

SUBMISSION NO. 17

TT on 26 August 2008

**Cooley, Dorota (REPS)**

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**From:** R&J Mears  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 September 2008 9:30 AM  
**To:** Committee, Treaties (REPS)  
**Subject:** CEDAW

19-09-2008

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA 2601

Dear Committee Secretary

We wish to register our firm opposition to Australia signing the "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women".

The U.N. has proved that it is an eminently unsuitable organisation for determining such issues. Sadly U.N. Committees are too often controlled by ideologues who do not work within the parameters laid down and are unwilling to tolerate alternative points of view. There are too many examples where the 23 "experts" comprising the *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* have used the most tenuous arguments to criticise Governments and organisations. It would be a travesty to allow such a Committee to adjudicate a case of "discrimination" in Australia.

*The Committee shall not consider a communication unless it has ascertained that all available domestic remedies have been exhausted unless the application of such remedies is unreasonably prolonged or unlikely to bring effective relief.*

The signing of this Optional Protocol would enable an undemocratic U.N. committee to negate Australian legislation or judicial outcomes on the grounds that they do not affect a remedy or "unlikely to bring effective relief".

We do not want radical feminists using social engineering to produce an intolerance based on what they perceive to be political correctness. Please reject the acceptance of the Optional Protocol.

Yours faithfully

June & Robert Mears

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