



June 2021 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Newsletter
<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

(Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, June 22, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM)

“Celebrating Title IX’s 49th Birthday with the Reintroduction of the Gender Equity in Education Act in the 117th Congress”

Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdOivpiliE9LImRm0GXDs0VuPbbIJAZt8>

Moderator: **Sue Klein**, Co-President Clearinghouse on Women's Issues and Education Equity Director, Feminist Majority Foundation.

Presenters:

Representatives from the Office of U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI) and the Office of U.S. Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA) will discuss the reintroduction of the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA). Here is the most recent [version](#).

Ben Strand, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI), **Laura Forero**, Legislative Assistant, U.S. Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA), and others who have been working to update and expand GEEA will discuss reintroduction for the 117th Congress (2021-2022)—which will coincide with Title IX's 49th Anniversary on June 23, 2021.

They will address the following:

What is the Gender Equity Education Act (GEEA)?

What changes have been made to GEEA since the 116th Congress (2019-2020)?

Who has cosponsored GEEA for the 117th Congress (2021-2022)?

Why do we need this legislation?

How can we increase support for the bill?

What is the path forward on the bill?

At the end of the meeting members of the CLEARINGHOUSE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES (CWI) will be invited to stay a few minutes to elect half the CWI BOARD for 2yr terms July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023.

The following CWI board members' terms end in June 30, 2021 but they have agreed to stand for election at the June 22, 2021 CWI meeting.

Co-Presidents Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla have agreed to run for reelection and Connie has also agreed to serve as VP membership.

Anne Martin has agreed to continue as VP Organization Management

Alotta Taylor, has agree to continue as VP Diversity. Linda Fihelly has agreed to continue as a Board Member.

Next CWI meeting Sept. 28, 2021

Summary of Clearinghouse on Women's Issues May 25, 2021 Zoom Meeting "An Update on Global Gender Issues highlighting a Strategy for Progress, D.C. for CEDAW: The Time is Now!"

This interactive CWI meeting focused on foreign and domestic feminist issues. The first part of the meeting addressed CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, and its use in encouraging gender analysis in US cities. The second part emphasized the Biden Administration's positive and negative actions in advancing gender equity internationally.

You can view a video recording of the full meeting here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHDK6gPmpII>

DC for CEDAW



Karen Mulhauser, President of Mulhauser and Associates, Past President NARAL, Past Chair United Nations Association of the USA, Past President United Nations Association, National Capital Area. She currently serves on the DC Commission on Human Rights.

Mulhauser opened the discussion with a brief history of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the progress made with the Cities for CEDAW movement and why it is important to make DC a city, or hopefully a state, for CEDAW. <http://citiesforcedaw.org>. The full text of CEDAW is here: <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/professionalinterest/cedaw.pdf>

Shayna Vayser, Managing Director of Advocacy and Policy Strategy at the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NC) Vayser began with a comprehensive survey of DC for CEDAW and the campaign to have the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted into city legislatures across the National Capital Area, starting with the District of Columbia. The legislation's primary focus requires government agencies to report gender analysis data and develop a citywide plan to ensure equality for women and girls in all arenas. See 1 pager on "DC for CEDAW". Vayser's presentation slides are available here: <https://womensclearinghouse.org/wp-content/uploads/DC-for-CEDAW-CWI.pdf>



DC for CEDAW is coordinated by the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), a non-profit dedicated to advancing the values and priorities of the United Nations locally and globally. Established in 1953, UNA-NCA is one of the oldest and largest divisions of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA). With the help of over 2,000 members, volunteers, and supporters in the greater Washington area, UNA-NCA works to build public knowledge, strengthen UN-U.S. relations, and aid the UN in achieving its goals.

CEDAW was adopted by the UN in 1979 and signed by President Carter, but never ratified by the US Senate. The United States is one of only six UN member states not to ratify (incl. Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Tonga, Palau). Most recently: In November 2010, the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law held a hearing on CEDAW.

National grassroots effort that provides tools and leadership to empower local women's organizations and municipalities to effectively initiate CEDAW within their city, county, or state. Over 40 cities have passed a CEDAW resolution or

ordinance. In 1998, San Francisco became the first city in the world to adopt an ordinance reflecting the gender analysis principles of CEDAW.

