

PROGRAM ON A PAGE (or two)

TREATY FOR THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

AAUW supports policies that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people. Thus, we affirm our commitment to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which is CEDAW.

What is CEDAW?

The treaty for the Rights of Women is the most complete international agreement on basic rights for women. The treaty is officially known as the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The United States played an important role in drafting the Treaty, which 185 nations have ratified as of March 1, 2007. However, the U.S. is only one of eight countries that have yet to ratify CEDAW.

What has CEDAW accomplished?

Countries that have ratified the Treaty for the Rights of Women have acted to:

- Stop violence against women
- Promote girls' education
- Improve health care
- Ensure women's legal rights
- Improve women's lives at work

U.S. failure to ratify the Treaty undermines the powerful principle that the human rights of women are universal across all cultures, nations, and religions. It is time to unite and stand firmly for the rights of women by ratifying this treaty.

What can AAUW members do?

Delegates to the Association Convention in June 2007 passed a resolution, recognizing that the AAUW Public Policy program affirms our commitment to the Treaty for the Rights of Women. Members are urged to:

- Write and email their U.S. senators to press for support
- Participate in the coalition building efforts of the Working Group on the ratification of CEDAW

We must be aware and stay informed, because violence against women is pervasive throughout the world. Women are victims and survivors of egregious human rights violations and abuses. Approximately one in three of the world's women will experience violence in her lifetime with the rates reaching 70% in some countries. These statistics are astounding and unacceptable. Take action to preserve the rights of women around the world.

