



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES

Chicago Chapter

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel
Mayor of the City of Chicago

121 N LaSalle Street
Chicago City Hall 4th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602

The Board of Directors
USNC-UN Women Chicago

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Dear Mayor Emanuel,

27 January 2017

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.

We, the Chicago Chapter of the US National Committee for UN Women, 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.

Enclosed is a toolkit containing more information about CEDAW, including passed resolutions and ordinances from other cities around the United States.

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,

The Chicago Chapter of the US National Committee for UN Women

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

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Margaret Laurino

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