



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley District 7

2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 20, 2004

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RATIFICATION OF U.N. CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW), AND REFER TO THE CITY MANAGER TO CONSIDER PREPARING FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OPERATIVE ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION INTO BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council adopt a resolution supporting ratification of U.N. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and refer to the City Manager to consider preparing for City Council action an ordinance adopting the operative articles of the Convention into Berkeley Municipal Code, based on the sample done by the City and County of San Francisco.

BACKGROUND:

On March 21, 2000 the Berkeley City Council unanimously supported United States Senate Resolution 237 (S. Barbara Boxer)—Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations should hold hearings and the Senate should act on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

On December 18 1979, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. In its preamble, the Convention explicitly acknowledges that “extensive discrimination against women continues to exist”, and emphasizes that such discrimination “violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity”. The Convention positively affirms the principles of equality by requiring States parties to take “all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal.

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 981-7170.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

- WHEREAS, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 1979, became an international treaty on 3 September, 1981, and by 2004, well over three-quarters of the world's governments, 177 nations, have agreed to be bound by the Convention's provisions; and
- WHEREAS, the United States supports and has a position of leadership in the United Nations, and was an active participant in the drafting and is a signatory to the Convention; and
- WHEREAS, the spirit of the Convention is rooted in the goals of the United Nations, and the United States, to affirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women; and
- WHEREAS, the Convention provides a comprehensive framework for challenging the various forces that have created and sustained discrimination based on sex against half of the world's population, and the nations in support of the present Convention have agreed to follow Convention prescriptions; and
- WHEREAS, although women have made major gains in the struggle for equality in social, business, political, legal, educational, and other fields in this century, there is much yet to be accomplished and, through its support, leadership and prestige, the United States can help create a world where women are no longer discriminated against and have achieved one of the most fundamental of human rights, equality; and
- WHEREAS, President George W. Bush and the Secretary of State have put this treaty, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in Category III of priority in order to accelerate the Treaty's passage through the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the full United States Senate with the goal of United States ratification; and
- WHEREAS, on November 17, 1997, the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution 1021-97 supporting local implementation of the underlying operative principles of the Convention and urging the US Senate to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (see Attachment A); and
- NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley urges the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to once again pass this Treaty favorably out of Committee, and send it to the Senate Floor; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Berkeley strongly urges the Senate of the United States to vote favorably to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and support the Convention's continuing goals; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk send copies of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Chair and the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and to all the members of the California Congressional Delegation