

UN/CEDAW

Proposal

Be it resolved that the Loretto Community gathered in Assembly 2009 unequivocally states its support for the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW). The Assembly calls upon the Loretto Community to issue a public statement of support for the ratification of CEDAW and also calls upon its membership to actively lobby for ratification with their Senators.

Background/rationale

The United States is the only developed country that has not ratified CEDAW. We stand with Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Qatar, Nauru, Palau and Tonga in refusing to adopt this international convention on the basic rights of women. As stated by Amnesty International:

(CEDAW) addresses basic human rights of women and can be a useful tool to:

- reduce violence against women
- Ensure access to education and health care
- Provide legal recourse against violations of women's human rights

The United States' failure to ratify the Treaty undermines the powerful principle that human rights of women are universal across all cultures, nations, and religions, and worthy of being guaranteed through international human rights standards. It is time to stand firmly for the rights of women internationally by ratifying this Treaty.

Taking a public stance on this issue would be in keeping with Loretto's commitment to stand for human rights, equality and justice for all.

Implementation

Loretto members are encouraged to send letters to newspaper editors, Senators, President Barack Obama, and UN Ambassador Susan Rice advocating that the U.S. ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. Sally Dunne will make materials available at the Assembly to facilitate this advocacy campaign.

Submitted by

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June 26, 2009 — Passed unanimously by all members present.