



Zonta International District 2 Conference

Glens Falls, New York, Oct.16-18, 2009

Ratification of the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

A Call to Action

Context

- Zonta International goals for the 2008-2010 Biennium include advocacy by US clubs for the ratification of *CEDAW*, also called the Women's Treaty.
- The Board of Zonta District 2 has approved a strategy for response to the ZI priority.

Proposed Action at Fall 2009 Conference

- Clubs are asked to endorse the *CEDAW* strategy outlined below.

Summary of Strategy

Educating Ourselves:

- Use resources on the ZI and ZD2 websites to learn the provisions of *CEDAW* and its potential benefits to US women and to understand how to respond to objections.
- Bring speakers from ZD2 LA&A Committee to club meetings.
- Involve Canadian members, who can brief us on benefits to women seen in Canada and other countries where *CEDAW* has been ratified.

Educating Others:

- Write letters to the editor of local newspapers.
- Write op-ed pieces to newspapers or post comments in blogs and online forums.
- Offer speakers to other service clubs and community organizations.

Advocating for CEDAW with US Senators and NYS Legislators:

- Write club letters to New York's US Senators Gillebrand and Shumer and to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
- Write club letters to local members of the NYS Assembly and NYS Senate in District 2.
- Individual members write letters to US senators and state legislators.

Twenty eight years ago, Canada was among the 1st nations to sign the *CEDAW* treaty in 1981. The Ottawa and Montreal clubs will be helpful in the **Educating Ourselves** section.

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