

MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS

THE FEMINIST CABLE NETWORK . . . THE NEXT STEP

10/96

WHEREAS the 1995 National Organization for Women conference unanimously passed the "Preparing for Feminist Radio Stations and the NOW Feminist Cable TV Channel" resolutions, and

WHEREAS the lack of feminist analysis in broadcast, film and print media is becoming more pronounced; and

WHEREAS women in broadcast, film and print media are too often depicted as sex objects and victims of rape, murder, and terror, and are rarely portrayed as policy makers, decision makers, or in other strong roles; and

WHEREAS the media is saturated with the message of the radical right; and

WHEREAS NOW needs a public voice, public awareness of feminist positions, a forum for feminist thought and analysis of national policy issues, and a vehicle for recording women's herstory; and

WHEREAS NOW needs a more powerful tool for recruitment, organizing and fundraising; and

WHEREAS creation of media training and job experience are crucial to NOW's ultimate goal of creating feminist broadcast, film and print media and of employment of feminist women in the mainstream media.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW form an Ad Hoc Committee and charge it with the following tasks:

1. To survey chapters and general membership as to current access to, training in or employment in broadcast, film and print media in order to form a database/contact list;
2. To develop and provide technical assistance to chapters and general membership on obtaining access to the media and producing feminist TV programs and films;
3. To develop a network to encourage exchange and syndication of feminist TV programs and films as a foundation for development of a feminist TV cable network;
4. To network with feminist professionals currently in the media to advance feminist issues and to provide visible support for their efforts and work; and
5. To work with women's funding sources to finance the grassroots projects, syndication and a feminist TV cable network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ad Hoc Committee assist NOW chapters in expanding availability of public access television throughout the country to further creation of a feminist TV cable network; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NOW encourage current NOW chapter productions in creating a feminist cable TV network (FEM TV, FCN).

PREPARING FOR FEMINIST RADIO STATIONS AND THE NOW FEMINIST CABLE TV CHANNEL

1995

WHEREAS, women, and men of color, are unfairly covered in the media; and

WHEREAS, women, and men of color, need a media vehicle to air their views and perspectives; and

WHEREAS, we have a need to compete with the "religious right" media which reaches millions of voters and raises millions of dollars;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW sub-units visualize, brainstorm and prepare in any way they deem feasible to ready themselves to make feminist radio stations and cable TV channels a reality as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW members use as inspiration the start-up of Black Entertainment Television (BET) (which started ten years ago with about \$10,000), and explore ways to raise the necessary money; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Media and Communication Committee of the National Board take

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the lead in helping this dream become a reality; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that an Issues Hearing on Media and Communications be considered for future National Conferences.

MODEL SPEECH

1/95

WHEREAS, Board Members and all NOW activists are working to build attendance at the Young Feminist Summit and the Rally on April 9, and

WHEREAS, it would be useful for activists to have a model speech convey the issues of violence against women and organizing for the rally.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Media Committee provide to the Action Center a model speech to be sent to the National Board by 2/15/95 and to the Leadership list in the next available mailing.

See Also: Violence Against Women

INVESTIGATE AND IMPLEMENT COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

1994

WHEREAS, computers, Internet, and other forms of electronic communication provide optimum communication possibilities; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of NOW members have access to computers; and

WHEREAS, young feminists affiliated with college campuses and high schools may have inexpensive access to Internet; and

WHEREAS, instantaneous communication via Internet and/or computer networks is a must in today's society and political climate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women appoint a committee to investigate the establishment of a communication system utilizing Internet and/or a similar computer network for communication between national NOW, NOW subunits, members and feminists at large.

ANHEUSER-BUSCH/NBC-TV

1/90

Moved that we send a letter of condemnation to NBC-TV and Anheuser-Busch protesting the content of the commercials for Budweiser beer and commercials for the two TV programs, "Dear John" and "Night Court," during the broadcast of the film on date rape, "Without Her Consent," on January 14, 1990. In particular, we wish to protest the provocative and defamatory references to women in those commercials which seriously undermined the message of the film.

MEDIA CAMPAIGN

3/89

Moved that the Executive Committee develop a media campaign between April 9 and July 31 if the proceeds from the March, after expenses, allow such a campaign.

ESPRIT

3/89

Moved that the National Board demand that Esprit change its marketing strategy to a campaign which does not portray children as sexual objects and demands the dismissal of the marketing executive who authorized the use of the ad on page 11 of the Spring 1989 Esprit catalog for Kids.

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Moved that the National Board authorized the Executive Committee to take any action deemed necessary in light of Esprit's response to our demand, including calling a national boycott of Esprit clothing.

CANDIDATES'/OFFICIALS' RECORDS

6/88

Moved that before National NOW issues any press releases or makes any public statements commending any elected official or candidate be considered for selection for some major role (e.g. Vice President) or to receive an honor, National shall consult with the chapter(s) and state most familiar with that person's record.