Gender analysis data: analyzes workforce, services, and the city budget to integrate gender considerations into the daily operations of local agencies. It institutionalizes new ways of thinking about the equitable distribution of government resources and links gender to race, disability, immigration status, and sexual orientation. As a result of San Francisco's CEDAW ordinance, the city eliminated domestic homicides for a record 44 months from 2010-2013. Appendix B of the 2018 IAOHRA Gender Equity Toolkit contains a Local Government Gender Analysis Toolkit. <http://citiesforcedaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Revised-New-IAOHRA-pdf.pdf>.

In 2015, UNA-NCA and coalition members successfully partnered with DC Councilman David Grosso to introduce the Local Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Despite co-sponsorships from the majority of DC Council members, a hearing and subsequent vote were never scheduled. In 2017, DC Councilmember Charles Allen wrote to the DC City Administrator asking that all DC agencies' annual Performance Reports include gender data. This is the first step toward doing a gender audit and this data has not yet been collected.

DC Councilmember Robert White has told UNA-NCA that he will draft CEDAW legislation this year. He chairs the [Committee on Government Operations and Facilities](#) which will hold hearings later this year. The legislation will ask District government agencies to include gender data in their annual Performance Reports, the first step toward a comprehensive gender audit and an evaluation of gender equity in the District government agency operations.

Hopefully the legislation will ask each agency to designate a management or executive level employee to serve as a liaison to the Office of Human Rights (OHR) which will develop timelines for completion of the gender analysis. Annually, DC OHR will provide training for DC agencies and develop a citywide action plan to address any deficiencies identified in the gender analysis reporting. DC OHR will present the annual action plan to the Mayor and monitor the implementation of the citywide action plan, and will make available to all District government agencies training in human rights with a gender perspective.

This bill will lay the groundwork for expanded policy (and funding) in alignment with the principles of CEDAW. DC for CEDAW, is asking for your support and for signatures (as individuals/ organizations) for a letter to the DC Council, urging them to pass a local implementation of DC for CEDAW.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WP1R6EzC7NTA8G8JTqnBShsiDhJIWCNg/view>. Here is the DC for CEDAW Petition: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDw4xygmVihyeRo20uC7U9Z3OPm-Uuj2sRp6qgqE1uLMFykg/viewform>.

Global Gender Issues During the Early Biden/Harris Administration



Megan Corrado, Esq CWIs Vice President of Global Issues, Director of Policy and Advocacy with the Alliance for Peacebuilding, and Co-Chair of the U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security. Corrado presented a comprehensive update on the Biden-Harris Administration's foreign policy accomplishments and challenges related to gender to date. We suggest you watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHDK6gPmplI> (start at 40.01) of Megan Corrado's fast past review of progress and the continuing to do list.

She started by reminding us of the new Administration's general global progress which is good for all humanity such as the Paris Climate agreement and rejoining the World Health Organization. Additionally, the Biden-Harris Administration reversed the previous Administration's harmful Executive order on race and sex stereotyping. Corrado also praised the Biden-Harris Administration on the diversity of the appointments and good representation of women such as Samantha Power as Administrator of US AID. But she noted that the Ambassador of the Global Women's Issues Office in

the State Department had not yet been appointed. She praised VP Harris's statement that "The status of women is the status of democracy." International Women's Day, March 8, 2021 was celebrated by the announcement of the White House Gender Policy Council. The new Administration also announced a national gender strategy and reinstatement of State Dept Reporting requirements on women that were eliminated in past Administration. Corrado praised the appointment of two women generals. She thought the draft skinny budget looked promising, as it included funding for prevention of gender violence and that Secretary of State Blinken made good statements on integrating women's issues in foreign policy. As expected progress was made on repealing the global gag rule which prohibits US funded entities from providing information on abortion, implementing the Women, Peace and Security Act that was passed in June 2020, and on establishing a Commission on addressing sexual assault in the US military.

The still to do list includes: plans on CEDAW support, more on a structural gender policy, and more details on implementing the Women, Peace and Security Act, more attention to the prevention of violence and conflict strategies, more intersectional gender analysis and support of women's groups globally. A key challenge especially after the announcement of the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan is how the advances for women there will be protected, but Corrado noted that there was some good attention from Congress on that challenge. These are just some of the key policy priorities for the Administration to advance a feminist foreign policy.

