



Federal Ministry for
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth



C. Measures and Acts on equal opportunities since 1949

May 1949

Pursuant to Art. 117 Par. 1 of the Basic Law, law withstanding equal rights is invalidated.

January 1952

Maternity Protection Act contains proscription of work before and after delivery and other provisions.

April 1953

Pursuant to Art. 117 Par. 1 of the Basic Law, law withstanding equal rights is invalidated.

July 1957

The Act on Equal Rights of Men and Women in civil law amends family law in particular. The Act introduces accrual of property, while heretofore Art. 1363 Civil Code had provided for the wife's assets being subject to management and usufructuary rights of the husband in marriage if not agreed otherwise. Besides, the husband had the right to decide on all issues pertinent to the marriage. These provisions were invalidated as of July 1, 1958.

August 1961

Family Law Amendment Act enters into force, improving the wife's legal position if the husband asks for divorce on grounds of irretrievable breakdown and of unmarried mothers: on request, the mother can be granted parental authority if of age. Further, the Act provided for the father's maintenance obligation until the completion of the child's 18th year (after the 16th year previously).

November 1961

The Federal Income Support Act provides for entitlement to assistance in special situations in life, also for pregnant women and people in danger.

June 1962

The Federal Income Support Act provides for entitlement to assistance in special situations in life, also for pregnant women and people in danger.

January 1964

Act on the Amendment of the Maternity Protection Act and the Reich Insurance Regulation, the bulk of which entered into force on January 1, 1966, the remainder on January 1, 1967, taking consideration of economic developments and medical knowledge. Pension for insured women with completion of 60th year on request.

August 1965

Act on the Amendment of the Maternity Protection Act and the Reich Insurance Regulation, the bulk of which entered into force on January 1, 1966, the remainder on January 1, 1967, taking consideration of economic developments and medical knowledge. Pension for insured women with completion of 60th year on request.

April 1968

Maternity Protection Act. Protection period prior to delivery of six weeks, after delivery extended from six to eight weeks, for premature or multiple births twelve weeks.

March 1969

Act on the Amendment of the Acts on Citizenship and Reich Citizenship enters into force on January 1, 1970. Husbands and wives of German citizens naturalised after five years under equal conditions.

July 1969

Labour Promotion Act, providing for advice on vocational education and employment opportunities, aiming at a high employment rate and continual improvement of the employment structure. Participation in vocational education measures, also for integration and reintegration into employment and especially for women, being promoted regardless of husband's or wife's income. Also applies to parttime work.

September 1969

Sixth Act on the Amendment of Civil Service Law and Civil Servants' Salary. Regulations on part-time work and long-term leave for female civil servants and judges if at least one child below 16 lives in the household, long-term leave in case of one child below 6 or at least 2 below 10.

January 1970

Act on the Adjustment of Benefits Pursuant to the Federal Provision Act. War victims' widow-pensions raised by 20%: soldiers' widows receive 60% of the pension of a disabled employee (previously about 56%). Pension increase for war disabled, orphans and parents was 16%. Indexation of war victims' pensions from January 1971.

July 1970

Act on the Legal Position of Illegitimate Children: full parental custody by the mother and improvement of maintenance by the father, no longer based upon mother's social position but the father's. Child gets mother's surname at birth and gets equal rights with legitimate children in inheritance law opposite the father.

August 1970

Act on the Amendment and Supplementation of the Act on Youth Welfare. It supplements the Act on the Legal Position of Illegitimate Children in youth welfare. Ex officio guardianship restricted to cases of underage mothers.

July 1971

The Second Health Insurance Amendment Act raises the compulsory insurance threshold and indexes it: All non-compulsorily insured receive an employer's contribution. In-patient treatment for delivery takes full maternity grant. Statutory entitlement to free medical check-ups and early diagnosis of cancer from women's 20th year.

