

**SUPPORT FOR SENATE RATIFICATION OF “CEDAW”
Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women**

The undersigned strongly urge ratification of CEDAW.

Whereas, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights, non-discrimination, and equality for women around the world; and

Whereas, the United States is strikingly notable in the world community for not having ratified this United Nations treaty that entered into force in 1981, and that has been ratified by all UN member states except the USA and only six others: Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Nauru, Palau, and Tonga;

Whereas, CEDAW constitutes a practical blueprint for achieving progress for millions of women and girls around the world; reaffirms that women’s right are human rights; seeks to end sex trafficking and violence against women, and prohibit forced marriage and child marriage; seeks to expand girls’ access to education; ensure women’s right to vote; help families by fighting maternal mortality; and end workplace discrimination against women; and

Whereas, we, the United Nations Association-USA East Bay Chapter, together with the United Nations Association-USA Northern California Division, and members of the CEDAW Task Force, a broad-based, diverse coalition coordinated by the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights and made up of over 160 organizations, submit this statement in strong support of approval for ratification of CEDAW; and

Whereas, these organizations have come together to address the Senate and the public about the need, importance and impact of ratification of CEDAW by the United States of America; and

Whereas, Senator Durbin (D-III), chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law will hold a hearing on CEDAW Thursday, November 18 at 2 pm;

We therefore thank Senator Durbin and the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law for convening this hearing, and urge that CEDAW be reported favorably on the floor of the Senate by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with a priority recommendation for ratification.

United Nations Association-USA East Bay
United Nations Association-USA Northern California Division
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Replies to:
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