

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT  
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION  
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION PRESENTED PURSUANT TO ITEM 6  
OF THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS  
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

*[Equality Now]*

## ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS FOR APPLICATION BY EQUALITY NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Section on Relations with Civil Society of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization Equality Now.

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities." This document includes a summary and list of documentation presented by Equality Now in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

### **1. Background**

Equality Now is a nonprofit organization founded on April 8, 1992, in New York, U.S.A., with the mission of effecting legal and systemic changes to address the problem of violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world.

Equality Now works with grassroots civil society organizations and international organizations to seek the enactment of laws to defend women's rights.

Equality Now works in five principal areas: Discrimination in the law; sexual violence; female genital mutilation; human trafficking; and the cross-cutting area of adolescent women. Equality Now also operates under a social-change model that links local and international activism with specific cases of human rights violations in six areas:

- Raising international awareness through its worldwide network of members;
- Sensitivity campaigns that publicize specific cases of abuse over social networks;
- Formation of alliances with civil society and international organizations to defend women's human rights;
- Strengthening laws and mechanisms pertaining to human rights at the national, regional, and international levels;
- Strategic litigation at the national, regional, and international levels to establish jurisprudence; and
- Raising funds and supporting capacity-building.

Equality Now has worked with various international organizations, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), to address cases of human rights violations in the region. Equality Now has also influenced government policy for the defense of women's human rights in various countries of the Americas, including Canada, Mexico, Paraguay, and the United States.

Equality Now finances its activities with resources from organizations such as the Open Society Foundations; the Nike Foundation; Comic Relief; the InMaat Foundation; the Kahiau Foundation; the NoVo Foundation; Skype; Pfizer Inc; and others.

Equality Now submitted its application to register with the OAS on August 13, 2015.

**2. Name, address, and date of establishment of the CSO**

Name of the organization: Equality Now

Address: 250 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #1720  
New York, NY 10107  
United States

Telephone: +1 (212) 586-0906

Fax: +1 (212) 586-1611

E-mail: [info@equalitynow.org](mailto:info@equalitynow.org); [tsukhija@equalitynow.org](mailto:tsukhija@equalitynow.org)

Website: [www.equalitynow.org](http://www.equalitynow.org)

Executive Director: Yasmeeen Hassan

Date of establishment: August 28, 2012

**3. Primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS**

Equality Now works to protect and promote the rights of women and girls throughout the world. The primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Cooperation with organizations that defend human rights at the national and international levels to promote and defend women's human rights through the sharing of information and good practices; raising awareness; activism; and strategic litigation;
- Influencing the formation of government policies and mechanisms that safeguard respect for women's human rights at the national, regional, and international levels;
- Launching campaigns against sexual violence and exploitation, human trafficking, gender-based discrimination in the law, and female genital mutilation in girls and adolescents.

**4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS**

Equality Now proposes to work with the OAS in the following areas:

- Providing information to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on the implementation of

precautionary and provisional measures in cases of human rights violations against women;

- Cooperating with the Relations with Civil Society Section of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity in promoting civil society participation in OAS activities, particularly in matters of human rights and gender;
- Publicizing the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), promoting gender equity in the Hemisphere, and following up on the implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará); and
- Participating in the hemispheric debates and activities of the OAS with civil society and sending recommendations to the OAS member states as inputs for events such as OAS General Assembly sessions, meetings of the Permanent Council and its committees, meetings of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), and periods of sessions of the IACHR, among others.

**5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS**

- Letter addressed to the OAS Secretary General
- Articles of incorporation
- Statutes
- Institutional mission statement
- Activity report for 2014, including funding sources
- Financial statements for 2014