

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women - CEDAW

...because Women's Rights are Human Rights

January 3, 2013

To the Honorable Members of the United States Senate:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to urge you to make ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) a priority for the United States Senate in the 113th session of Congress.

The record breaking number of women who will serve in the 113th Congress lends significant momentum for the United States to increase its global leadership role on women's rights issues. Twenty female Senators will either return to or take office in the Senate—a truly historic accomplishment.

CEDAW is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world. It is a practical blueprint for each country to achieve progress for women and girls.

CEDAW is already making a difference for women and girls worldwide, specifically by strengthening civil society's efforts to persuade governments to respect women's human rights and adopt policies to reduce sex trafficking and domestic violence, provide access to education and vocational training, ensure the right to vote, end forced and child marriages, secure inheritance rights, and ensure the right to work and own a business without discrimination.

Ratification of CEDAW would strengthen the United States' standing as a global leader in standing up for women and girls. To date, the United States is one of only seven countries that have not yet ratified CEDAW. It is essential that the U.S. ratify CEDAW and continue to play a leadership role in advancing women's and girls' rights globally.

The signatories of this letter call on the U.S. Senate to advance women's human rights, not just for women in the United States but for all women worldwide, by ratifying this convention now.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women
Advocates for Youth
Alaska Federation of Natives
American Association of University Women
(AAUW)
American Friends Service Committee
American Jewish Committee (AJC)
American Psychological Association (APA)
Amnesty International USA
Anti-Defamation League
Baha'is of the United States
Better World Campaign
BOABAB for Women's Human Rights

Boston Area Solidarity Economy Network
(BASEN)
Cardea Center for Women
Catholics for Choice
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
Center for Reproductive Rights
Center for Women Policy Studies
Center for Women's Global Leadership
Center for Women's Health and Human Rights at
Suffolk University
Church Women United
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Collective Action for Safe Spaces

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Communication Workers of America
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Demos
Enterprising and Professional Women-USA
Equal Justice Society
Equality Now
Federally Employed Women (FEW)
Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas
Feminist Majority Foundation
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Gender Action
Gender at Work
General Federation of Women's Clubs
Generational Alliance
Global Fund for Women
Global Summit of Women
GlobalSolutions.org
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of
America, Inc.
Human Rights Advocates
Human Rights Coalition of North Carolina
Human Rights First
Human Rights Watch
The Hunger Project
Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.
International Center for Research on Women
International Federation of Women in Legal
Careers
International Federation of Women Lawyers
International Women's Rights Action Watch
Iowa United Nations Association
Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of
Human Rights
Jewish Women International
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human
Rights
League of Women Voters of the U.S.
MADRE
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
National Association of Social Workers
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women
National Council of Churches

National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
National Partnership for Women and Families
National Organization for Women (NOW)
National Women's Law Center
The Newspaper Guild-CWA
Open Society Policy Center
Peruvian Women's Center Flora Tristán
Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.), Inc.
Refugee Women's Network
The San Francisco Department on the Status of
Women
Sealaska Heritage Institute
Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)
Southeastern Psychological Association
U.S. National Committee for U.N. Women
UNA Women
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Methodist Church - General Board of
Church and Society
United Methodist Women
United Nations Association - USA
United Nations Association of the National DC
Area
US Women and Cuba Collaboration
US Women Connect
Women Enabled
Women Graduates-USA
Women Thrive Worldwide
WomenNC
Women's Actions for New Directions (WAND)
Women's Business Development Center
Women's Environment and Development
Organization
Women's Equity Council, United Nations
Association, San Diego Chapter
Women's Information Network
Women's Intercultural Network
Women's International League for Peace and
Freedom
Women's Missionary Society

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The Women's Zionist Organization of America
WUNRN-Women's UN Report Network
YWCA-Knoxville
YWCA-USA

Zonta International
Zonta Club of Nogales
Zonta Club of Dallas
Zonta Club of Longview

For more information, visit: www.CEDAW2013.org or contact:

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Don Kraus, President and CEO of GlobalSolutions.org at 202-330-4103 or dkraus@globalsolutions.org