

RESOLUTION NO. 8217  
RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALO  
ALTO IN SUPPORT OF THE CONVENTION ON THE  
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION  
AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

WHEREAS, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women formulated a document titled The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the United Nations General Assembly adopted The Convention and opened it for signature in December, 1979; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of The Convention is rooted in the goals of the United Nations 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 as CEDAW provides a comprehensive framework for challenging the various forces that have created and sustained discrimination based upon sex; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW, sometimes called an International Bill of Rights for Women, obligates those countries which have ratified or acceded to it to take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development and advancement of women in all spheres; political, educational, employment, health care, economic, social, legal, marriage and family relations as well as to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women to eliminate prejudice, customs and all other practices based on the idea of inferiority or superiority of either sex; and

WHEREAS, fifty-two countries, including the United States, signed CEDAW during the 1980 Mid-Decade Conference for Women in Copenhagen, Denmark, and to date 161 countries, representing over half of the world's countries, have now ratified or acceded to The Convention and yet the United States has not ratified or acceded to it; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments have an appropriate and legitimate role in affirming the importance of international law in our communities as universal norms and to serve as guides for public policy; and

WHEREAS, the adoption would further support the initiative of the California State Legislature in endorsing ratifications of CEDAW, when by resolution in 1997, it encouraged the United States Senate to ratify The Convention.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Palo Alto does RESOLVE as follows:

SECTION 1. The City of Palo Alto will go on record in support of United States ratifications or accession to The Convention and a copy of the resolution be sent to the President of the United States, with a copy to the Secretary of State, and to each member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee urging immediate action begin on The Convention, and support for the United States ratifications or accession to The Convention.

SECTION 2. The Council finds that this is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act and, therefore, no environmental impact assessment is necessary.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED: October 15, 2002

AYES: BEECHAM, BURCH, FREEMAN, KISHIMOTO, LYTLE, MORTON, MOSSAR, OJAKIAN

NOES:

ABSENT: KLEINBERG

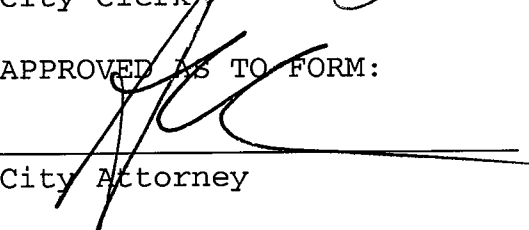
ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

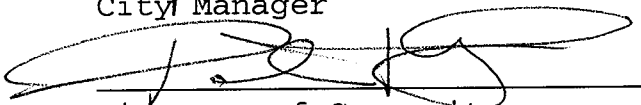
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Community Services