

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910451420403321
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Titolo	Women, law and human rights : an African perspective // Fareda Banda
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford ; Portland, OR : , : Hart Publishing, , 2005
ISBN	1-4725-6346-8 1-280-80073-9 9786610800735 1-84731-183-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (454 p.)
Disciplina	346.6'0134
Soggetti	Human rights - Africa Women - Legal status, laws, etc - Africa Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [337]-391) and index.
Nota di contenuto	1 Introduction -- 2 Law in Africa -- 3 Human Rights in Africa -- 4 Family Law, Gender Equality and Human Rights -- 5 Violence against Women and Reproductive Rights -- 6 Female Genital Cutting, Human Rights and National Legislation -- 7 Culture, Development and Participation -- 8 Conclusion
Sommario/riassunto	Africa, with its mix of statute, custom and religion is at the centre of the debate about law and its impact on gender relations. This is because of the centrality of the gender question and its impact on the cultural relativism debate within human rights. It is therefore important to examine critically the role of law, broadly constructed, in African societies. The book focuses on women's experiences in the family. This is because the lives of women continue to be lived out largely in the private domain, where the right to privacy is used to conceal unequal treatment of women which is justified by invoking 'custom' and 'tradition'. The book shows how law and its interpretation is used to disenfranchise women, resulting in their being deprived of land and other property which they may have helped to accumulate. It also considers issues of violence within the home, reproductive rights and examines the issue of female genital cutting. The role of women in

development is explored as is their participation in politics and the NGO sector. A major theme of the book is a consideration of the linkages of constitutional and international human rights norms with local values. This is done using feminist tools of analysis. The book considers the provisions of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women which was adopted by the African Union in July 2003

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