

Feminists Can be Peace Builders and Advocate for a Cabinet Post

In 2019, at National NOW's annual conference, held in St. Paul, Minn., attendees voted to approve of a resolution supporting a **U.S. Department of Peace cabinet-level position** to promote better understanding and co-operation, domestically and internationally. The resolution calls for passage of H.R. 1111, the U.S. Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2019, sponsored by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) – who, by the way, was the only member of Congress who had the courage to vote against the U.S. invasion of Iraq following the 9-11 attacks and since spoken out against other aggressive uses of the military.

The legislation, if passed into law, calls for the creation of a United States Department of Peace cabinet post to research, propose and facilitate practical field-test solutions to proactively wage peaceful solutions to the problems of domestic and international conflict.

Domestically, the Peacebuilding cabinet post would support existing programs and develop new programs to address domestic violence, child and spousal abuse, mistreatment of the elderly, school bullying and violence, gang violence, racial or ethnic violence and violence against persons based upon sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, nonbinary and transgender women; and

On the international level, it would advise the president and Congress on the most innovative techniques and ideas for peace among nations. It would promote and protect human rights. It would work in coordination with existing government agencies and structures to prevent and de-escalate international conflict so that it does not erupt into armed conflict.

Feminists interested in working for the peace-building bill should contact their Representative and urge her/him to take a leadership role in moving H.R. 1111 to a hearing and floor vote. It has 36 co-sponsors and has been assigned to the House Oversight and Reform Committee.

Sign up at The Peace Alliance

In the meantime, NOW members and allies interested in working on this issue, please go to the website of the Peace Alliance at <https://peacealliance.org/> which features a Blueprint for Peace, <https://peacealliance.org/issues-advocacy/blueprint-for-peace/>, a five -minute video explaining the mission and programs of The Peace Alliance; a monthly update call, <https://peacealliance.org/national-monthly-calls/> and Peace On podcasts; tools and materials for outreach, <https://peacealliance.org/tools-education/outreach-materials-reports/> advocate for H.R. 1111, <https://peacealliance.org/issues-advocacy/department-of-peace/> and many other features to encourage you to join in peace-building.