



empowering women worldwide since 1931

October 27, 2015

Vice President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Senate ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Dear Mr. Vice President,

As the U.S. Liaison for FAWCO (Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas), I am writing to you on behalf of the FAWCO Board of Directors and its over 12,000 members worldwide to urge you to recommend taking up in the Senate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for immediate ratification

Around the world, the CRC is an important tool to promote protections and rights for the most vulnerable and marginalized children. It is the world's strongest commitment to promote and respect the human rights of children, including the right to life, to health, to education and to play, as well as the right to family life and to be protected from violence and from any form of discrimination. Until recently, the United States and Somalia were the only holdouts from ratifying the CRC, the most widely accepted human rights instrument in history. Somalia finalized its process of ratification on October 1 of this year. After that ratification, Ban Ki Moon called for the United States to join the global movement and "reach the objective of universal ratification with every country recognizing the human rights of children." The conspicuous absence of the United States as a party to the CRC undermines our nation's international leadership role on behalf of children and families.

We have urged President Obama to submit the CRC to the Senate by the next Universal Children's Day, November 20, 2015. When he does so, *we appeal to the Senate to take up this crucial convention and submit it for a vote at the earliest possible moment, thereby joining the international community in supporting and defending the precious rights of every child.* By so doing, you would make the United States eligible to participate in the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (the international body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the CRC). We could then take an active role in encouraging further progress in other countries around the world.

With the United States now alone in not having ratified the CRC, Mr. Vice President, the time has come.

Lucy Stensland Laederich, FAWCO Counselor and U.S. Liaison



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The Honorable Harry Reid, Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Senate ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Dear Senator Reid,

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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The Honorable Bob Corker, Chair
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Senate ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Dear Senator Corker,

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The Honorable Benjamin Cardin, Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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