**[](http://www.churchwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/CEDAW1.png)**

**100 Cities for CEDAW**

Over forty municipalities, two dozen counties, and twenty state legislatures passed resolutions supporting CEDAW ratification between 1995 and 2004. But these resolutions did not require these bodies to actually change governance structures to eliminate discrimination. The **100 Cities for CEDAW** campaign asks them to do just that: to use gender analysis to review the performance of governmental units and to make changes to eliminate discrimination where it is ongoing in hiring and promotion, in service delivery, and in budget allocations.

A handful of cities currently have ordinances implementing CEDAW within their jurisdictions and these ordinances do make a difference in closing the wage gap, enhancing the physical safety and health of women and other vulnerable populations, and promoting sustainable urban environments. Because gender inequality is a cornerstone upon which so many other inequalities flourish, CEDAW implementation benefits everyone in the community.

The national campaign to bring CEDAW to 100 cities and towns will be realized through people connected to their communities and to the hundreds of membership organizations, professional associations, labor unions, and civic groups who have gone on record as supporting U.S. ratification of the women’s human rights treaty. The San Francisco Department on the Status of Women reaches out directly to mayors across the country urging them to become advocates for CEDAW legislation in their hometowns. As a result of these efforts, **the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution endorsing Cities for CEDAW at their national convention in June 2014.**

President Jimmy Carter signed CEDAW in 1979; CEDAW entered into force as a United Nations Treaty in 1981. Women and men around the world have waited too long for the U.S. to ratify CEDAW. It is time for people of the U.S. to take the lead in making CEDAW a reality in U.S. law and culture. With 100 CEDAW cities flourishing, we’re certain the U.S. Senate’s ratification of this important treaty will promptly follow.

The United States is one of the seven member states, and the only industrialized nation, that has failed to ratify CEDAW since its completion more than 30 years ago.

In 2013 NGO/CSW NY created “Cities for CEDAW” and engaged two partners, The Women’s Intercultural Network (WIN) and The San Francisco Department on the Status of Women (DOSW). Together these experienced advocates and leaders have implemented “Cities for CEDAW” to secure 100 cities and their leaders to become “Cities for CEDAW.”

The campaign is a grass-roots effort that provides tools and leadership to empower local organizations and municipalities and effectively initiate CEDAW within their city or town.

 From the San Francisco Department of Women:    
The purpose of the Cities for CEDAW campaign is to “make the global local” by harnessing the power of cities and promoting the adoption of CEDAW as a municipal ordinance in cities large and small in order to create a framework for improving the status of women and girls. Supported at the June 2014 US Conference of Mayors, Cities for CEDAW will mobilize multiple stake holders including elected officials, the media, business, youth, NGOs, faith communities, and women leaders.   
In 1998, San Francisco was the first city to implement CEDAW as a local ordinance. The ordinance contains provisions to combat discrimination, violence, and sexual harassment against women, as well as ensuring access to health-care services and education.

 Other U.S. cities including Portland, Oregon and Berkeley, California, as well as the State of Hawaii, have enacted similar initiatives. The next goals for Cities for CEDAW are to **gain support from 100 mayors for CEDAW and to secure 100 municipal CEDAW ordinances.**