

### **Appendix 3.1: Kaplan-Meier Survival Curves Ratification of Six Core Human Rights Treaties**

The figures below sketch out the “baseline rate” at which governments have ratified the six core treaties. The baseline rate (also known as the Kaplan Meier function) refers to the probability that any government will decide to ratify the convention, given that it has not already done so. The two international covenants have clearly taken decades to glean significant international commitment. Appendix Figure 4.1a indicates that there is about a 25 per cent chance of ratifying these treaties in the first 9-10 years from the date they were opened for signature,<sup>1</sup> a 50 per cent chance within 17-18 years, and about a 75 per cent chance after about 40 years. Clearly, for many countries, there has been no rush to make a legal commitment to the two original covenants. The other four core conventions provide interesting contrasts.

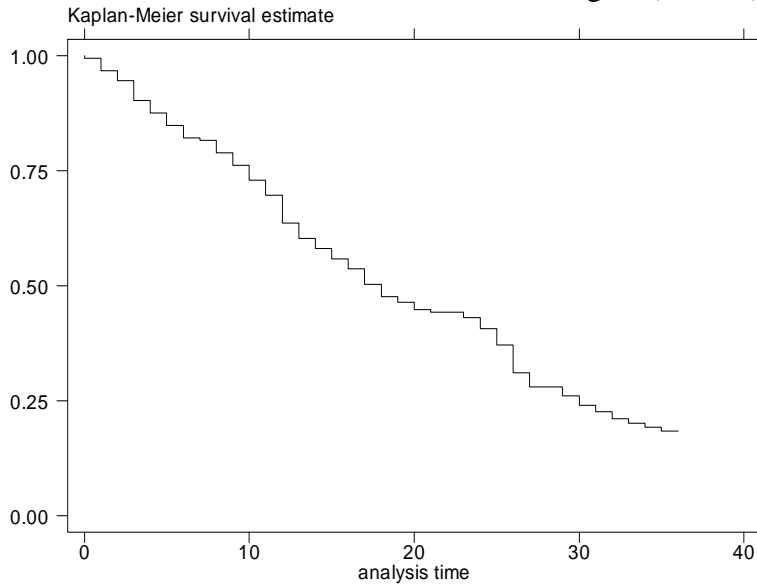
The racial convention attracted swift and early support (there was an estimated baseline rate of commitment off 25% in its first four years), but ratifications tapered off once colonial rule was replaced by black rule in the new African states (to achieve a baseline ratification rate of 75% took an estimated 27 years). The torture convention has had the most difficult time attracting adherents. While it has been open for signature and ratification since 1984, the gentle slope of the curve indicates a reluctance to commit, and to this day there is still not an estimated ratification rate of 75%. On the other hand, the rights of women and especially children have been quickly accepted by a large number of states. In the case of the CRC, within a year the estimated “risk” ratification was already 25%, and within four short years, it had reached 75%.<sup>2</sup> These differences in acceptance rates may have to do with the content of the treaties themselves, or they may have to do with the varying points in “world time” in which they were introduced. With the exception of the CAT, treaties introduced later in time have gleaned adherents much more rapidly.

---

<sup>1</sup> Or from the independence of the country in question, if this occurred after 1966.

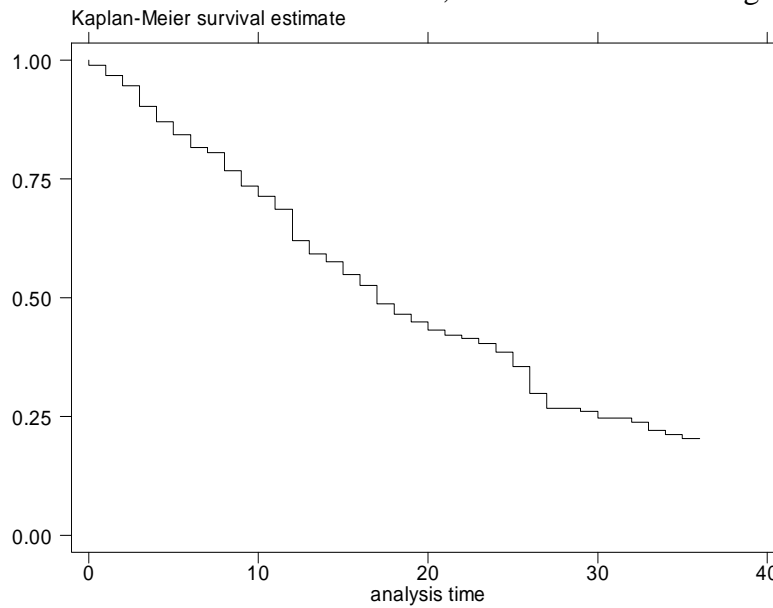
<sup>2</sup> Despite rapid ratification, many countries entered significant reservations to the CRC. (Schabas 1996)

a. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):



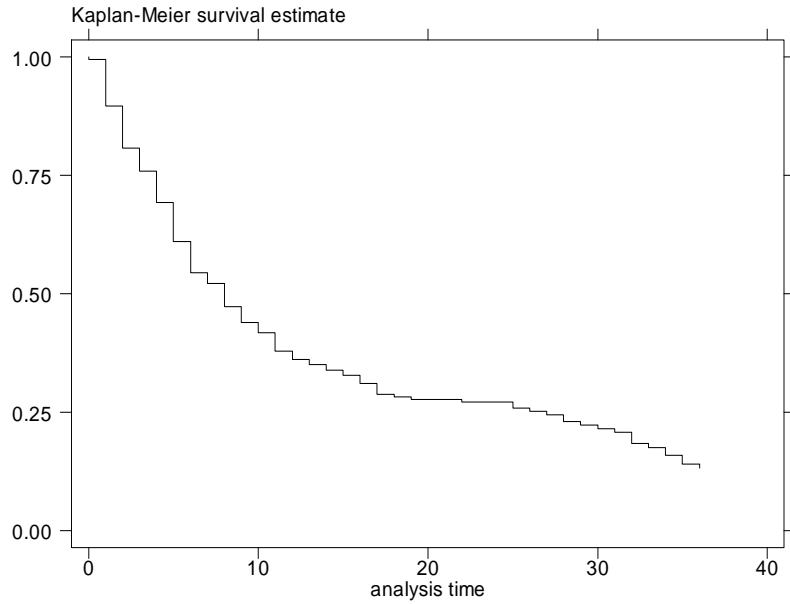
Time at risk:	Incidence rate:	Number of countries:	Survival time:		
			25%	50%	75%
3425.01	.041	185	10	18	30

b. International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR):



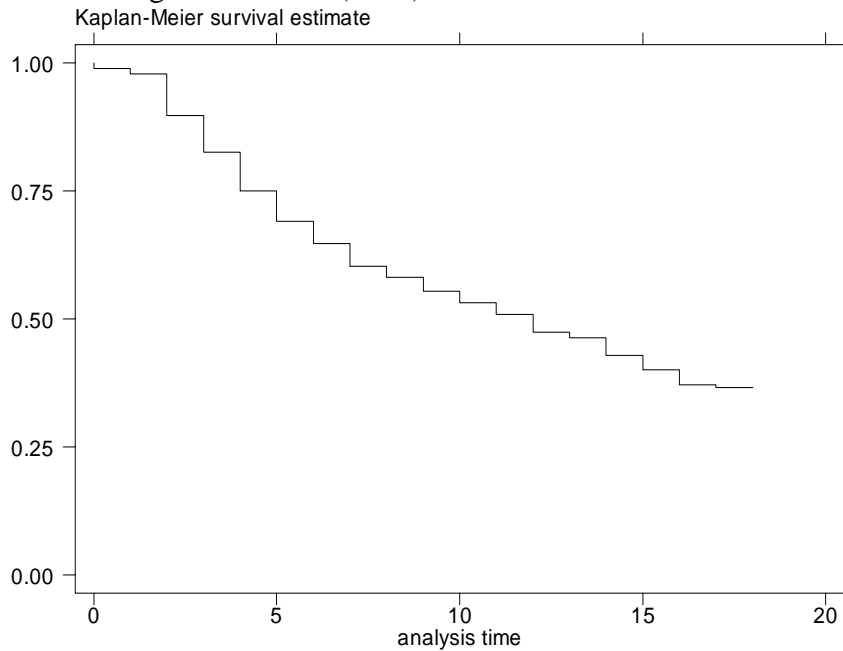
Time at risk:	Incidence rate:	Number of countries:	Survival time:		
			25%	50%	75%
3357.02	.041	185	9	17	30

c. Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD):



