



HUMAN RIGHTS
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

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THE CEDAW TRILOGY*

RUN OF SHOW

Our storytelling begins with three short stories called THE CEDAW TRILOGY. The stories follow women through their struggles to draft the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, create the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and secure city and county-wide resolutions in support of CEDAW in the present day.

In furtherance of the CSW67 priority theme, the stories use digital technology to enhance the storytelling. The first and second stories are taped and edited, and the third story uses immersive zoom technology that is widely available.

Our storytelling is inspired by the UN's GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS STORIES initiative. In 2018 Secretary General Guterres said he was "convinced that the sharing of these (human rights) stories can have an exponentially positive effect."

<https://goodhumanrightsstories.net/new-york-17-september-2018/remarks-by-un-secretary-general-antonio-guterres/>

You may secure a written copy or video link to each copyrighted play by contacting the Human Rights Special Interest Group at humanrights.sig@gmail.com. The videos are also searchable on the *YouTube* channel for the Human Rights Special Interest Group. Search for the channel under HRSIG and the photo of the peace dove.



Let's go now to the first play in The CEDAW TRILOGY- the GRAND DAMES OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, (UDHR.) It is 1948 and three women are meeting in the delegates lounge at the temporary headquarters of the UN at Lake Success, New York. They are displeased with language in the draft UDHR, and they are pushing back against language that reads "All MEN are created free and equal...."



THE CEDAW TRILOGY

Play # 1

THE GRAND DAMES OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



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Start Video #1: The Grand Dames of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<https://youtu.be/0gJXIRSxHa8>

Play 1 left us with a cliffhanger. Just exactly what does the final version of Article 1 say?

It reads: "All *HUMAN BEINGS* are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of *brotherhood.*"

The efforts of these grand dames fueled generations of wordsmiths. Today, we undertake "modernization reviews" of state laws and constitutions, much like the one underway in Virginia. We use software applications to uncover discriminatory language in administrative codes.

Now, let's turn to the second play in THE CEDAW TRILOGY-THE STRUGGLE FOR CEDAW. This play is a fictional documentary set in the mid 1970's. Women had recently paraded down Fifth Avenue in New York City in the "Women's Strike for Equality". Those women and countless others had faith that their rally mattered, especially at that time and in that place when almost all industry, unions, professions, military, and universities were led by men. <https://time.com/4008060/women-strike-equality-1970/>

Against this backdrop, women gathered at a session of the Commission on the Status of Women, CSW, and were interviewed about their challenges in drafting CEDAW.



THE CEDAW TRILOGY

Play # 2

THE STRUGGLE FOR CEDAW



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Start Play #2: The Struggle for CEDAW

<https://youtu.be/Ezc9iEqwZy8>

1970's women were a force to be reckoned with and the women who followed in their footsteps also inspired us.

One of those inspirational women, US Representative Shirley Chisholm, said: "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering, and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."



THE CEDAW TRILOGY
Play #3 BRINGING CEDAW HOME



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The last play in THE CEDAW TRILOGY is set in the present day. We take you, via an immersive zoom recording, to the hearing room where a county Board of Supervisors is prepared to discuss a proposed resolution in support of CEDAW. Although the characters are fictional, the dialogue you are about to hear is inspired by recent statements found in the public record and media communications.

The video content has been made available for informational and educational purposes only. HRSIG does not condone statements or opinions expressed in this video that deny fundamental human rights to, or disparage the dignity of, any human being.

Chairman Erwin opens the hearing.

Start Play #3: Bringing CEDAW Home
<https://youtu.be/WLLY4wdzBV0>

We've closed the final curtain on THE CEDAW TRILOGY but struggles remain and we still must call on women to promote and protect the core intent of CEDAW, that is to embrace the inherent dignity of women.

We hope you will share your experiences and tell us how you continue in the struggle to raise awareness of women's human rights.

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