

WHY CEDING FROM ASO AND UCI ISN'T THE ANSWER

Why don't the women just start their own Tour de France? Why don't the women cede from the UCI? Great questions, great energy. Here's why ceding from the union isn't the right solution.

Starting a separate Tour de France for women—then or now—does not solve the problem of sexism and discrimination in cycling. Or society. Separation furthers the concept of segregation. If women are forced to start separate endeavors simply because they're not granted equal access to events, this is not progress. This is exclusion. When we force women to “prove” themselves *separately* instead of building a better model *together*, this is a waste of time. Progress is measured in equal opportunity, not “Go Away and Build Your Own.” Wimbledon, Boston Marathon, Ironman Kona, Olympic Games. Imagine if these were for men only and women had to build their own version? No. Women deserve to be at cycling's pinnacle event; the Tour de France. Sport, like society, must function together without gender segregation. Men competing *against* women and men competing *with women racing at the same venue* are very different things.

Ceding from the UCI is a similar issue. *If women are being treated so poorly by the traditionalists of the UCI, why not cede from the union?* Here's why. Ceding doesn't solve the problem of a corrupt governing body. In fact, it allows the current behavior of inequity to continue. The solution is solving rather than ceding. If memory serves me correctly in U.S. history, ceding doesn't usually bode well for either party. To remodel and unite is a far better plan. As of 2021, we continue to push for these changes.

—Kathryn Bertine, *STAND*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Kathryn Bertine is an author, activist, filmmaker, public speaker and retired professional athlete. She's written four nonfiction books, *All the Sundays Yet to Come*, *As Good As Gold*, *The Road Less Taken* and *Stand*. Her documentary film, *Half the Road*, can be found on iTunes, Amazon and Vimeo. A former columnist and editor at ESPN, she now serves as CEO of Homestretch Foundation. A native New Yorker and dual citizen of St. Kitts and Nevis, Bertine lives in Tucson, Arizona. Follow her on Twitter, Facebook and Insta @kathrynbertine and www.kathrynbertine.com