September 1972/January 1973

Pension Reform Act: Non-employed women may voluntarily join pension insurance scheme. Unless they have their own income, they can determine their monthly contributions on their own. Disadvantages in prior pension calculation partly equalised. The introduction of a flexible age limit makes for choice by women of 63 and up to either draw a pension or continue to work.

December 1972

Annemarie Renger first female Speaker of the Lower House.

December 1972

The Federal Ministry for Youth, Family and Health gets responsible for women's issues policy and sets up a department "policies for women".

November 1973

All parties in the Lower House agree to set up a **commission of enquiry "Women and society"**. Final report published in 1980.

January 1974

Fifth Act on the Adjustment of Benefits of the Federal Provision Act. Independent oldage provisions for people having nursed recipients of nursing top-up grant free of charge.

January 1974

Act on the Improvement of Benefits and Services in Statutory Health Insurance. Parents employed subject to social insurance can get five days release per child annually to be able to look after a sick child up to eight years of age; sick pay in case of loss of earnings; entitlement to domestic help in case of in-patient treatment or rehab if a child below eight or a disabled child in the household needs to be looked after.

January 1974

Fifth Act on the Reform of Criminal Law. Abortion in first twelve weeks goes unpunished.

August 1974

Regulation of the Federal Ministry of the Interior on new **forms for passports**. Forms for family passport now gender-neutral.

November 1974

The Outwork Act raises minimum leave from 15 to 18 days and provides for a better alignment of outworkers' pay to standard wages.

January 1975

Age of majority lowered from 21 to 18 years, also for getting married for both genders.

January 1975

Amendment of the Acts on Citizenship and Reich Citizenship. Legitimate children of German women married to a foreigner automatically receive German citizenship at birth.

February 1975

Federal Constitutional Court rules on abortion law. Art. 218a of the Criminal Code is held to be null and void for exempting abortion from punishment even if no reasons are present which may withstand constitutional checks.

February 1975

Directive 75/117/EEC of the Council of February 10, 1975, on the alignment of legal regulations of the member states on the application of the principle of equal pay for women and men.

August 1975

The Federal Armed Forces open career paths for women in the medical corps.

December 1975

Act on Supplementary Measures on the Fifth Criminal Law Reform Act. Women insured by statutory health insurance are entitled to individual medical advice on contraception. Health insurance companies also bear costs for medical care, medicine, in-patient treatment and legal abortion. Non-insured people in need receive corresponding welfare benefits.

February 1976

Directive 76/207/EEG of the Council of February 9, 1976, on the realisation of the principle of equal treatment of women and men with regard to access to employment, vocational education and in working conditions.

June 1976

Fifteenth Criminal Law Amendment Act. Abortion is a punishable crime, except in cases of the pregnant woman's consent and medical, eugenic or criminological reasons or other hardships.

July 1976

The Reform of the Law on the Right to Use a Name enters into force, pursuant to which the wife's surname may be chosen as family name.

January 1977

Reform of the law on adoption, pursuant to which the adopted child is now a full legal member of the family.

July 1977

First Act on the Reform of Matrimonial and Family Law: Equal rights in marriage provided for: partnership in the marriage without legal provisions. Divorce law dispenses with principle of guilt now supplanted by principle of irretrievable breakdown. (Fixed-term) entitlement to maintenance for the spouse not being able to earn livelihood. Pension claims accrued during marriage equally divided between spouses.

March 1979

Act on the Change of the Family Name. Couples having married before July 1, 1976, may also take the wife's name of birth within one year after the Act having entered into force.

July 1979

Act on the Introduction of Maternity Leave. In addition to the aforementioned protection periods, employed mothers also receive four months maternity leave including protection against dismissal.

January 1980

New regulations on parental custody, providing sufficient protection for the child and respecting the constitutional right of parents and the family's self-responsibility.

January 1980

Maintenance Advance Act. Maintenance security for children below six living with a single parent.

