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COUNTERMOVES

Words that counter **misinformation**, **deflections**, and **outdated norms** regarding **CEDAW**

Misinformation, Deflections, Outdated Norms

Support for CEDAW Resolution

<p>Misinformation (KY 2016): The US already upholds the principles of CEDAW through laws in the books.</p> <p>1963 Equal Pay Act 1964 Title VII and Title IV of the Civil Rights Act 1972 Title IX of the Education Amendments, Fair Housing Act, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act 1994, 2000 and 2005 Violence Against Women Acts Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act</p>	<p>CEDAW is a means to collect data on gender equity and a way to assess the status of women. Laws in the books do not show us the reality on Main Street. If we already had laws in the books protecting women’s rights, then we wouldn’t still be seeing inequities between boys and girls in the classroom or men and women in the workplace. We wouldn’t see so many women in poverty or leaving their jobs to take care of children. We wouldn’t see women and girls suffering acutely from harassment and physical violence in their homes, in their workplace, in the community and online.</p>
<p>Misinformation (KY 2016): The members of the CEDAW Committee do not, in fact, honor the intent of the Convention. CEDAW is a bad vehicle to honor women.</p>	<p>CEDAW intends to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. Whether at home or abroad, women will be protected from child marriage, sex trafficking, gender-based violence, honor killings, restricted access to social services and reproductive health care, etc.</p>

	<p>CEDAW creates a process that encourages face to face dialogue between the CEDAW Committee and ratifying Member States at the UN.</p> <p>CEDAW calls on the ratifying country to regulate their own behaviors, in accordance with fundamental guiding human rights norms spelled out in the text of CEDAW and in the General Recommendations from the CEDAW Committee.</p>
<p>Misinformation (KY 2016; Fairfax Co. 2022): CEDAW, if adopted, will impose international law on us. We will be compelled to abide by General Recommendations out of a committee. It will tie American’s hands.</p>	<p>CEDAW is not self-executing.</p> <p>When we participate in CEDAW then our government and our NGOs have the opportunity to be in conversation with those in the international community and can learn about international norms and methods to eliminate discrimination against women.</p>
<p>Misinformation (KY 2016): I cannot support CEDAW in its totality because it has failed to take a stance against female genital mutilation, which I see as a grievous infringement on women’s human rights.</p>	<p>The CEDAW Committee (1990) issued General Recommendation #14, that reads in part... “That State parties take appropriate and effective measures with a view to eradicating the practice of female circumcision...”</p> <p>The UN General Assembly (December 20, 2012) condemned FGM.</p>
<p>Misinformation (KY 2016): CEDAW challenges our own rights to restrict abortion.</p>	<p>CEDAW is abortion neutral according to the US State Department. Article 12 (1) reads: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning.</p> <p>CEDAW Committee General Recommendation, GR 24, mentions abortion in this way: <i>When possible, legislation criminalizing abortion could be amended to remove punitive provisions imposed on women who undergo abortion.</i></p>
<p>Misinformation (citing Baldez, L. Defying Convention, p. 5): CEDAW will lead to the decriminalization of prostitution, criticize religion, allow textbooks to</p>	

highlight non-stereotypical gender roles and put babies into government sponsored daycare.	
Misinformation (citing statements of Steve Groves, Heritage Foundation, 2010): The CEDAW committee engages in social engineering on a massive scale. It promotes policies that do not comport with American legal and cultural norms.	The CEDAW Committee has limited power over governments that ratify the treaty. The Committee cannot impose its agenda on any nation.
Misinformation (citing Minority Report to the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 2002): The CEDAW definition of “discrimination against women” is so broad that it will even apply to private organizations not covered by US law. CEDAW Article 2(e) calls for the elimination of discrimination against women by “ <i>any person, organization or enterprise...</i> ”	This is where human rights hit the road. Human rights protect all people in all places.
Deflection (Fairfax Co. 2022): The UN does not have a stellar resume when it comes to protecting human rights. Look at its response, or non-response, to the Chinese government’s abuse of Uighurs.	CEDAW gives you the opportunity to improve the lives of your constituents. Human rights begin at home and in our local communities. We tackle what we can, and we take the opportunity to promote fairness and eliminate inequities between men and women here and now.
Deflection (KY 2016): We cannot support CEDAW because its “expert committee” told China to decriminalize prostitution, criticized Mexico for restricting quick and easy access to abortion, told Libya to reinterpret the Koran and told Austria to integrate gender studies in schools.	
Deflection (KY 2016): It is the utmost in hypocrisy to ask us to support CEDAW when the UN cannot even protect women and girls in Haiti from the sexual violence perpetrated by its own peacekeepers.	The UN took immediate action to stop the violence. It upheld the intent of CEDAW and held the perpetrators accountable. This approach is far better than the approach taken by organizations that deny the existence of sexual abuse and move employees around from city to city in an attempt to cover up the abuse.

<p>Deflection (KY 2016): What countries currently sit on the CEDAW Committee?</p>	<p>This information is available on the UN website. Instead of talking about the current makeup of the Committee, we need to redirect the discussion to the intent of CEDAW.</p>
<p>Outdated Norms (KY 2016; Fairfax Co. 2022): I have great respect for women. I have a wife and three daughters. CEDAW doesn't convince me that a committee of so-called experts knows what is best for my family.</p>	<p>CEDAW promotes and protects women's right to make independent choices about their own welfare.</p> <p>Let's talk instead about the countries that have not ratified CEDAW: Sudan, Iran, Somalia, Palau, Tonga, USA. We take no solace in America's association with these countries.</p>
<p>Outdated Norms (San Diego 2022): Your proposed Resolution changes the historical definition of women and now attempts to cement the idea that anyone who identifies as a woman will be considered to be a woman. I do not want to see a transgender woman in my daughter's locker room at school.</p>	<p>There is rampant gender discrimination, gender bias, and violence against any human being strong enough to share their stories of gender transformation.</p> <p>CEDAW collects data and shows us the extent of the discrimination. We cannot hide from the facts and allow deep rooted biases against women to continue. Our policies must support inclusion over exclusion and fairness over bias.</p>