

# CITIES FOR CEDAW

Local action  
for women's  
rights

31 March 2026  
15:00–16:00 CEST  
Online

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## Background

By 2050, nearly 70% of people will live in cities. Women and girls represent half of the world's population and therefore also half of its potential. Cities have a choice: be places of safety, opportunity, and inclusion, or spaces where discrimination persists.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the principal international treaty to advance the rights of women and girls and to promote gender equality. CEDAW defines discrimination, sets obligation for States to end it and creates an international monitoring system.

## Localizing CEDAW

Local and regional governments play a key role in ensuring that women participate in local governance, that education and healthcare are accessible, that there is no gender discrimination in employment, and that survivors of gender violence have a local support system.

Local and regional governments, by “localizing” CEDAW, can advance women's rights. They will connect with other like-minded local governments, engaging with the international human rights system to realize gender equality.

## Objectives of the event

The event will launch the Cities for CEDAW campaign at the global level and encourage local and regional governments to join the initiative and start a reflection on how they can implement CEDAW at the local level.

## Speakers

- Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia – Vice-Chair, CEDAW Committee
- Chanel Smith – Senior Advisor, County of Los Angeles
- Jackie Jones – Councillor, City of Cardiff
- Soon-Young Yoon – Founder and Co-director, Cities for CEDAW History and Futures Project

Moderated by Anh Thu Duong – Co-Director, Global Cities Hub