

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY**  
**OF THE**  
**BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY**  
**OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
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The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States encourages the U.S. Senate to take action in support of U.S. ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Bahá'ís are deeply committed to the ratification of this important international treaty and have served as co-chairs of the NGO Working Group on the Ratification of CEDAW for a decade. CEDAW is an international instrument that comprehensively addresses the issue of discrimination against women and promotes the principle of equality between the sexes.

Bahá'ís believe that the emancipation of women, the achievement of full equality between the sexes, is essential to human progress and the transformation of society. Inequality retards not only the advancement of women but the progress of civilization itself. The persistent denial of equality to one-half of the world's population is an affront to human dignity. It promotes destructive attitudes and habits in men and women that pass from the family to the workplace, to political life, and ultimately, to international relations. On no grounds moral, biological, or traditional, can inequality be justified. The moral and psychological climate necessary to enable our nation to establish social justice and to contribute to global peace will be created only when women attain full partnership with men in all fields of endeavor.

We hope that the United States will soon become part of the international legal structure that protects the rights of women and will join the other 185 countries that have already ratified this treaty.