



# Ms. President NOW

## ***Talking Points: NOW PAC's Endorsement of Hillary Clinton***

***Hillary Clinton has been a trail blazer for women with an impressive record of public service where she put women's rights at the forefront. Everywhere Clinton worked she has used her voice and power to raise the status and improve the lives of women and girls. Clinton made "women's rights are human rights" a rallying point throughout the world. Electing Hillary Clinton as the first feminist woman president is not only historic, but would fulfill the hopes and dreams of feminists everywhere.***

**Hillary supports full reproductive rights without restrictions.** When Clinton was in the Senate she voted for every abortion rights bill presented and opposed the nominations of Samuel Alito and John Roberts to be Supreme Court justices, stating that they represented the gravest threat to Roe v. Wade in history.

She has said that overturning the gag rule would be one of her first acts as President. She opposes the Hyde amendment, and in her original health care plan, Clinton proposed no religious exemptions for employers for women's health care needs.

**Hillary supports economic justice and will work to combat income inequality.** Hillary Clinton launched her campaign embracing the diversity of voters and their economic struggles. Clinton strongly supports the campaign of union members and low-wage earners who are fighting for a \$15 minimum wage.

Clinton put paid leave – after child birth or to care for a newborn or ailing relative – at the forefront of her campaign. She supports pay equity and endorsed the 2015 Paycheck Fairness Act. Clinton believes that Republican efforts to undermine or privatize Social Security are "just wrong."

In May 2015, Clinton said "The dream of upward mobility that made this country a model for the world feels further and further out of reach, and many Americans understandably feel frustrated, even angry." Clinton has talked about what she saw first-hand as Secretary of State about how income inequality has corrupted other societies.

"Equal pay is not yet equal. A woman makes \$0.77 on a dollar and women of color make \$0.67. We feel so passionately about this because we not only are running for office, but we each, in our own way, have lived it. We have seen it. We have understood the pain and the injustice that has come because of race, because of gender."

**Hillary is committed to working for racial justice.** In her first major policy speech since becoming a presidential candidate Clinton urged the "end of an era of mass incarceration" and for more body cameras to be used by law enforcement. Clinton has said, "Despite decades of advances for people of color, African Americans are still more likely to be stopped and searched by police, charged with crimes, and sentenced to longer prison terms."

Clinton deplored the "unseemly rush" to enact discriminatory laws after the Supreme Court's decision striking down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act. She has called for automatic voter registration, expansion of early voting opportunities and restoring the Voting Rights Act.

On Cinco de Mayo day, Clinton called for "a path to full and equal citizenship," stating that if Congress won't act on immigration reform, "as President I would do everything possible under the law to go even further" than President Obama.

**Hillary is committed to fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.** Shortly before the historic argument at the Supreme Court centering on marriage equality, Clinton changed the colors of her campaign logo to the colors of the rainbow. Her campaign released a statement stating that marriage equality should be a constitutional right. Clinton has acknowledged that her position on this issue has evolved, but she has stated that she is very proud of her total support of equality. As president she pledged to sign the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

As Secretary of State Clinton on Human Rights Day in 2011 declared that "gay rights are human rights" and made history by including transgender rights within that framework. Also as Secretary of State, Clinton introduced federal benefits at the State Department for same-sex spouses of foreign diplomats for the first time in history.

As Senator she voted to add sexual orientation to hate crimes legislation and helped defeat the federal marriage amendment. She criticized the Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy saying it was unworkable and quoted Barry Goldwater as saying that "You don't need to be straight to fight and die for your country. You just need to shoot straight."

**A Clinton presidency would launch a new drive for women's constitutional equality.** Speaking in Portland, Oregon before the vote on a state ERA, Clinton voiced support for that ballot measure and stated that equal rights for women should be in the constitution. As Senator she was a co-sponsor of legislation reintroducing the ERA.

In 2011, as Secretary of State Clinton issued a statement urging support for CEDAW stating "We call upon all States to ratify and fulfill their obligations under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

**Hillary has been a leader in the fight for the elimination of violence against women.** As Secretary of State Clinton spoke around the world about the need to "do everything in our power to fight violence against women, whether it is a hidden crime of domestic abuse or a blatant tactic of war." She used the platform of Secretary of State to raise international awareness of the issue stating that it is "a violation of human rights when a leading cause of death worldwide among women ages 14-44 is the violence they are subjected to in their homes." She encouraged the creation of the office of Violence Against Women at the Department of Justice. Clinton spoke frequently about how terrorist groups use violence against women as terrorism and urged sensible gun control in the United States.

**Hillary is committed to increasing women's leadership in politics and the professions.** When she withdrew from the presidential race in 2008, Clinton acknowledged the widespread support for a woman president stating "Although we weren't able to shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, thanks to you, it's got about 18 million cracks in it. And the light is shining through like never before, filling us all with the hope & the knowledge that the path will be a little easier next time."

As first lady she urged her husband to appoint a cabinet that looked like America and argued for a woman to be appointed to one of the most prominent cabinet posts

Clinton was the first chair of the American Bar Associations Commission on women in the profession which held hearings and found widespread discrimination against women in the legal profession. As a result of her study the ABA adopted an annual report card to measure the progress of women attorneys.

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