July 1980

At the Copenhagen UN World Conference on Women, the Federal Government signs the **Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women of December 18, 1979.**

August 1980

Labour Law EC Adjustment Act (Act on the Equal Treatment of Men and Women at the Workplace and Sustenance of Claims in Cases of Business Succession): The Act dated 1980 enshrines the principle of equal treatment of women and men at the workplace for the justification, realisation and termination of employment into the Civil Code (BGB), as it does the right to equal pay. It provides for gender-neutral job ads, posting regulations in the company and the employer's burden of proof if employees, in turn, brought to light evidence of sexual discrimination.

August 1980

Commission of enquiry "Women and society"'s final report. The commission made recommendations on the elimination of discrimination against girls and women in vocational education and on the labour market and on the creation of conditions for a free choice by women and men of dividing their work in the family, society and in the job. A huge number of the commission's recommendations has been implemented (BT-Drs. 8/4461).

November 1980

Amendment of Federal Civil Service Career Regulation. Civil service age limit raised for women having interrupted their training for raising children.

January 1981

Amendments of Social Code X Art. 1 provide for insured or co-insured women being entitled to early diagnosis of cancer examinations from the beginning of their 20th year.

January 1983

In the statutory pension scheme the **rates for the first five years of work** are standardised for both genders at 90% of the average income as of 1983. Heretofore, men took a higher percentage.

January 1984

Budget Supplement Act 1984. Qualifying period for old-age pension shortened from 15 to 5 years and consideration of child-raising until completion of 5th year in disability and breakdown pension.

July 1984

Act on the Establishment of a Foundation “Mother and child – protecting the unborn life”. Financial assistance for pregnant women in dire straits. The Federation funds DM50 m (1991: DM140 m).

July 1984

Fifth Act on the Amendment of Federal Civil Service Provisions. Improvement of reduction in working hours and leave for family reasons. Leave for family reasons may now amount to 9 years instead of six within a total of 18 years leave and reduced working hours.

January 1985

Tax Adjustment Act 1985 with targeted tax relief for single parents. Child-care costs of up to DM4,000 for the first child and DM2,000 for any other child deductible. A flat amount of DM480 can be deducted without proof submitted.

May 1985

Employment Promotion Act. Easier access to retraining and advanced vocational training measures for women who interrupted employment period to raise children. Such periods now considered at five years per child within overall entitlement period, also applicable to women returning to work in job creation schemes. Part-time work as protected in labour law as full-time work. New provisions better protect on-call work by women and job sharing.

July 1985

Fourth Act on the Amendment of the Federal Income Support Act. A top-up grant for single parents with children below 7 of 20% and recipients of livelihood assistance of 60 and up.

July 1985

World Conference on Women in Nairobi, focusing on equal opportunities in all social spheres, integration of women in development and decision-making, promotion of international cooperation and women’s contribution to world peace.

August 1985

The Act on CEDAW enters into force.

November 1985

Third Act on the Amendment of the Basic University Act. Universities now have to counteract discrimination against female scientists. Fixed-term civil service and other employment contracts may be extended under certain conditions, e.g. for two years if maternity protection leave or for nursing was taken; also part of the Fixed-Term Employment Act for scientific, medical and artistic staff.

January 1986

Survivor’s Pension and Child-Raising Periods Act. Recognition of one year of insurance for raising a child for all mothers born after 1920 receiving disability or breakdown pension from 1986. In those cases with a 75% level of the average income, this doesn’t apply. Equal conditions for women and men in survivor’s pension claims.

January 1986

Federal Child-Raising Benefit Act. Mothers or fathers who look after their child and raise it themselves receive a child-raising benefit of DM600 per month for ten months.

March 1986

Guideline for the Promotion of Women in the Federal Administration. It contains specific regulations for the improvement of recruitment and advancement opportunities, the increase of their proportion in advanced vocational training measures and for a better reconcilability of family and working life.

