



## Zonta International District 2

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*

October 18, 2009

To: Zonta District 2 Club Presidents

From: Marjorie Lavin, Chair, UN and Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee

Subject: Request for Club and Member Participation in CEDAW Advocacy

A critical element of Zonta District 2's plan for advocacy for US ratification of the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), also known as the Women's Rights Treaty, is a campaign of letter-writing to US senators. For Zontians in the state of New York, this means writing letters to Senator Charles Schumer and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Senator Gillibrand is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is the committee that brings treaties to the Senate floor.

On behalf of Zonta District 2, I ask that you write to our New York State Senators on behalf of your club and that you urge club members to write as individuals to advocate for US ratification of CEDAW. To assist you in this effort, I enclose the following materials:

- A summary of CEDAW provisions and a rationale for its ratification by the US
- A template letter for clubs to send to Senator Gillibrand as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- A template letter for individual Zontians to send to Senator Gillibrand
- A template letter for clubs to send to Senator Schumer
- A template letter for individual to send to Senator Schumer
- A list of the members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee

The template letters are based on materials developed in another Zonta district and approved by the Zonta International Committee on Legislative Awareness and Advocacy. Further information on Zonta International's advocacy efforts for the ratification of CEDAW can be found at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org) under the "Advocacy" heading.

It is particularly important for Zonta Clubs and individual Zontians to communicate with the US Senators from New York as soon as possible to build momentum for our efforts. Letters may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail. E-mail provides a particularly convenient and quick way of communicating with our US senators. You can submit an e-mail to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer and find other contact information at their websites:

<http://gillibrand.senate.gov>

<http://schumer.senate.gov>

**Our Goal: A letter from each District 2 Zonta Club to Senator Gillibrand and to Senator Schumer  
A letter from each District 2 Zontian to Senator Gillibrand and to Senator Schumer**

**Our Target Date: November 15, 2009, or earlier**

