

Join us at the NOW National Conference

July 2 - 4, 2010 Boston, MA

Boston Park Plaza Hotel

www.now.org/conference

Workshop:

SISTERS ACROSS BORDERS Demand to Ratify Women!

Friday, July 2nd

4:45 – 6:00 PM

Ratify Women! is the NOW Campaign designed to make a final successful push for US government ratification of a “clean” global Women’s Treaty, otherwise known as CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. The goals of our workshop are to educate participants about the use of United Nations international human rights treaties to advance women's rights in the US, to discuss how international women’s movements and specific countries are using the United Nations as well as feminist transnational grassroots gatherings to increase women’s political participation and our human rights, and to build sisterhood among women worldwide.

Women from nations where CEDAW has been ratified will share strategies to advance the status of women including National Plans of Action based on the UN Beijing Platform for Action, national and local women’s budgets, creation of Ministries for Women & Gender Equality, and specific advances such as paid maternity/paternity leave, reduction of infant/maternal mortality rates, sexual and reproductive rights, and violence-prevention policies. We will share the new NOW ***Ratify Women!*** Campaign kit produced by the NOW Global Feminist Strategies Committee. Finally, we will also discuss possibilities of organizing specific US-based women's solidarity projects growing out of networks established at the US Social Forum (June), the US Women & Cuba Collaboration women’s delegation to Cuba (March), and from NGO’s working in Mexico, Venezuela and more.

Panelists include:

- Norma Romero, Vice Minister for Equality, Gender Equality, Afro-descendants and Ethnicity, Ministry for Women, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- Stephanie Ortoleva, Chair, NOW Global Feminist Strategies Committee
- and international human rights attorney, Washington, DC
- Tanya Burovtseva, Coordinator, Advancing Women as Peacemakers Campaign, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF—US Section, Boston
- Catherine Murphy, Sociologist and Documentary Filmmaker, The Literacy Project (US) and Cuban Film Institute/ICAIC (Cuba), screening a trailer from her film "Maestra" about the 1961 Cuban Literacy Campaign
- Jan Strout, NOW Global Feminist Strategies Committee and co-Chair, US Women and Cuba Collaboration, Virginia City, MT