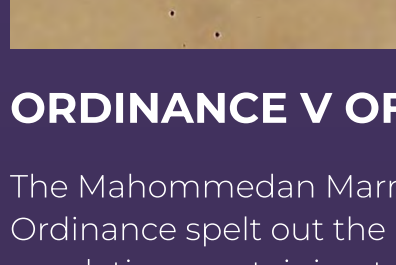


WOMEN'S CHARTER

1880 **ORDINANCE III OF 1880**

The Marriage Registrars' Ordinance allowed for the registration of marriages where one or both parties were Christians. It allowed for the Registrars of Marriages to issue certificates of marriages and maintaining a register of marriages for couples who choose to register.

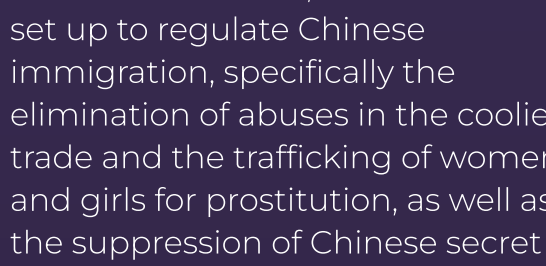


1880 **ORDINANCE V OF 1880**

The Mahommedan Marriage Ordinance spelt out the rules and regulations pertaining to the Muslim marriage registration with the colonial authorities. However, the authority to register marriages still remained with the *kadis*.

1877 **CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF PROTECTOR OF CHINESE**

Following the enactment of the Chinese Immigration and Crimping Ordinances of 1877, this office was set up to regulate Chinese immigration, specifically the elimination of abuses in the coolie trade and the trafficking of women and girls for prostitution, as well as the suppression of Chinese secret societies.

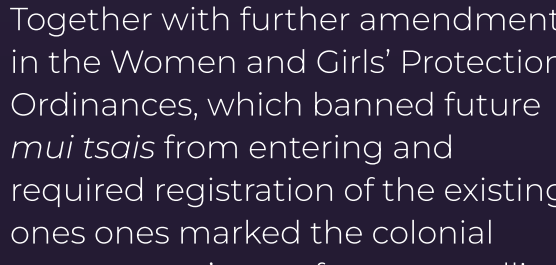


1887 **WOMEN AND GIRLS' PROTECTION ORDINANCE, 1887**

This Ordinance allowed the Protector of Chinese to search premises for suspected smuggling cases of girls and put them in a home until they turn 16. With subsequent amendments, the Poh Leung Kuk became designated an official home of refuge for suspected victims of prostitution and child trade.

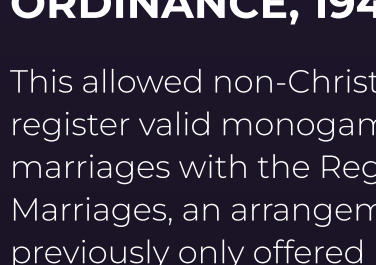
1932 **MUI TSAI ORDINANCE, 1932**

Together with further amendments in the Women and Girls' Protection Ordinances, which banned future *mui tsais* from entering and required registration of the existing ones marked the colonial government's turn from controlling vice to active suppression.



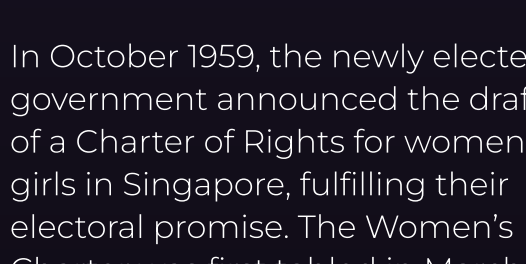
1940 **CIVIL MARRIAGE ORDINANCE, 1940**

This allowed non-Christians to also register valid monogamous marriages with the Registrar of Marriages, an arrangement that was previously only offered if one party was Christian under the previous marriage laws.



1959 **DRAFTING OF THE WOMEN'S CHARTER**

In October 1959, the newly elected government announced the drafting of a Charter of Rights for women and girls in Singapore, fulfilling their electoral promise. The Women's Charter was first tabled in March 1960 and two Select Committees later, it was passed on 30 May 1961.



1961 **WOMEN'S CHARTER, 1961**

The Women's Charter Bill was passed on 30 May 1961, and commenced on 15 September 1961. It made the registration of monogamous marriages compulsory for non-Muslims, laid out requirements for the equal responsibility of the running of the matrimonial household, provided for maintenance of spouse and children in cases of divorce, and consolidated other relevant legislation relating to the protection of women and girls into a single legislation.

