



empowering women worldwide since 1931

October 27, 2015

President Barack Obama
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. 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 submit to the Senate for immediate ratification the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

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 on 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.

The United States cannot move forward on ratification, however, unless the President submits this treaty to the Senate for its advice and consent. Although Administration officials have promised to review the treaty, there is no specific timeframe for submitting it to the Senate. *We ask you to submit the CRC to the Senate by the next Universal Children's Day, November 20, 2015.* The United Nations and its member countries observe this day annually to promote the welfare and protection of the world's children. By sending the CRC to the Senate, you will demonstrate your commitment to the values enshrined in the treaty.

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

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