

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
ADDING CHAPTER XXIII OF DIVISION A6 OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA
CLARA ORDINANCE CODE RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
TASK FORCE ON THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL
FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

Summary

This Ordinance establishes a Task Force on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to study and make recommendations to help ensure that the needs of women and girls are appropriately considered in County programs and services.

WHEREAS, in California and throughout the United States, cities and counties have strengthened their commitment to women’s equality by adopting resolutions and/or ordinances affirming the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and integrating the gender equity and human rights principles found in CEDAW into city and county operations; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2005 the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution affirming the principles of CEDAW and directing the Commission on the Status of Women to convene a CEDAW Task Force and explore the possibility of adopting an ordinance to implement and integrate those principles into County operations; and

WHEREAS, in its final report to the Board, the Task Force established in 2005 recommended the adoption of such an ordinance to promote better governance in areas of concern for women and girls; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors wishes to create a mechanism to assess the operations of the County from a gender perspective and to help ensure that County operations respect, protect, and guarantee the human rights of women and girls, particularly – although not exclusively – in the areas of economic prosperity, gender-based violence, health care, affordable housing, education, and criminal justice; and

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WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors wishes to adopt positive measures to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of women and girls as recognized in local, state, federal, and international law, including CEDAW, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. Division A6 of the Ordinance Code of the County of Santa Clara relating to Boards and Commissions is hereby amended by adding a new Chapter to be numbered and titled and to read as follows:

**CHAPTER XXIII.
TASK FORCE ON THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL
FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

Sec. A6-270. Establishment.

There is hereby established a Task Force on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), referred to herein as the CEDAW Task Force. The CEDAW Task Force shall exist for three years, commencing upon the date of its first meeting.

Sec. A6-271. Membership; term.

The CEDAW Task Force shall consist of nine members, appointed by the Board of Supervisors, designated as follows:

- (a) The Director of the Office of Women’s Policy as Chair of the CEDAW Task Force;
- (b) Two representatives from the Commission on the Status of Women, to be nominated by said Commission;
- (c) Six members from the community to be nominated by the President of the Board of Supervisors, as follows:
 - (1) One representative with expertise on economic development and security,
 - (2) One representative with expertise on gender-based violence,
 - (3) One representative with expertise on health care issues,
 - (4) One representative with expertise on education and leadership,
 - (5) One representative with expertise on housing, and

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- (6) One representative with expertise on criminal justice.

All members shall be County residents. Each member shall serve for the three-year term of the CEDAW Task Force, unless they no longer qualify for the seat they hold. A member's failure to attend three consecutive meetings without good cause as determined by the Chairperson will result in notification to the appointing authority, which may result in removal of the member from the CEDAW Task Force. All new Task Force members shall receive a comprehensive orientation and training.

Sec. A6-272. Purpose and duties.

- (a) The CEDAW Task Force shall serve as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of analyzing County programs and services from a gender perspective and making recommendations to help the County meet the needs of vulnerable women and girls.
- (b) The CEDAW Task Force shall meet twice a calendar year.
- (c) Each meeting shall focus on a core area of the County's work that has a substantial impact on vulnerable women and girls. With assistance from the Office of Women's Policy and other County departments, the CEDAW Task Force shall consider County programs and services in that area, analyze their impact on women and girls, and, when appropriate, make recommendations to help ensure that the programs and services considered meet the needs of vulnerable women and girls.
- (d) The CEDAW Task Force's first meeting shall focus on County programs and services for homeless residents and how those services can best meet the needs of homeless women and girls. The Office of Women's Policy, working in conjunction with relevant County departments, shall identify focus areas for each subsequent meeting.
- (e) The work of the CEDAW Task Force shall be informed by the following statements, which reflect CEDAW principles:
 - (1) Economic Prosperity: The County is committed to eliminating discrimination against women and girls in Santa Clara County regarding employment opportunities and other economic opportunities;

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- (2) Gender-based Violence: The County is committed to taking appropriate measures to prevent and redress sexual and intimate partner violence, dating violence, stalking, harassment and trafficking of adults and minors;
- (3) Health Care: The County is committed to taking appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in the provision of health care;
- (4) Affordable Housing: The County is committed to taking appropriate measures to ensure women and girls have access to adequate and affordable housing;
- (5) Education and Leadership: The County is committed to taking appropriate measures to improve women and girls’ access to all forms of education and leadership opportunities; and
- (6) Access to Justice for Women and Girls: The County is committed to taking appropriate measures to support application of a gender lens, where appropriate, to policies and practices relating to justice-involved women and girls.

Sec. A6-273. Organization.

The CEDAW Task Force shall organize itself in accordance with Section 506 of the Charter. Subject to approval by County Counsel as to form and legality, it shall prepare bylaws for the conduct of its meetings and, after approval by the Board of Supervisors, such bylaws shall govern the Task Force to the extent not in conflict with this Chapter.

Sec. A6-274. Staffing.

- (a) The Clerk of the Board or his or her designee shall be ex officio secretary of the CEDAW Task Force and shall provide secretarial assistance to the Task Force.
- (b) The Office of Women’s Policy shall provide staff assistance to the CEDAW Task Force.

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Sec. A6-274. Repeal.

This Chapter shall be automatically repealed three years after the first meeting of the CEDAW Task Force.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on _____ by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

DAVE CORTESE, President
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

MEGAN DOYLE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

LAURA S. TRICE
Lead Deputy County Counsel