



Understanding CEDAW: A Timeline



- **1946:** The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is established as a sub-commission of the Commission on Human Rights
- **1979:** CSW creates the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a treaty to address all forms of discrimination against women
- **July 1980:** President Jimmy Carter signs CEDAW, submitted it to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee before leaving office
- **1980-1990:** Under the Reagan and Bush Senior Administrations, the treaty stalled in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- **1990:** The Senate Foreign Relations Committee holds a hearing about CEDAW
- **1993:** The United States announces its intention to ratify CEDAW at the UN World Conference on Human Rights
- **1994:** Clinton Administration expresses support of CEDAW; CEDAW passed in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 13-5; despite the Committee's recommendation for ratification, a group of conservative senators put a hold on the treaty, preventing it from passing in Senate and reverting it back to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where it stalled
- **1995:** The United States makes a commitment to ratify CEDAW by 2000 at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women
- **1996:** Many state legislatures have already passed resolutions supporting CEDAW; this year marks the first whereby state counties and cities start to pass pro-CEDAW resolutions
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- **1998:** San Francisco becomes the first city to adopt a CEDAW ordinance, undergoing a critical gender analysis of all government activities to implement new policies that reflect non-discriminatory practices in public life
- **2002:** Bush Administration takes an initial position in support of CEDAW, quoted, as calling it is "generally desirable"; under the chairmanship of Joe Biden D-DE and with growing Congressional support, CEDAW passes in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 12-7; it is never debated in Senate
- **2002-2008:** Stalled between the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the State Department for the review of RUDs
- **March 2009:** President Obama sends CEDAW to the State Department where the document will be reviewed with the 2002 Senate Foreign Relations Committee's RUDs by an Interagency Working Group
- **Pending:** CEDAW will be discussed and voted on in the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee under the leadership of Senator Barbara Boxer D-CA
- **Pending:** Upon passing, CEDAW will be sent to debate in the full Senate Foreign Relations Committee, headed by Senator John Kerry D-MA
- **Pending:** Granted approval from the Committee, CEDAW will be sent to Senate where it needs 67 votes in favor of ratification to pass

For the first time since 2002, CEDAW is on route to the Senate where a passing vote will lead to US ratification. Take action now and urge your Senators to support CEDAW!