



D.C. FOR CEDAW

The United Nations Association
of the National Capital Area



UNA-NCA

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ **We bridge global goals with local action.**
- ▶ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment
 - ▶ Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



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The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

- ▶ 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
- ▶ CEDAW defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets an agenda for national action to end such discrimination



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Cities for 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.
- ▶ The campaign aims to “make the global local” and protect the rights of women and girls by passing legislation establishing the principles of CEDAW across the US
- ▶ Led by the Women's Intercultural Network in partnership with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights & the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York
- ▶ Over 40 cities have passed a resolution or ordinance



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The Possibilities: San Francisco

- ▶ In 1998, San Francisco became the first city in the world to adopt an ordinance reflecting the principles of CEDAW.
- ▶ Determined three minimum requirements for successful implementation:
 - ▶ **Gender analysis data:** analyzes workforce, services, and the city budget to integrate gender considerations into the daily operations of local agencies. Institutionalizes new ways of thinking about the equitable distribution of government resources. Links gender to race, disability, immigration status, and sexual orientation.
 - ▶ **Oversight body:** community and government leaders must oversee the implementation of gender parity action plans
 - ▶ **Funding:** municipalities should allocate between \$0.10 and \$0.25 per woman resident to implement program and policy reforms as outlined by CEDAW



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San Francisco Outcomes

- ▶ As a result of San Francisco's CEDAW ordinance, **the city eliminated domestic homicides for a record 44 months from 2010-2013.**
- ▶ CEDAW not only promotes gender equality in the workplace; it is the foundation of preventing violence against women:
 - ▶ Launched Justice & Courage Project for Domestic Violence Policy Reform
 - ▶ Established a Family Violence Council
 - ▶ Created a Collaborative against Human Trafficking



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DC for CEDAW: Precedent

- ▶ In 2015, UNA-NCA and coalition members successfully partners with DC Councilman David Grosso to introduce the *Local Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*
 - ▶ Amended the Office of Human Rights Establishment Act of 1999 to require that all District govt agencies conduct **gender analyses** within their departments;
 - ▶ Require the Office of Human Rights to create a citywide action plan to ensure equality for women and girls in the economic, educational, political, social, and cultural arenas pursuant to CEDAW.
- ▶ DC Council requires 1 hearing and 2 votes.
- ▶ Despite co-sponsorships from the majority of Councilmembers, a hearing was never scheduled.



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DC for CEDAW: The Time is Now

- ▶ For the first time in 20 years, a majority of DC Council members are women.
- ▶ UNA-NCA is excited to engage new partners in our coalition efforts this round, including the National Women's Political Caucus, Women Enabled International, the International Center for Research on Women, and the TWCA.
- ▶ At our pre-COVID rate of progress, **it will take 100 years to achieve gender equality.**
- ▶ COVID-19 has threatened the safety and stability of women and girls around DC:
 - ▶ Increasing rates of domestic violence and high unemployment forced an unprecedented number of women and children into homelessness
 - ▶ Between 22-57% of women nationally reported that domestic violence directly linked to their homelessness (July 2020)
- ▶ **COVID recovery efforts must address the unique vulnerability of women and girls by establishing frameworks to protect and expand their rights.**



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The Ask

- ▶ District government agencies will be required to conduct gender analysis reporting according to the guidelines developed by the Office of Human Rights (OHR);
- ▶ The gender analysis will include the collection of disaggregated data and an evaluation of gender equity in the District government agency operations;
- ▶ Each agency will designate a management or executive level employee to serve as a liaison to the OHR and coordinate the completion of the gender analysis;
- ▶ OHR will develop timelines for completion of the gender analysis;
- ▶ Annually, OHR will develop a citywide action plan to address any deficiencies identified in the gender analysis reporting;
- ▶ OHR will present the annual action plan to the Mayor and monitor the implementation of the citywide action plan;
- ▶ OHR will make available to all District government agencies training in human rights with a gender perspective.



The Potential

- ▶ Gender analysis is the foundation to build innovation and inclusive new policies that expand protections for women and girls, bringing us closer to our goal of true equity.
- ▶ We cannot facilitate a strong post-COVID economic recovery without understanding the unique dimension of gender
- ▶ Promotes transparency and accountability within DC government



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We Need Your Help

- ▶ This bill will lay the groundwork for expanded policy (and funding) in alignment with the principles of CEDAW
- ▶ Though DC for CEDAW, we enable our community to institute and legislate equality
- ▶ **We are asking for your signatures (as individuals/organizations) for a letter to the DC Council, urging them to pass a local implementation of DC for CEDAW.**
- ▶ **We need to demonstrate widespread local, national, and international support** in order to ensure that DC Councilmembers record their vote:
 - ▶ It isn't enough to say that you support gender equality; we need action now.
 - ▶ We are circulating the full-text of the sign-on letter alongside instructions for how to sign and receive updates regarding upcoming meetings with Councilmembers and potential hearing dates.
 - ▶ You can sign as an individual or on behalf of an organization.



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