Optional Protocol “Article 8 Inquiry”
(confidential inquiry)*

CEDAW Committee receives: “reliable information indicating grave or systematic violations” committed by a state party to the OP

Committee asks for state’s cooperation and observations

Committee can ask state’s permission to investigate its territory

Committee decides to open an inquiry

Committee can ask state’s permission to investigate its territory

Committee transmits its findings, comments and recommendations to the state

Committee transmits its findings, comments and recommendations to the state

Committee may ask state to include in its next periodic report any responsive measures taken

Committee’s final report is included in its annual report to the General Assembly

Committee may ask state to report to Committee on any responsive measures taken

State responds with its observations & Committee’s and state’s views are made public

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Committee may ask state to report to Committee on any responsive measures taken

State responds with its observations & Committee’s and state’s views are made public

* While the inquiry is confidential the state involved, as well as the initial sources of information and the public generally may disclose any information available to them.

Note: A state party to the Protocol may opt-out of the “Article 8 Inquiry” procedures.