

**THE PROBLEM OF CULTURAL RELATIVITY IN MALAYSIAN
WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

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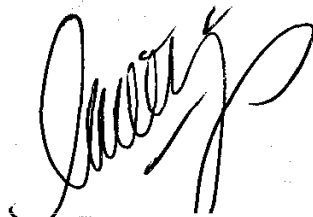
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

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ABSTRACT

The increasing commitment and recognition in securing basic human rights concomitantly benefited the promotion and protection of women's rights. The emerging of regional and international organizations, the United Nations in particular has played an important role in advocating women's rights. Numerous conventions and resolutions have been created to indoctrinating women's rights as human rights. The most important landmark in the women's movement was the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It has been seen as the first critical step in developing appropriate human rights language for women. In Malaysia, women's rights have been provided in the national and international law. Indeed, their rights and position in the society have been increased over the years. However, the cultural relativity has precluded Malaysian women from enjoying their rights. This study examines the role of the CEDAW in the promotion and protection of Malaysian women's rights. It also aims to examine the element of cultures and religions in advocating their rights. The research has been carried out by using qualitative methods. The data have been collected through primary and secondary resources. This study shows that the CEDAW has provided the rights for Malaysian women. However, the cultural relativity has hindered the realization of Malaysian women's rights.

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