

# 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 113<sup>th</sup> session of Congress.

The record breaking number of women who will serve in the 113<sup>th</sup> 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	National Council of Jewish Women
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	National Education Association
Demos	National Partnership for Women and Families
Enterprising and Professional Women-USA	National Organization for Women (NOW)
Equal Justice Society	National Women's Law Center
Equality Now	The Newspaper Guild-CWA
Federally Employed Women (FEW)	Open Society Policy Center
Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas	Peruvian Women's Center Flora Tristán
Feminist Majority Foundation	Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.
Friends Committee on National Legislation	Refugee Women's Network
Gender Action	The San Francisco Department on the Status of Women
Gender at Work	Sealaska Heritage Institute
General Federation of Women's Clubs	Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)
Generational Alliance	Southeastern Psychological Association
Global Fund for Women	U.S. National Committee for U.N. Women
Global Summit of Women	UNA Women
GlobalSolutions.org	Unitarian Universalist Association
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.	United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
Human Rights Advocates	United Methodist Women
Human Rights Coalition of North Carolina	United Nations Association - USA
Human Rights First	United Nations Association of the National DC Area
Human Rights Watch	US Women and Cuba Collaboration
The Hunger Project	US Women Connect
Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.	Women Enabled
International Center for Research on Women	Women Graduates-USA
International Federation of Women in Legal Careers	Women Thrive Worldwide
International Federation of Women Lawyers	WomenNC
International Women's Rights Action Watch	Women's Actions for New Directions (WAND)
Iowa United Nations Association	Women's Business Development Center
Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights	Women's Environment and Development Organization
Jewish Women International	Women's Equity Council, United Nations Association, San Diego Chapter
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights	Women's Information Network
League of Women Voters of the U.S.	Women's Intercultural Network
MADRE	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns	Women's Missionary Society
National Association of Social Workers	
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women	
National Council of Churches	

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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

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For more information, visit: [www.CEDAW2013.org](http://www.CEDAW2013.org) or contact:  
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Rights, at 202-263-2852 or [zeitlin@civilrights.org](mailto:zeitlin@civilrights.org) or  
Don Kraus, President and CEO of [GlobalSolutions.org](http://GlobalSolutions.org) at 202-330-4103 or [dkraus@globalsolutions.org](mailto:dkraus@globalsolutions.org)*