

Cooley, Dorota (REPS)

From: b [b.nickel@parliament.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 September 2008 2:04 PM
To: Committee, Treaties (REPS)
Subject: Protocol on women's rights
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SUBMISSION NO. 8

TT on 26 August 2008

The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
House of Representatives
CANBERRA

Dear Sir,

Optional protocol on women's rights

I understand that the abovementioned protocol was tabled in parliament on 26th August last and your committee is due to report on this protocol by 10th November next. I also understand that submissions close on 19th September.

The previous Commonwealth government refused to sign this protocol for several good valid reasons. These included the ineffectiveness of the CEDAW Committee, the fact that it sent a wrong message to the electorate because it involved creating a new complaint mechanism when there was nothing wrong with the present mechanism and finally, the rights of Australian women were well protected by our legal system. Nothing has changed to render these reasons irrelevant.

Apart from these reasons, this protocol will open the door to same sex marriage, IVF procedures for unmarried women and will open the floodgates to abortion. I regard these likely results as extremely dangerous to the health of our nation. It is already facing attacks from within and these are succeeding because of the weakness of our political leaders. We don't need more attacks from within. This protocol is another attack from within.

I urge the committee to advise the government that it should not sign this protocol.

Yours Faithfully

Bruce Nickel

18/09/2008