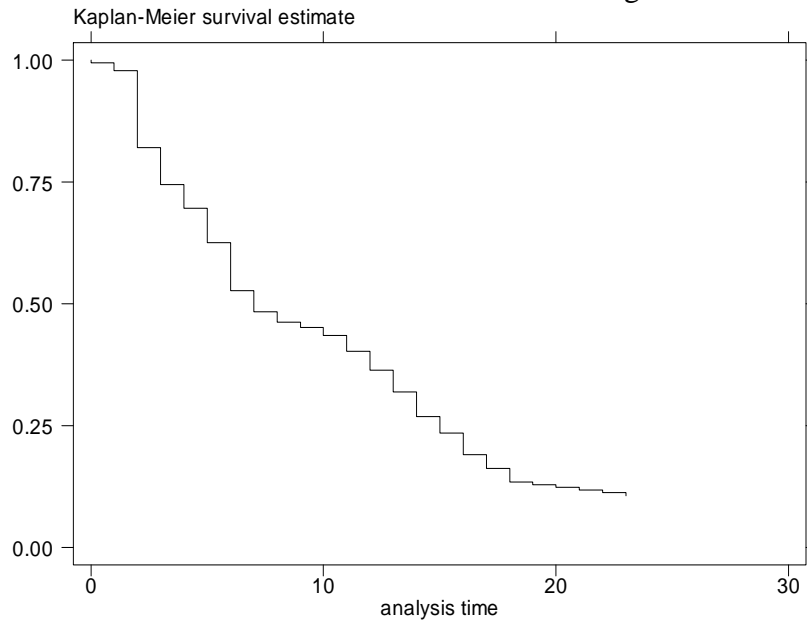
Time at risk:	Incidence rate:	Number of countries:	Survival time:		
			25%	50%	75%
2341.01	.064	182	4	8	27

d. Convention Against Torture (CAT):



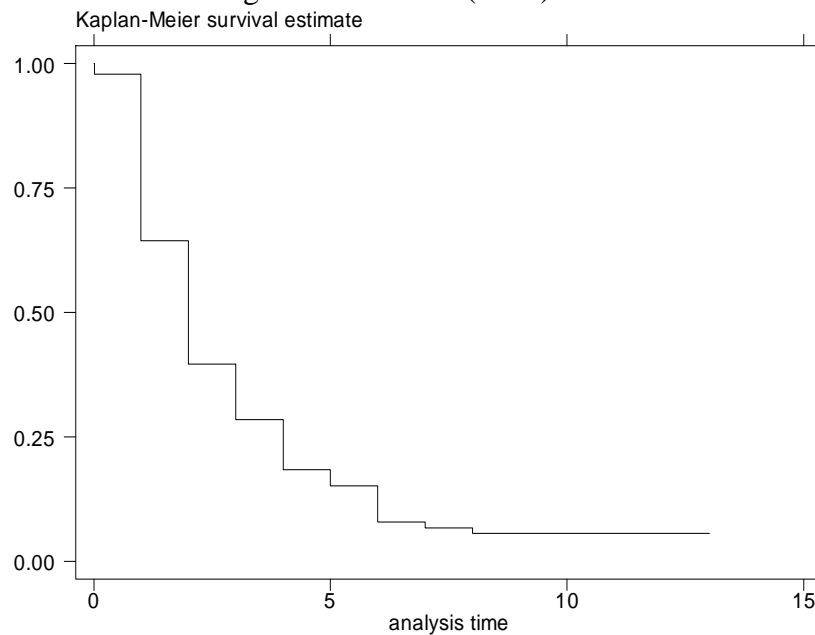
Time at risk:	Incidence rate:	Number of countries:	Survival time:		
			25%	50%	75%
1995.02	.058	185	5	12	.

e. Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):



Time at risk:	Incidence rate:	Number of countries:	Survival time:		
			25%	50%	75%
1785.01	.091316	184	3	7	15

f. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):



Time at risk:	Incidence rate:	Number of countries:	Survival time:		
			25%	50%	75%
556.05	.309	186	1	2	4