



**Urge North Carolina Local Elected Officials to End Discrimination against Women and Girls**

Intro: The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, or CEDAW, is an international mechanism that outlines women’s fundamental human rights. Although President Jimmy Carter signed the treaty in 1980, the United States is the only industrialized nation and one of 7 countries along with Iran, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Palau, and Tonga which has not signed CEDAW. While the federal government may not be willing to codify this convention into law, cities across the country are playing an important role in implementing CEDAW, directly impacting the everyday lives of countless American women. This petition urges mayors and county commissioners across North Carolina to implement the principles of CEDAW in our towns, cities, and counties.

Since 1998, a handful of communities have adopted a CEDAW ordinance such as Louisville, Los Angeles, Berkeley, and San Francisco. These cities and counties have used the CEDAW framework to guide policymaking, developing a number of innovative programs and tools to advance gender equality. Given the success of these communities’ ordinances, in 2014, the Cities for CEDAW campaign was launched to promote municipal and county-level adoption of CEDAW in 100 other cities and counties across the country by December 2015. Mobilizing multiple stakeholders, the campaign will focus on engaging advocates and government officials in communities of all sizes and regions.

Why NC needs CEDAW: There were 64 domestic violence murders reported in North Carolina in 2014; there were 116,052 domestic violence calls in 2013-2014 in NC; and the cost of domestic violence in NC is estimated at \$307 million annually. Women in North Carolina make 83 cents to the dollar men make for similar work; without innovative programs and policies for equal pay, North Carolinian women will not see equal pay until 2064.

**Today, I too commit to joining these campaign efforts in North Carolina and joining a process in my community to integrate gender equality into law.** I pledge to advocate for women’s rights: protection from gender-based violence, women’s health, equal pay, maternity leave, and equal access to educational, economic and political opportunities.

**In support of CEDAW implementation, I ask my local officials to pass a resolution backing this treaty and to implement the following (3) requirements for successful a CEDAW ordinance that works to end gender-based discrimination:**

- (1) Gender Analysis: The ordinance must designate a specified number of gender analyses of city and county departments and commissions or boards to occur each year to ensure that a gender lens is incorporated in all aspects of government policy, with a focus on the unique needs of women and girls;
- (2) Oversight Body: An oversight body is necessary to ensure that appropriate and timely actions are taken to perform gender analysis and advance the goals of CEDAW; and
- (3) Funding: An allocation of \$0.10-0.25 per woman in the jurisdiction is suggested to support the oversight body’s efforts to review existing programs to determine our community’s current and potential efforts on behalf of women’s equality.

**I am proud to support the North Carolina Cities for CEDAW initiative. To help spread the word, I will join the Cities for CEDAW Facebook group and share my efforts with my advocate networks.**