

## **Resolution #4-R-21**

*Submitted by: Denise Fenton – District 6, Katie Van Zeeland – District 5, Maiyoua Thao – District 7, Vered Meltzer – District 2, Alex Schultz – District 9*

*Date: 3-17-2021*

*Referred To: Community & Economic Development Committee*

WHEREAS, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1979 and became an international treaty on September 3, 1981, with 187 United Nations member nations out of 193 having agreed to be bound by CEDAW's provisions, the United States being one of the minority who have not; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW is known as an international bill of rights for women – the only international human rights treaty that focuses entirely on ending discrimination against women, addressing equal pay for women, eliminating violence against women, and supporting families and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW provides a comprehensive framework for governments to examine their policies and practices in relation to women, girls, and others who identify as female and to rectify discrimination based on gender; and

WHEREAS, although women have made gains in the struggle for equality in many fields, much more needs to be accomplished to fully eradicate discrimination based on gender and its connection and intersectionality with other forms of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 American Community Survey using U.S. Census data shows that median income for women in Appleton is almost \$10,000 per year less than for men in our city; and

WHEREAS, city government has an appropriate and legitimate role affirming the importance of eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and those who identify as female and to rectify discrimination based on gender; and

WHEREAS, Appleton's belief statement that our city should exemplify a high quality of life and be a safe place to live, work, visit, study, and play should apply equally to all; and

WHEREAS, Cities for CEDAW is a grassroots effort that provides tools and leadership to empower local organization and municipalities to effectively initiate CEDAW within their respective localities; and,

WHEREAS, over 200 national and international organizations have endorsed CEDAW, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution in 2014 in support of the Cities for CEDAW campaign.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Appleton affirms the principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women in our community and the elimination of political, social economic and cultural discrimination against women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Appleton encourage city staff and elected officials to become familiar with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and advise the Council of any changes in policy or practices they feel would help the City of Appleton align with the tenets of this convention; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Wisconsin's U.S. Congressional Delegation expressing our support of the United States' ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).