

H/138/138 1019

Mr. C. De Paiva Leite

E. Bowerman

Questionnaire

5 March 1947

I attach a somewhat enlarged version of the questionnaire on the status of women in the Trust Territories which you were kind enough to leave with me yesterday for consideration. I have added some points about which I think information should be sought in order to ascertain how far the principles of the Charter, with relation to the equal rights of men and women, are being observed.

STATUS OF WOMEN

1. What is the social status of women?
2. Are women allowed to vote and to be elected to public offices? In which cases does the franchise of women differ from the franchise of men as to age requirements, literacy requirements, property requirements, etc.?
3. Are civil service positions open to women? Are there any professions or positions for which the women cannot qualify? What differences exist, if any, between men and women in the civil service as to qualifications, appointment, remuneration, opportunities for advancement and promotion, retirement?
4. Do women participate in the jury?
5. May qualified women enter all professions? If not, what professions are legally or customarily barred to women?
6. Does a woman have free choice to marry any man, regardless of nationality, race, religion or political affiliation?
7. Are women under the same duty as men to pay a poll or capitation tax? How do they file returns on capital or income?
8. Does the marriage of a woman affect in any way her nationality or the nationality of her children? What is the effect of marriage upon a woman's capacity?
9. Are polygamy or concubinage universal or prevalent? Are they recognized by law?
10. Does a woman have capacity and to what extent does it differ from the capacity of men in regard to property transactions?
11. Between what parties does the betrothal take place? Is free consent a prerequisite of a promise of marriage? Is a breach of a promise to marry actionable?
12. Describe the law or the customs of the territory regarding separation, divorce, remarriage and matrimonial regime.