

**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,

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9to5, National Association of Working Women	Feminist Majority Foundation
A.M.E. Church Women's Missionary Society	Feminist Peace Network
Advocates for Youth	Friends Committee on National Legislation
Alaska Federation of Natives	Gender Action
American Association of University Women (AAUW)	Gender at Work
American Civil Liberties Union	General Federation of Women's Clubs
American Friends Service Committee	Generational Alliance
American Jewish Committee (AJC)	Global Fund for Women
American Psychological Association	Global Summit of Women
Amnesty International USA	GlobalSolutions.org
Anti-Defamation League	Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
Baha'is of the United States	Human Rights Advocates
Better World Campaign	Human Rights Coalition of North Carolina
BOABAB for Women's Human Rights	Human Rights First
Boston Area Solidarity Economy Network	Human Rights Watch
Cardea Center for Women	The Hunger Project
Catholics for Choice	Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)	International Center for Research on Women
Center for Reproductive Rights	International Federation of Women in Legal Careers
Center for Women Policy Studies	International Federation of Women Lawyers
Center for Women's Global Leadership	International Women's Rights Action Watch
Center for Women's Health and Human Rights	Iowa United Nations Association
Church Women United	Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues	Jewish Women International
Coalition of Labor Union Women	The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Collective Action for Safe Spaces	League of Women Voters of the U.S.
Communications Workers of America	MADRE
Council for a Livable World	Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	National Association of Social Workers
Demos	National Conference of Puerto Rican Women
Enterprising and Professional Women of the USA	National Council of Churches
Equal Justice Society	National Council of Jewish Women
Equality Now	National Council of Negro Women
Federally Employed Women (FEW)	National Education Association
Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas	

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National Organization for Women	Women Enabled
National Partnership for Women & Families	Women Graduates-USA
National Women's Law Center	Women Thrive Worldwide
The Newspaper Guild-CWA	WomenNC
Open Society Policy Center	Women's Actions for New Directions (WAND)
Peruvian Women's Center Flora Tristán	Women's Business Development Center
Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.	Women's Environment and Development Organization
Refugee Women's Network	Women's Equity Council, United Nations Association, San Diego Chapter
The San Francisco Department on the Status of Women	Women's Information Network
Sealaska Heritage Institute	Women's Intercultural Network
Service Women's Action Network	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Southeastern Psychological Association	Women's Museum of California
U.S. National Committee for U.N. Women	The Women's Zionist Organization of America
UNA Women	WUNRN-Women's UN Report Network
Unitarian Universalist Association	YWCA-Knoxville
United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society	YWCA-USA
United Methodist Women	Zonta Club of Dallas
United Nations Association - USA	Zonta Club of Longview
UNA-USA, Linn County Chapter	Zonta Club of Nogales
United Nations Association of the National Capital Area	Zonta International
US Women and Cuba Collaboration	
US Women Connect	

For more information, visit: www.CEDAW2013.org or contact:
*June Zeitlin, Director of the CEDAW Education Project at The Leadership Conference on Civil and
Human Rights, at 202-263-2852 or zeitlin@civilrights.org or
Don Kraus, President and CEO of GlobalSolutions.org at 202-330-4103 or
dkraus@globalsolutions.org*