

1 [Urging Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
2 Against Women]

3 **Resolution urging the United States Senate to ratify the Convention on the Elimination**
4 **of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).**

5
6 WHEREAS, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against
7 Women (CEDAW) is the most comprehensive international agreement on the basic human
8 rights of women; and

9 WHEREAS, CEDAW was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979
10 and instituted by the United Nations as an international treaty in 1981; and

11 WHEREAS, After President Jimmy Carter signed the CEDAW treaty in 1980, it was
12 submitted to the United States Senate for ratification shortly thereafter; and

13 WHEREAS, 187 out of the 194 UN Member Countries have since ratified CEDAW;
14 however, 40 years later, the United States Senate has yet to ratify the treaty; and

15 WHEREAS, CEDAW mandates that governments take positive steps for women's
16 advancement and eradicate laws, customs, and practices that discriminate against women;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Despite inaction from the United States Senate, San Francisco was the
19 first city in the United States to create a Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the
20 first city to adopt the principles of CEDAW as a local ordinance; and

21 WHEREAS, The CEDAW ordinance and establishment of the Commission on the
22 Status of Women resulted in meaningful outcomes for gender equity in San Francisco,
23 including: infrastructure improvements to accommodate strollers used by child-care providers
24 and street light placement to enhance public safety sentiments, flexible schedules and
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1 telework policies to accommodate family care needs, and reformed policies and expanded
2 services for domestic violence survivors; and

3 WHEREAS, Although local ordinances can be impactful, they cannot be as
4 comprehensive nor as nationally galvanizing as federal action; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
6 urges the United States Senate to ratify CEDAW; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
8 Francisco further directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the
9 President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the U.S. Senators for the State of
11 California upon passage.