Use this space!

Has your country signed up?
By August 2009, 185 countries had ratified CEDAW. Of these, 65 have entered “reservations” that exempt them from certain legal obligations. Examples of reservations include:

- Domestic and family relations within marriage (Egypt)
- Divorce (Syria)
- Equality of opportunities for women in public office (Israel)
- Elimination of traditional forms of discriminatory practices (Niger and Singapore)

The USA is the largest country and only industrialized democracy that has not ratified CEDAW.

Has your country signed CEDAW? If your country has registered reservations, what are they?

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International human rights standards have led to many other changes and today the national constitutions of many countries grant women equal rights with men — to education, health care, property ownership, choice of religion and freedom from abuse.

But discrimination today remains widespread. What has your country done to comply with its international obligations under CEDAW? List some of the constitutional guarantees of women’s rights and some of the laws that represent positive steps towards women’s equality.

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Backround research exercise: Why has the USA not ratified CEDAW?

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Source of the information:
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

How credible is your source?
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Check your understanding:
Gender and sex: what’s the difference?
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SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT: A TOOLKIT FOR REPORTING ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES > HUMAN RIGHTS KNOWLEDGE