



CEDAW: A Ticking Time Bomb for Women and Families!

A treaty already signed by the U.S. called the “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women” (CEDAW) is a ticking time bomb that would do great damage to women and to families if it is ever ratified by the U.S. Senate. If it is ratified, it becomes U.S. law.

Like the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution, CEDAW would harm women, children and families because it ignores the clear evidence from science, history and just plain common sense that women are different from men, physically, emotionally and psychologically. If either of these becomes law, it would be illegal to treat women any differently than men.

“CEDAW is the ERA on Steroids” and is Causing Problems Around the World!

Compared to the ERA, CEDAW is much worse. It has been called “the ERA on steroids” because it would intrude into virtually every area of family life including an all-out assault on motherhood, life, religion, family roles and parental rights. Some examples:

- The CEDAW preamble calls for “a change in the traditional role of men as well as the role of women in society and in the family.”
- Article V requires ratifying countries “to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women...with a view to achieving the elimination...of all other practices which are based on...stereotyped roles for men and women.” “Motherhood” is clearly one of these “stereotyped roles for women” that CEDAW seeks to eliminate.
- Ratifying it is a sneaky way to get the U.S. to support the adoption of the ERA because CEDAW also requires ratifying countries to "embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitution or other appropriate legislation."

The UN CEDAW compliance committee has issued the following mandates to ratifying countries:

- Recommended “the decriminalization of prostitution in China.”
- Told Mexico to “address the matter of whether it intends to legalize prostitution” and urged it to provide “access to rapid and easy abortion.”
- Told the Czech Republic, it was concerned about their “over-protective measures for pregnancy and motherhood.”

- Told Belarus it was “concerned by the continuing prevalence of sex-role stereotypes and by the reintroduction of such symbols as a Mothers' Day and a Mothers' Award, which it sees as encouraging women's traditional roles.”
- Criticized Slovenia because “less than 30 percent of children under three years of age...were in formal day care.”

CEDAW is Blind to Science, History and Common Sense!

Ratifying CEDAW would be a radical, dangerous social experiment, because it would impose an essentially genderless society on us; one where men and women cannot legally be treated differently. No one can predict how activist judges would interpret its many dangerous anti-family provisions, but we get an idea from the outrageous activities of the current UN CEDAW Committee to pressure ratifying countries to legalize prostitution, expand abortion and devalue motherhood. Using CEDAW as their weapon, activist judges could easily impose all these things on us nationwide and more, including homosexual adoption and legalizing same-sex marriage.

Healthy and successful societies recognize that men and women are different and have different roles. The next generation is the future of any society, so mothers and motherhood have always had special rights, incentives, prerogatives and protections. We also have conclusive evidence from social science research that for their optimum development, children need both a mother and a father who each add an essential and “non-interchangeable” component to parenting.

Senate Leaders Vow to Ratify CEDAW!

In 2002 the Senate Judiciary Committee reported CEDAW to the full Senate for ratification. Fortunately, it was stopped. Recently however, key Senate leaders have indicated that they intend to bring it up again. When they do, we need to stop CEDAW again!

What you can do to help stop CEDAW!

We must be prepared to again block CEDAW ratification in the Senate. Because it could come up on very short notice, FWI is sponsoring the National Petition to Stop CEDAW which will be sent to the Senate before the ratification vote. We will also be keeping those who sign the petition informed of any developments and tell them what else they can do to stop CEDAW.

We also need to urge President Bush to “unsign” CEDAW, just as he unsigned the treaty that established the International Criminal Court in 2002.

We make it quick and easy for you to send a suggested e-mail message to the President and at the same time sign the national petition using a special feature set up on the FWI Website, www.familywatchinternational.org and these are important things each of us can do to defuse this ticking time bomb that would be so damaging to women, children and families.