



Progress since July 2022: Following the publication of our advocacy report - [The State We're in Ending Sexism in Nationality Laws, 2022 Edition - Update for a Disrupted World](#), in early July 2022, there has been some positive advancement in addressing sex discriminatory laws at the national level, in tandem with the ongoing worldwide movement to eliminate all discrimination within nationality laws.

Removal of all discriminatory provisions

- **Liberia:** The [Liberia Nationality \(Amendment\) Act of 2022](#), enacted on 25 July 2022, introduced significant changes to the 1973 Aliens and Nationality Law. The amendment eliminates the discriminatory provision that denied mothers the right to confer Liberian citizenship to their children born abroad on an equal basis with fathers.
- **Benin:** In December 2022, the President signed into law the [revised Nationality Code](#) to establish equality between men and women in accessing and conferring nationality. Previously, Beninese men but not Beninese women could automatically pass on their nationality to non-Beninese spouses. The revised code rectifies this inequality, allowing the conferring of Beninese nationality through marriage by all Beninese citizens, with a two-year waiting period. In addition, a Beninese woman with dual nationality no longer automatically loses her nationality upon a change of nationality of her husband.

Other steps taken towards removal of discriminatory provisions

- **Bahamas:** On 4 May 2023, the Attorney General acknowledged the Privy Council's decision to uphold a 2020 landmark ruling, affirming that children born out of wedlock to Bahamian fathers and foreign mothers are citizens of the Bahamas at birth and no longer have to wait until they are 18 to apply for citizenship. The Attorney General also committed to review remaining discrimination in the law.
- **Nepal:** On 31 May 2023, the President of Nepal authenticated the Nepal Citizenship Act (First Amendment Bill) which eliminates some of the sex-based discrimination in the law, particularly with regard to children. For example, the Act removes discrimination from the provision which provided that a Nepali daughter, unlike a Nepali son, married to a foreign national would not be eligible to apply for Nepali Citizenship. Reform of remaining discriminatory provisions within the Act and the Constitution, including equal conferral of citizenship by women to foreign spouses, however, is still needed.
- **Malaysia:** The Malaysian constitution currently denies married Malaysian women the right to pass on their citizenship to their children born overseas, resulting in thousands of children facing the risk of deportation and potential statelessness. On 9 September 2021, the Kuala Lumpur High Court rendered a historic decision, granting equal citizenship rights to Malaysian women and recognizing their overseas-born children as Malaysian citizens. However, the Malaysian government challenged the High Court's ruling, and in August 2022 the Court of Appeal, in a 2-1 split decision, overturned the High Court's judgment. The Court of Appeal's majority disregarded the constitution's equality provision and Malaysia's international legal obligations, stating that the discriminatory provision did not include mothers. The case is currently on further appeal at the Federal Court of Malaysia. In the

meantime, the Government has committed to table a bill in parliament to amend the Constitution to enshrine equality in conferring nationality.