April 1986

Act on the Amendment of Maintenance and Procedural and Other Provisions. This provides for more justice in individual cases after divorce.

June 1986

Federal Ministry for Youth, Family and Health redesignated **Federal Ministry for Youth, Family, Women and Health**. Assigned overall coordination of women's issues incl. drafting bills.

January 1987

The newly founded **department policy on women's issues in the Ministry** starts its work.

January 1987

Act on Further Measures in Equalisation of Provision. It improves the legal position of husband and wife – in most cases the latter – in the equalisation of company pensions.

April 1987

The Victims Protection Act improves the protection of victims of crime, especially of sex crimes, in criminal proceedings.

July 1987

Amendment of the Federal Government's Rules of Procedure. New participation rights for the Federal Ministry for Youth, Family, Women and Health.

October 1987

Act on Benefits of the Statutory Pension Insurance to Mothers Born after 1920 for Child-Raising. This benefit does not reduce welfare benefits like housing benefit, income support, war victims benefits. It is tax-exempted and does not trigger compulsory contributions by pensioners.

April 1988

First informal minister for women's council of the EC in Germany during her presidency.

January 1989

Ninth Amendment of the Labour Promotion Act. Unemployed people who want to return to work after a period of child-raising are a special target group for break-in grants.

January 1989

A **"Scientific advisory council on policy on women's issues"** established at **Federal Ministry for Youth, Family, Women and Health**. It is supposed to augment the existing tools and give independent advice to the Federal Ministry for Youth, Family, Women and Health on research into women's issues and policy on women's issues.

July 1989

The Guideline on the Promotion of Women in the Federal Administration is amended on the basis of the Federal Government's report on its implementation (1986 to 1988). Extensive statistical duties, expansion of part-time work and a proscription of discrimination against part-timers. Office of women's representative established.

July 1990

Child-raising benefit and leave extended from 15 months to 18 months.

October 1990

The Guideline on the Promotion of Women in the Federal Administration is amended on the basis of the Federal Government's report on its implementation (1986 to 1988). Extensive statistical duties, expansion of part-time work and a proscription of discrimination against part-timers. Office of women's representative established.

January 1991

The Federal Armed Forces open all career paths in the musical and medical corps to women.

January 1991

The Federal Ministry for Women and Youth now an independent ministry.

May 1991

Federal Government's first report on the appointment of women to bodies within the Federation's domain. The average share of women in the approx. 500 bodies surveyed is only 7%, half of the bodies without any female members at all. The report is the basis for the later Federal Act on the Appointment to Bodies.

November 1991

Pension Reform Act 1992. Child-raising periods for births from 1992 onward with extended recognition in statutory pension insurance from one to three years. If pension claims for reduced employment are sustained, child-raising periods up to the 10th year of the child and periods of volunteer nursing of

people in need of care from 1992 onward recognised.

January 1992

Child-raising benefit for children born after December 31, 1991, extended to two years.

June 1992

Pregnant Women and Family Assistance Act to promote a child-friendly society and on regulations on abortion passed by the Lower House.

July 1992

In order to improve criminal law protection of foreign girls and women against sexual exploitation, the **criminal provisions on traffic in human beings** are amended.

January 1993

The Maintenance Advance Act provides for doubling the period of entitlement from 36 to 72 months and the age limit of entitled children from 6 to 12 years.

January 1993

The 10th Amendment of the Labour Promotion Act includes a regulation on women obtaining a share in measures of active labour promotion according to their share among the unemployed.

April 1994

The Basic Family Act is amended, now providing for a free choice of their joint family name.

May 1994

A standardised regulation in the **Criminal Code** protects girls and boys below 16 years of age against sexual abuse regardless of the perpetrator's sex.

July 1994

The Working Hours Rights Act invalidates all proscriptions and restrictions of work for women except below ground.