Highlights From the Participants Discussion.

Kathy Chiron, President of the DC League of Women Voters will see about their support for DC for CEDAW.

Lisa Sales discussed domestic policy and gender and race assessment and the relation of CEDAW and ERA. She noted that she introduced a CEDAW resolution into the Va legislature under the sponsorship of Hala Ayala who is now running for VA Lt Governor.

Caitlin Ryan Horrigan Director, Global Advocacy Planned Parenthood Federation of America provided further information starting with the creation of the White House Gender Policy Council and rescission of the Global Gag Rule which as a devastating anti-abortion and reproductive rights policy undermined the health and freedoms of women around the world. Further in agreement with Megan Corrado the recent decision to withdraw all U.S. forces from Afghanistan will have significant implications for the tremendous strides Afghan women and girls have made over the last 20 years. She also pointed out that while making gains more support is needed for the Global HER Act in the Senate.

Follow-up Information from our March 2021 CWI Meeting on "Next Steps in Creating the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum"

CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN B. MALONEY (NY-12), APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER DAY TESTIMONY,
JUNE 9, 2021

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, and members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to express my support for appropriations for the Smithsonian Institute to begin operations of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum. As you know, legislation to establish the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), which Congress passed at the end of last year.

I request that the Committee appropriate \$5 million for Salaries and Expenses for the Smithsonian Institute. This is a higher allocation than has been requested by the Smithsonian, but I hope the Committee will consider the importance of providing sufficient federal funding for the operations costs of the museum in the first Fiscal Year since the legislation passed. I am proud to have helped secure funding for the American Women's History Initiative since it was created in 2018. The Initiative's scholarship and educational programming has built a strong foundation for the work necessary to create a physical women's history museum on the National Mall. As mentioned in the FY22 Smithsonian Budget Justification, it has already transferred funds from the Initiative to operations for the women's history museum.

The Smithsonian has appointed an interim executive director for the museum who will shepherd the project through the initial stages of establishment, including launching a site selection study and starting a fundraising operation. I

understand the Smithsonian will start hiring the personnel who will carry out these responsibilities with plans to hire more throughout the year. The fundraising operation is important because the legislation specifies that the construction costs of the museum will be evenly split between federal appropriations and private fundraising.

I also request that the Committee consider appropriating funds for the costs of future construction of the museum. Securing an early federal contribution for construction is an investment that will enhance the Smithsonian's ability to successfully raise private matching funds.

This museum is overdue and has broad support. In 2016, the bipartisan American Museum of Women's History Congressional Commission unanimously concluded that the United States needs and deserves a women's history museum that acknowledges women's contributions that have shaped the nation in every sector of society. There is no other comprehensive museum in the nation that is dedicated to the achievements of women. Women account for only about 5% of subjects in national monuments across the country and are woefully underrepresented in students' history textbooks. This museum is an important step toward making the Smithsonian Institute even more inclusive of the nation's history and diversity, and recognizing women who have made remarkable impacts on the country during every major moment in our history. Congress must continue its strong support for this effort, beginning with significant funding for operational expenses and an investment in the future construction of what will surely be a world-class museum.

In the months since the legislation was signed into law, the Smithsonian has made good progress toward meeting the deadlines set in the legislation and assembling its staff that will manage the early steps of the process to create the museum. The Smithsonian is also setting up the National Museum of the American Latino at the same time. Early Congressional support through adequate appropriations is necessary for the Smithsonian to successfully establish these important new museums that will help tell a more inclusive and complete story of our nation and its history that will inspire generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support for this historic effort.

DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org. LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider. <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on additional feminist meetings and activities.

The 2021 National NOW Conference, themed ***Springing Hope into Action: Amplifying NOW's Intersectional Feminist Agenda*** will be held virtually on **Saturday, July 24 and Sunday, July 25; Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1; and on Saturday, August 7 and Sunday, August 8.**

CWI's newsletter is endowed in loving memory of our previous longtime editor, Roslyn Kaiser

Meeting summary by Sheila Wickouski and many of the Meeting Presenters. Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2021

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