
RIGHTS TO INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

International and Regional Treaties

Universal Declaration

Article 19
Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.\(^57\)

Article 26
1) Everyone has the right to education.
2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.\(^58\)

Civil and Political Rights Covenant

Article 19(2)
Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.\(^59\)

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Covenant

Article 13(1)
The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to education. They agree that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.\(^60\)

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Article 5
In compliance with the fundamental obligations laid down in article 2 of this Convention, States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the following rights: ...(e)(v) The right to education...\(^61\)

CEDAW

Article 10
States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education and in particular to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women: ...
(c) The elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in
all forms of education by encouraging coeducation and other types of education which will help to achieve this aim and, in particular, by the revision of textbooks and school programmes and the adaptation of teaching methods...

(h) Access to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning.62

Children’s Rights Convention

Article 28(1)
States Parties recognize the right of the child to education.63

Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

Article 12
1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to:
   (a) eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and guarantee equal opportunity and access in the sphere of education and training...
   (c) protect women, especially the girl-child from all forms of abuse, including sexual harassment in schools and other educational institutions and provide for sanctions against the perpetrators of such practices...
   (e) integrate gender sensitisation and human rights education at all levels of education curricula including teacher training.64

Protocol of San Salvador

Article 13(1)
Everyone has the right to education.65

Article 10(2)
In order to ensure the exercise of the right to health, the States Parties agree to recognize health as a public good and, particularly, to adopt the following measures to ensure that right: ... Education of the population on the prevention and treatment of health problems...66

International Consensus Documents

Beijing Platform for Action

Paragraph 71
Discrimination in girls’ access to education persists in many areas, owing to customary attitudes, early marriages and pregnancies, inadequate and gender-biased teaching and educational materials, sexual harassment and lack of adequate and physically and otherwise accessible schooling facilities. Girls undertake heavy domestic work at a very early age. Girls and young women are expected to manage both educational and domestic responsibilities, often resulting in poor scholastic performance and early drop-out from the educational system. This has long-lasting consequences for all aspects of women’s lives.67
Paragraph 72
Creation of an educational and social environment, in which women and men, girls and boys, are treated equally and encouraged to achieve their full potential, respecting their freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, and where educational resources promote non-stereotyped images of women and men, would be effective in the elimination of the causes of discrimination against women and inequalities between women and men.68

Paragraph 74
Curricula and teaching materials remain gender-biased to a large degree, and are rarely sensitive to the specific needs of girls and women. This reinforces traditional female and male roles that deny women opportunities for full and equal partnership in society. Lack of gender awareness by educators at all levels strengthens existing inequities between males and females by reinforcing discriminatory tendencies and undermining girls’ self-esteem. The lack of sexual and reproductive health education has a profound impact on women and men.69

RIGHT TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS

International and Regional Treaties

Universal Declaration
Article 27(1)
Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.70

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Covenant
Article 15(1)
The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone: ...(b) To enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.71

Protocol of San Salvador
Article 14(1)
The States Parties to this Protocol recognize the right of everyone: ...To enjoy the benefits of scientific and technological progress....72

MARRIAGE RIGHTS

International and Regional Treaties

Universal Declaration
Article 16(2)
Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.73
Civil and Political Rights Covenant

*Article 23*

(2) The right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to found a family shall be recognized. (3) No marriage shall be entered into without the free and full consent of the intending spouses.⁷⁴

CEDAW

*Article 16*

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:
   (a) The same right to enter into marriage;
   (b) The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent;
   (c) The same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution;
   (d) The same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
   (e) The same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights;
   (f) The same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children, or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
   (g) The same personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation;
   (h) The same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration.

2. The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.⁷⁵

Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

*Article 6*

States Parties shall ensure that women and men enjoy equal rights and are regarded as equal partners in marriage. They shall enact appropriate national legislative measures to guarantee that:

a) no marriage shall take place without the free and full consent of both parties;

b) the minimum age of marriage for women shall be 18 years;

c) monogamy is encouraged as the preferred form of marriage and that the rights of women in marriage and family, including in polygamous marital relationships are promoted and protected;

d) every marriage shall be recorded in writing and registered in accordance with national laws, in order to be legally recognised;

e) the husband and wife shall, by mutual agreement, choose their matrimonial regime and place of residence;
f) a married woman shall have the right to retain her maiden name, to use it as she pleases, jointly or separately with her husband’s surname;
g) a woman shall have the right to retain her nationality or to acquire the nationality of her husband;
h) a woman and a man shall have equal rights, with respect to the nationality of their children except where this is contrary to a provision in national legislation or is contrary to national security interests;
i) a woman and a man shall jointly contribute to safeguarding the interests of the family, protecting and educating their children;
j) during her marriage, a woman shall have the right to acquire her own property and to administer and manage it freely.76

Article 7
States Parties shall enact appropriate legislation to ensure that women and men enjoy the same rights in case of separation, divorce or annulment of marriage. In this regard, they shall ensure that:
a) separation, divorce or annulment of a marriage shall be effected by judicial order;
b) women and men shall have the same rights to seek separation, divorce or annulment of a marriage;
c) in case of separation, divorce or annulment of marriage, women and men shall have reciprocal rights and responsibilities towards their children. In any case, the interests of the children shall be given paramount importance;
d) in case of separation, divorce or annulment of marriage, women and men shall have the right to an equitable sharing of the joint property deriving from the marriage.77
Endnotes

2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, supra note 1, art. 25(1).
9. Universal Declaration, supra note 1, art. 3.
10. Civil and Political Rights Covenant, supra note 2, art. 9(1).
12. Banjul Charter, supra note 4, art. 4.
13. Id. art. 6.
15. American Convention, supra note 6, art. 7(1).
16. European Convention, supra note 7, art. 5(1).
17. ICPD Programme of Action, supra note 8, princ. 1.
18. Universal Declaration, supra note 1, art. 25(1).
19. Id. art. 25(2).
21. Id. art. 12.
22. Id. art 15(1)(b).
24. Id. art. 12(2).
25. Children’s Rights Convention, supra note 3, art. 24(1).
26. Id. art. 24(2)(d).
27. Id. art. 24(1).
28. Id. art. 24(3).
29. Banjul Charter, supra note 4, art. 16(1).
30. Id. art. 16(2).
33. Id. art. 10(2).
34. ICPD Programme of Action, supra note 8, para. 7.2.
36. Id. para. 106(c).
37. Id. para 106(c).
38. Id. para.107(i).
39. Civil and Political Rights Covenant, supra note 2, art. 2(1).
40. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Covenant, supra note 20, art. 2(2).
41. CEDAW, supra note 23, art. 1.
42. Children’s Rights Convention, supra note 3, art. 2(1).
43. Banjul Charter, supra note 4, art. 18(3).
44. Id. art. 28.
45. Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, supra note 5, art. 2(1).
46. American Convention, supra note 6, art. 1(1).
47. European Convention, supra note 7, art. 14.
48. ICPD Programme of Action, supra note 8, princ. 1.
49. CEDAW, supra note 23, art. 10(h).
50. Id. art. 16(1).
51. Banjul Charter, supra note 4, art. 4.
52. Id. art. 6.
53. Id. art. 9(1).
55. ICPD Programme of Action, supra note 8, para. 7.3.
56. Id. para. 7.12.
57. Universal Declaration, supra note 1, art. 19.
58. Id. art. 26.
59. Civil and Political Rights Covenant, supra note 2, art. 19(2).
60. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Covenant, supra note 20, art. 13(1).
62. CEDAW, supra note 23, art. 10.
63. Children’s Rights Convention, supra note 3, art. 28(1).
64. Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, supra note 5, art. 12.
65. Protocol of San Salvador, supra note 32, art. 13(1).
66. Id. art. 10(2).
68. Id. para. 72.
69. Id. para. 74.
70. Universal Declaration, supra note 1, art. 27(1).
71. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Covenant, supra note 20, art. 15(1)(b).
73. Universal Declaration, supra note 1, art. 16(2).
74. Civil and Political Rights Covenant, supra note 2, art. 23.
75. CEDAW, supra note 23, art. 16.
77. Id. art. 7.