

Lata Patil

Lata Patil is a community activist, an advocate for women's rights, chairs the Santa Clara Commission on the Status of Women where she also guides the Task Force on CEDAW, the UN women's bill of rights with long-term solutions to create a more just and equitable society for all. She came to CSW with a varied and rich experience working on behalf of women that span various non-profits and ethnic organizations including Women's Action Network – an online collaborative of women's organizations on the Peninsula and South Bay for advocacy and a tool for monitoring legislative action, which she initiated in 2001.

Recently she oversaw two critical projects of the commission – impact of recession and budget cuts on low-income women resulting in a report called ***Women's voices: Front and Center***, and a report on the general status of women in Santa Clara county with special attention to gender discrimination and economic equity called ***Bringing Equality Home*** using the framework outlined in the Platform for Action of the 1995 Beijing conference.

Additionally, Lata is a leading force in establishing a women's center in Silicon Valley called the **Cardea Center for Women**, which is a community based project with a vision to develop a multi-purpose center for women's activities in Silicon Valley. Her vision is one of offering social and economic opportunities for all women. The Center is dedicated to mobilizing community resources for women and girls in order to ensure that women and girls have the tools they need to create a better future with a focus on providing leadership development and promoting women's participation in all aspects of their lives. In all her efforts, Lata displays her her dedication to community service and a passion for promoting a dialog about justice and equity for women.