

## RESOLUTION

### RESOLUTION OF THE DURHAM COUNTY IN SUPPORT OF THE COUNTIES FOR CEDAW INITIATIVE: ENCOURAGING CITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE COUNTIES FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

THE DURHAM COUNTY DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the Counties on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was originated from the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination which was adopted by United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1979, became an international treaty as of September 3, 1981, and 186 UN member nations, have agreed to be bound by CEDAW's provisions; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW provides a comprehensive framework for local governments to examine their policies and practices in relation to women and girls and to rectify discrimination based on gender against 52% of Durham's population; and

WHEREAS, although women have made major gains in the struggle for equality in most fields, much more needs to be accomplished to fully eradicate discrimination based on gender and race and to achieve one of the most basic human rights; and

WHEREAS, women generally earn less than men in Durham County, women and girls are victims and survivors of intimate partner violence, and women face inequities in access to comprehensive healthcare.

WHEREAS, CEDAW has proven effective in many counties and cities as a mechanism to advance gender equality; and

WHEREAS, more than 30 cities and counties across the nation are engaged with this national campaign including Pittsburgh, Washington, DC, New York, Salt Lake City, Louisville, San Francisco, and Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, a local CEDAW resolution or ordinance encompasses three standards; a gender analysis of county departments and commissions, an oversight body to ensure that appropriate and timely actions are taken; and funding to support the implementation of the principles of CEDAW; and

WHEREAS, Durham Women's Commission can act as an oversight body for gender analysis and will be supported by Durham County in their creation of an annual report on the status of women and girls; and

WHEREAS, the Durham County government has an appropriate and legitimate role in affirming the importance of the principles of CEDAW in Durham County and using them as a guide for public policy; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution in June 2014 urging cities across the United States to join San Francisco and Los Angeles, participate in the Cities for CEDAW initiative, and pass local resolutions or ordinances reflecting the principles of CEDAW; and

WHEREAS, the County of Durham has a demonstrated commitment to women's rights and full equality through its legislative actions and on-going advocacy efforts: the majority of leadership of county commissioners are women

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Durham County hereby supports the Cities for CEDAW Initiative and implementing the Counties on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by Durham County at a regular meeting held

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT: