

**<Name to addressee>   
<Title>**

<Address of addressee>

Dear <NAME>: <date>

As you may know, the June 2014 Annual Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors passed a resolution urging all cities to pass local resolutions and ordinances that reflect the principles of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** (CEDAW).

CEDAW is an international bill of rights for women, defining discrimination against women as “any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

CEDAW sets an agenda for each state party to end discrimination against women in all forms. Unfortunately, the United States is the only industrialized state, and one of only seven UN member states, that has failed to ratify CEDAW.

I urge you to honor the commitment of mayors across the United States—and honor the women of Chicago—by implementing CEDAW through local ordinances that focus on three standards:

* A gender analysis of city 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.

All levels of government must act to end discrimination against women. Chicago can join the forces of cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles, who have passed CEDAW ordinances by acting at a local level to spark change nationally. Under your leadership, Chicago continues thrive as a top global city, and a model for many other cities. As you have often stated, Chicago can do more and be better. Now, more than ever, Chicago needs to put words to action and commit to and lead on CEDAW.

Sincerely,

<name of sender>

**Cc: Mona Norriega, Chairman, City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations**

**Lisa Madigan, Illinois Attorney General**

**Bobby Bush, 1st District U.S Representative**

**Daniel Lipinski, 3rd District U.S Representative**

**Luis Gutierrez, 4th District U.S Representative**

**Mike Quigley, 5th District U.S Representative**

**Danny Davis, 7th District U.S Representative**

**Jan Schakowsky, 9th District U.S Representative**

**Tammy Duckworth, Senator**

**Dick Durbin, Senator**

**Aldermen:**

**Pat Dowell**

**Sophia King**

**Leslie Hairston**

**Michelle Harris**

**Susan Sadlowski Garza**

**Milly Santiago**

**Deborah Mell**

**Carrie M. Austin**

**Emma Mitts**

**Margaret Laurino**

**Michelle Smith**

**Ameya Pawar**

**Debra Silverstein**

**Bruce Rauner, Illinois Governor**

**Evelyn Sanguinetti, Illinois Lt. Governor**