



**Date:** March 1, 2016

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilwoman Suzie Price, Third District *SP*  
Vice Mayor Lowenthal, Second District *SR*  
Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez, First District *L*  
Councilwoman Stacy Mungo, Fifth District *SM*

**Subject:** The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world. CEDAW offers countries a blueprint to promote basic rights and to open opportunities for women and girls in all areas of society.

## **History and Purpose of CEDAW**

On December 18, 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted CEDAW. In 1980 President Carter signed CEDAW; however, it has never been ratified by the U.S. Senate, despite on-going advocacy.

In 1998, San Francisco became the first municipality in the world to adopt a local ordinance reflecting the principles of CEDAW; and City of Los Angeles followed in 2006. Other U.S. cities including Honolulu, Hawaii, Berkeley, California as well as Miami, Florida, have also enacted similar initiatives.

The San Francisco and Los Angeles CEDAW ordinances focus on preventing discrimination and ensuring gender equality in government and the private sector. The ordinances cover health care, employment, economic development, education and violence against women and girls.

By adopting a resolution in support of CEDAW (Attachment A), the City of Long Beach would increase awareness of the goals of CEDAW to achieve gender equity in the following areas: political participation and representation, income, access to healthcare, and public safety.

In June 2014, the United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution encouraging cities to adopt CEDAW. There are three minimum requirements for successful implementation of CEDAW 1) completion of a gender analysis, 2) creation of an oversight body to monitor implementation of programming and policies, and 3) provision of funding to implement program and policy reforms as outlined by CEDAW.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The City Council adopt a resolution in support of CEDAW (Attachment A), and requests the City Manager to identify a current City Commission such as the Human Relations Commission that will partner with California State University, Long Beach to complete a gender analysis study of Long Beach. After the gender analysis study is completed the selected City Commission should examine policy reforms as outlined by study and consistent with CEDAW in order to make recommendations to the City Council for implementation of any policy reforms or additional programming that is consistent with goals of CEDAW.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no immediate financial impact as a result of the recommended action.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH  
SUPPORTING THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

**WHEAREAS**, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a human rights treaty promoting gender equity, was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979; and

**WHEAREAS**, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination; and

**WHEAREAS**, CEDAW requires member parties to undertake to eliminate discrimination against women in all its forms, including but not limited to the areas of economic development, health and safety, and education; and

**WHEAREAS**, 187 countries out of 193 UN member states have ratified CEDAW, including Canada, Australia, Bangladesh, Mexico, China, and the United Kingdom; and

**WHEAREAS**, the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted in July 2002 to recommend ratification of CEDAW, but it has never come before the full Senate for a vote; and

**WHEAREAS**, the United States Census indicates a persistent wage gap between men and women, and a perpetual difference not only between the wages women are paid compared to those of men, but also the wages that women of different races are paid compared to their white, male counterparts; and

**WHEAREAS**, a number of cities in the United States have adopted local legislation reflecting CEDAW principals to better inform local policy and empower communities to make policy changes necessary to lift more women out of poverty and violence; and

**WHEAREAS**, completing a gender analysis study will better gauge whether current legislation relating to or having an impact on gender equity is effective and whether more needs to be done in any areas; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS;**

The City of Long Beach hereby joins with other cities to support the principals of CEDAW to improve the lives of girls and women in Long Beach. The City hereby requests a gender analysis study be performed by a City Commission in collaboration with California State University, Long Beach.