

The Bahamas' 2016 Constitutional Referendum on Gender-Equal Citizenship Rights - A Failed Reform

Gender Equality · Good practice · Bahamas

Quality score: 26/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

In 2016 Bahamian MPs unanimously passed four bills for equal citizenship and anti-discrimination rights for women, but voters rejected all four (61-79% No). A decade later the underlying inequality remains in the Constitution.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	1/3
Impact on gender equality	0/1
Effectiveness	0/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	0/1
Achievement / evidence	0/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	0/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[Parliament of The Bahamas / Government of The Bahamas](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[Wikipedia: 2016 Bahamian constitutional referendum](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[IFES ElectionGuide: Bahamas 2016 Referendum](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[Oxfam/Gender & Development: Policymaking in a 'Christian nation'](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

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