September 1994

The Second Equal Rights Act enters into force. Act on the Promotion of Reconcilability of Family and Working Life in the Federal Administration and the Federal Courts and a stricter prohibition of sexual discrimination in working life. The Act on the Protection of Employees Against Sexual Harassment at the Workplace also enters into force, as does the Federal Act on the Appointment to Bodies.

October 1994

The equal rights Article 3 Par. 2 of the Basic Law is amended: "The state promotes a real enforcement of equal rights for women and men and works towards an elimination of existing disadvantages", which provides for affirmative action to eliminate disadvantages, if need be.

October 1994

The Federal Government regulates the **election of women's representatives** on the basis of the Women's Promotion Act with regard to the Federal Administration and Courts.

January 1995

The Nursing Insurance Act enters into force. A phased-in pattern: domestic care from April 1, 1995, in-patient care from July 1, 1996. For domestic care this means improvements in the nursing persons' social security. According to the level of nursing required, contributions to pension insurance are paid.

May 1995

The Women's Promotion Statistics Regulation regulates details for data survey pursuant to Art. 5 Women's Promotion Act. The data form the basis for an evaluation within the framework of the women's promotion reports and equal opportunities schemes at the federal level.

July 1995

The Pregnant Women and Family Assistance Amendment Act implements the Federal Constitutional Court's guidelines on abortion. Compulsory advice for the pregnant woman in distress or conflict is at its heart.

September 1995

The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995 and its platform of action "Equal rights, development, peace" was the then climax of the equal opportunities process worldwide. German causes like safeguarding human rights, sexual rights of women, extensive combating of violence against women are contained therein.

January 1996

The legal right to a nursery place for children after completion of their third year laid down in law.

January 1997

Act on the Implementation of the Programme for More Growth and Employment in pension insurance and labour promotion. Phased-in raise of pensioners' age limit for women from 60 to 65 between 2000 and 2004.

January 1997

The Act on the Amendment of Maternity Protection Law enters into force, an implementation of the first part of the EC Maternity Protection Directive. It contains an improved maternity protection for domestics and mothers after premature delivery and an improved reimbursement of maternity grants for SMEs.

February 1997

Resolution of the European Council in Amsterdam. Objective of promotion of equal rights for women and men laid down in Art. 2 and 3 EC Treaty. In Art. 141 EC Treaty, principle of equal pay for equal work expanded by equivalent work.

June 1997

The Federal Cabinet passes the **Pension Reform bill** 1999, providing for full recognition of child-raising periods, thus raised from 75% to 100% of the average income. An addition of contribution and child-raising periods prevents women from only getting contribution periods recognised, despite concurrent periods of employment and child-raising.

July 1997

New Art. 177 Criminal Code making marital rape a crime enters into force.

September 1997

Act on the Reform of Family Law to strengthen parental responsibility and children's legal position, specially of those born out of wedlock passed (operative from July 1998).

November 1997

The Act on the Amendment of Procedures in the Aliens Act and Asylum Procedures contains better hardship clauses and grants foreign wives who became victims of domestic violence an independent right of abode.

December 1997

Directive 97/80/EC of the Council of December 15, 1997, on the burden of proof in cases of sexual discrimination providing for a reversed burden of proof if the plaintiff brings to light credible evidence.

May 1998

The Federal Government's Second Report on the Proportion of Women in Crucial Bodies in the Federation's Domain is submitted to the Lower House. With an average share of women of 12.2 % there is some improvement on 1991. The number of bodies without any women members at all dropped from over 50% to 28.7%.

July 1998

Family Law Reform Act enters into force. It dispenses with most of the differences between children born in and out of wedlock. For the first time, unmarried parents can have joint custody of the child. Mother's rights in paternity recognition and contesting are strengthened. The mother has to agree to any paternity recognition and she may independently contest paternity. So may her husband at the time of birth, the man having acknowledged his paternity and the mother or child. Paternity has to be contested within a period of two years after having come to know the circumstances giving rise to doubts on paternity.

