

# International Convocation Unitarian Universalist Women & Progressive Women of Faith

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November 18, 2010

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The Honorable Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

I am writing to you on behalf of Unitarian Universalists (UUs) from across the country and the International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women (ICU UW). UUs have supported U.S. ratification of CEDAW since a vote on this issue at our 2007 annual meeting. ICU UW is representing the Unitarian Universalist Association on the National CEDAW Task Force, a project of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

As we are sure you would agree, countries are more peaceful and prosperous when women have equal rights and opportunities to provide for themselves and their families. Advancing women's human rights is fundamental to America's national security interests and is a cornerstone of our foreign policy. Ratification of CEDAW would strengthen the United States as a global leader in standing up for women and girls and would continue America's proud bipartisan tradition of promoting and protecting human rights.

The ICU UW is hopeful that today's public hearing before the Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law will be viewed as a major step forward for CEDAW. As a member of the Judiciary Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, we understand that you are in a key position to move this Treaty forward to ratification.

On behalf of ICU UW members in the U.S. and abroad, we deeply appreciate anything you can do to support human rights through your work on behalf of CEDAW ratification. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this significant international agreement with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Christine Nielsen  
Vice President