January 1999

Child benefit the first and second child raised again. As of January 1, 1999, it is DM250 per month each.

June 1999

Programme "Woman and employment" passed to promote women in employment, also in the private sector, a better reconcilability of family and working life and to award family-friendly companies.

September 1999

The Federal Government submits the third report on women in bodies to the Lower House. The number of bodies without any women dropped further and the average share of women is now 15.9%.

December 1999

The action plan to combat violence against women is the Federal Government's first extensive plan for all levels – prevention, work with the perpetrators, better networking of assistance for the victims. Legal measures like the Violence Protection Act for Women and a better sensitisation of the public.

January 2000

Child benefit for the first and second child raised once again. As of January 1, 2000, it is DM270 per month each. A child-care tax credit of DM3,024 for

children below 16 is introduced. This raises the overall tax credit for children from DM6,912 to DM9,936.

January 2000

The European Court of Justice rules legal provisions in the Federal Republic to exclude women from armed service in the Federal Armed Forces in contravention of the European equal treatment Directive 76/207/EEC.

May 2000

Independent right of abode for foreign spouses changed. The amendment of Art. 19 of the Aliens Act drew a line under a long debate on more protection for foreign wives. The amendment provides for an independent right of abode after two years. In cases of hardship, e.g. abuse, sexual abuse, or with regard to the well-being of the child, the two-year period can be dispensed with entirely. The protection of abused foreign women against domestic violence takes priority. After the amendment of the work permit regulation, a foreign husband or wife may get a work permit in cases of hardship pursuant to Art. 19 Aliens Act.

July 2000

The European Court of Justice confirms reconcilability of legal measures to promote equal opportunities for women, especially through the elimination of real inequalities, with Directive 76/207/EEC.

September 2000

The Federal Government further improves conditions for a **gender-neutral legal and administrative language**. Its new Joint Rules of Procedure operative from September 1, 2000, commit all ministries to a manifestation of the equality of women and men in language (GMBL S. 526, Art. 42 Par. 5 GGO). The Joint Rules of Procedure applies to all federal ministries and declares equal opportunities for men and women an ongoing.

November 2000

In November 2000, the **Act on Outlawing Violence in Raising Children and the Amendment of Child Maintenance Law** entered into force, which prescribes the right of children to a non-violent upbringing and proscribes corporal punishment, mental cruelty and other degrading measures.

December 2000

The Federal Government submits the **Fourth Report on the Promotion of Women in the Federal Service** for 1995 to 1998 and the bill of the **Equal Opportunities Act in the Federal Administration and the Federal Courts** to the Lower House.

December 2000

The **amendment of Art. 12a Par. 4 Sentence 2 of the Basic Law**, which entered into force on December 23, 2000, makes voluntary armed service by women constitutional and all segments of the armed forces accessible to women.

January 2001

On January 2, 2001, 244 **female recruits** were the first to volunteer for **armed service**.

January 2001

New parental leave supplants old child-raising leave. This measure makes it easier for fathers too to more engage in child-raising and family work. The new Federal Act on Child-Raising Benefit enables, for example, mothers and fathers to take child-raising leave simultaneously for three years at max. During such period, they are also legally entitled to do part-time work of up to 30 hrs per week each (in companies of more than 15 staff).

January 2001

The **Act on Part-Time Work and Fixed-Term Employment Contracts** operative since January 1, 2001, for the first time provides for a general right to part-time working. The Act is supposed to encourage men to take up part-time work at an increasing rate as well. Fixed-term employment is legally provided for on an overall basis for the first time.

April 2001

With **Social Code IX** – rehabilitation and participation of disabled people (operative from July 1, 2001) – and the Act on Equal Opportunities for Disabled People (operative from May 1, 2002) the legislature created basic conditions which in the process of gender mainstreaming take account of disabled women being dually disadvantaged. These Acts provide regulations which improve the opportunities for the participation of women in vocational rehab, ensure equal opportunities for disabled women in vocational rehab and employment, take the reconcilability of rehab measures and child raising into consideration and allow measures to actually enforce equal rights for disabled women.

June 2001

Act on Outlawing Violence in Raising Children passed. **Pension Reform** The Act on a Basic Level of Security in Old Age and Reduced Employability was passed within the framework of pension reform. It was also laid down that to accompany government-promoted old-age provision, income support may not depend on the recipient utilise his capital assets including returns which was partially government-funded to build up supplementary private old-age provision, cf. Art. 88 Par. Federal Income Support Act. In order to establish an independent old-age provision for women, younger married couples may opt for separation of pensions instead of a survivor's pension. If both spouses agree, the pensions entitlements accrued during marriage can be separated. Usually, this improves the wife's pension claims. The pension shares remain effective when remarried. Precondition for a separation are 25 years of

contribution incl. child-care periods per spouse.

July 2001

Agreement on the promotion of equal opportunities for men and women in the private sector signed with German business' umbrella organisations.

July 2001

Act on the Reform of the Industrial Constitution of Law, having entered into force on July 27, 2001, is also supposed to trigger better equal opportunities at work.

August 2001

The Act on Registered Relationships for homosexual couples enters into force. Since August 1, 2001, gay and lesbian couples can have their relationship officially registered, spouses now being recognised as family members.

December 2001

New Equal Opportunities Act for the Federal Administration and the Federal Courts, which entered into force on December 5, 2001. The improvements and closer definitions in this new Act (BGleiG) provide for, e.g., an extended applicability to the Federal Administration under private law and the commitment to apply the Act's principles to Federation-owned companies about to be privatised and to institutional recipients of grants. Women of the same qualification are, in case of underrepresentation in the respective segment, to be preferred in training, recruitment and promotion under consideration of individual cases (the so-called ratio of individual cases). The equal opportunities plans were defined more precisely and made much more binding. Equal opportunities representatives' authority was strengthened and their purview expanded. Explicit proscription of direct discrimination. More effective equal opportunities schemes also in times of staff cuts. Improved regulations for a better reconcilability of family and working life. Art. 1 Par. 2 BGleiG provides gender-neutral legal and administrative language. Art. 2 BGleiG ties down gender mainstreaming as an ongoing guiding principle in the Federal Administration.

January 2002

CEDAW optional protocol, signed by the Federal Government on January 15, 2002, entered into force on April 15, 2002. The protocols authorises the CEDAW Committee to accept communication from people or groups claiming to be victim of a violation of CEDAW by one of the member states and to check them. It also provides for independent activity by the Committee in case of reliable evidence of systematic or serious violations.

January 2002

Child benefit raised once again. As of January 1, 2002, it is €154 for the first three children and €179 for the fourth or more children.

January 2002

The Job-AQTIV Act ties down the dual approach of gender mainstreaming and special promotion of women in labour promotion law.

January 2002

The Violence Protection Act besides an easier appropriation of the joint flat also contains express regulations on the proscription of contacting, harassing and approaching the victim.

January 2002

The Prostitution Act, which entered into force on January 1, 2002, provides for an improvement in legal protection. They now have the opportunity to be either self-employed or employed subject to social security. The legal obstacles previously having prevented social insurance for prostitutes are being dispensed with. Crimes of promotion of prostitution and pimping are limited to exploitative behaviour.

April 2002

On the basis of a resolution of the Lower House, in April 2002, the Federal Government submitted a **Report on the Occupational and Income Situation of Women and Men** (Bundestags- Drucksache 14/8952 from April 25, 2002).

January 2003

The First Act on Modern Services on the Labour Market created the "PersonalServiceAgenturen" and provided for measures to promote employment of elderly employees.

April 2003

The Second Act on Modern Services on the Labour Market introduced to so-called "Ich and Familien-AGs" and new regulations on minijobs (e.g. domestic part-time work made easier).