MEDIA CAMPAIGN

4/88

Moved that NOW add a line item in the budget to develop a National Media Campaign. There was an extensive discussion of the need for such a campaign, the potential benefits, and the difficulties in funding a credible campaign.

Moved that the scheduled special appeal for NOW's PACs be diverted to a special appeal for the media campaign unless, upon consultation with our direct mail advisors, it is deemed that both could be done.

METROMEDIA/CHRISTINE CRAFT

11/85

WHEREAS, Christine Craft has been a pioneer in the battle toward ending sex discrimination in the broadcasting industry; and

WHEREAS, jury trials ruled in favor of Christine Craft; and,

WHEREAS, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, consisting of a panel of three judges, overturned the jury decision, denying Craft her justice as well as her deserved monetary compensation; and

WHEREAS, NOW-LDEF and NOW have been in complete support of Craft with activities such as a NOW-LDEF amicus brief and several fundraisers; and

WHEREAS, the NOW-LDEF has further displayed their commitment to the Craft case by establishing the Women's Media Fund whose intent is to end discrimination in the media; and

WHEREAS, Metromedia owns 21 radio and TV stations in Boston, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., New York, Houston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, St. Petersburg, Baltimore, Detroit, Philadelphia and Seattle;

BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED that NOW and NOW-LDEF, as a signal to Metromedia and the broadcast industry that the discrimination must stop, will urge NOW chapters to take action against local Metromedia stations.

POLICY ON MEDIA REFORM

2/80

Motion adopted that NOW accept the following policy on media reform:

The National Organization for Women has long recognized the power of the broadcasting industry to influence our lives. Radio is an especially important medium from which the American public receives news, information and in-depth analysis on feminist and other social issues. Further, radio stations offer unique and productive employment opportunities to women and minorities.

NOW continues to believe in the validity of the basic concept encompassed in the Communications Act of 1934 -- that broadcasters hold a public trust, the airwaves. And, the scarcity of these airwaves has put a special obligation on the industry to broadcast in this public interest and necessity.

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NOW reaffirms its position that the public trusteeship standard must be maintained as a basis for awarding the licenses of and evaluating the performance of radio stations. With regard to the FCC Inquiry and Proposed Rulemaking on Radio Deregulation, NOW believes that:

Ascertainment requirements should be retained and procedures improved;

Program Logging and disclosure requirements should be retained and made a more usable tool for the public;

Stations should be required to devote no less than the currently established minimum amount of time to local community service programming and public affairs programming;

Requirements for public service announcements and sustaining time should be retained; and,

The performance of individual radio stations should be evaluated, rather than evaluating the marketwide performance of radio stations.

NOW supports the basic principle of community service broadcasting to meet the needs of a diverse public. This should not be replaced with a marketwide measure of radio performance.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

7/79

Motion adopted that NOW join the Telecommunication Consumer Coalition.

MEDIA REFORM POLICY

5/79

The National Organization for Women (NOW) has long recognized that women have a major stake in the establishment of social policy goals in the telecommunications industry. In 1971, NOW called for the Federal Communications Commission to guarantee fair treatment of women (in image, programming, news coverage and employment) in the broadcasting industry.

NOW continues to believe in the validity of the basic concept encompassed in the Communications Act of 1934 -- that broadcasters hold a public trust -- the airwaves. And, the scarcity of these airwaves has put a special obligation on the industry to broadcast in the public interest and necessity.

Since 1934, our nation has seen the development of television, cable systems, satellite communications and other technological advances. NOW supports the efforts of Congress to review the telecommunications policy of our nation in light of these advances. We support the need for an assessment of the legal and regulatory structure that governs the broadcast and cable industries.

NOW welcomes the opportunity to participate in helping to mold these new policies from a feminist perspective. We urge the Congress and federal agencies to make every possible effort to ensure that the views of a wide range of feminist organizations and public interest groups are included in the debate on the future of the telecommunications industry.

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However, reforms in this rapidly expanding industry must contain certain basic public rights including the following:

- Broadcast licenses must be regulated to provide an affirmative obligation to afford equal employment opportunities regardless of sex, race, color, creed, national origin or sexual preference;
- The regulatory agency administering telecommunications policy must be granted the authority to enforce EEO provisions and for effective review of equal employment programs;
- The public trusteeship standard must be maintained as a basis for awarding and evaluating the performance of television and radio licenses;
- Licensees must be required to ascertain the problems, needs and interests of the communities they are licensed to serve. Organizations for and of women must be considered a significant community group during the ascertainment procedures;
- Federal programs should be established to assist women in their ability to purchase and control broadcast stations;
- Licensees must be obliged, first and foremost, to cover all controversial issues for public importance. These issues must continue to be presented in a balanced, fair and accurate manner;
- Broadcast licenses must be issued for a fixed term and standards must be developed for reviewing their performance;
- Provisions must be developed for reimbursement of citizen participation in all agency proceedings that relate to telecommunications policies. Compensation for participation is especially necessary to present responsible positions that would not otherwise be present, but for such compensation;
- Candidates for public office must have equal access to radio and television broadcast facilities, whether free or on a paid basis;
- Policies on written agreements between radio and television broadcast stations and citizen groups should be developed by the regulatory agency if found to be consistent with the public interest standard of broadcasting;
- Congress should support continuing research to determine the impact of television programming and advertising on sex discrimination and sex-role stereotyping in the American society;
- Television broadcast networks should be regulated under the same public interest standards as licensees with respect to program acquisition, presentation of news and public affairs and equal employment programs;
- Specific authority must be granted to the regulatory agency to establish rules governing overall multiple ownership of broadcast stations and limiting the ownership of such stations in any market on the basis of ownership interests in other communications media such as newspapers or cable systems. Such rules should have the effect of encouraging diversity of ownership of broadcast stations including the increased ownership of stations by women and minorities;
- Public broadcasting stations receiving federal support should be accountable to the communities they serve through public advisory boards and through full financial disclosure;
- Public broadcasting provisions must insure that program time and resources be utilized to support and encourage the diversity of American talent and creativity. Such provisions must encourage the equal participation of women and minorities in such public activities;
- Cable television should be regulated under telecommunications legislation as an alternative to, and competitor of, commercial television;
- Ownership of cable systems by diverse groups, including non-profit, local, minority, feminist, cooperative and governmental, should be promoted;
- Cable systems should be required to provide adequate channel space for use by public interest groups in the community they serve;

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- Access to facilities of cable television systems should be on an equal and non-discriminatory basis;
- Owners or operators of cable systems should exercise no controls over program content presented by other persons on the cable system;
- The regulatory agency responsible for enforcing telecommunications policy should also be granted the authority to require equal employment rules of communications industries other than broadcasting whose policies are regulated by the agency. This includes common carriers, telephone and satellite operators, cable operators and other telecommunications companies.

COALITION FOR PUBLIC RIGHTS IN BROADCASTING

5/79

Motion adopted that NOW join the Coalition for Public Rights in Broadcasting.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MEDIA REFORM COMMITTEE

1977

WHEREAS, a continuing concern of NOW has been the mass media -- television, radio, newspapers, books, magazines, films, music, advertising -- and the influence of their powerful mechanisms for persuasion on attitudes and behaviors of people toward women and children;

AND, in spite of the concerted efforts of NOW during the first decade, the media continue to be overwhelmingly sexist as revealed by:

- Extensive employment discrimination against women in management, professional, technical, and ownership positions;
- Stereotyped, unrealistic, and derogatory roles in which women and children are usually portrayed;
- The pervasive use of women and children as victims of violence in the media, and women's bodies are routinely used in an exploitative or pornographic manner;
- Casual, comic or trivialized treatment of women in news stories and programs; women are rarely shown as newsmakers or experts; news about feminist issues and the feminist movement is generally sensationalized or ignored;
- Stereotyped and derogatory characterizations of women and children in advertising;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW reaffirm its concern of the impact and policies of the mass media and replace the existing Media Reform Task Force with a National Media Reform Committee to perform the following tasks;

1. Investigate media activities both in employment and portrayal of women;
2. Participate in the development and formation of federal, state, and local telecommunications policies in regulatory and administrative agencies, Congress and state legislative bodies, executive branches of government, and corporation stockholder meetings;
3. Develop action campaigns attacking the patterns and practices of employment discrimination in the media;
4. Develop action strategies for improving the negative and stereotyped portrayal of women and children in the mass media.

The National Media Reform Committee of NOW shall be composed of a chair and eight members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Board. Insofar as possible, the committee members shall represent the nine NOW regions. The National Committee shall be responsible for recruiting regional, state and chapter committees; identifying those that already exist; and developing a program for accomplishing its assigned tasks. The National Committee shall be responsible for communicating by mail with all levels, and the regional members shall be responsible of conducting workshops at their respective Regional NOW Conferences and for recruiting and training workshop leaders for State NOW Conferences.

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The National Committee shall coordinate, communicate, and cooperate with the National Public Relations Committee and other related National Committees or Task Forces at national and other levels.

DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE MEDIA

1971

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission's regulations and rulings have a major impact on our culture, and

WHEREAS, the broadcast industry is dominated by males, and

WHEREAS, women are discriminated against in virtually every category in the media, particularly in management, technical, crafts and on air broadcasting,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NOW Federal Communications Commission Committee be expanded to be able to provide assistance to local chapters to collect evidence gathered by local chapters documenting discrimination by offending broadcasting stations (radio and TV), to file necessary petitions to deny licenses of offending stations, and to insure that the FCC guarantee fair treatment of women (image, programming, and employment) in the broadcasting industry.

MEDIA RESPONSIBILITIES IN ELECTIONS

1971

WHEREAS, television and radio play primary roles in informing and influencing citizens about political campaigns,

WHEREAS, these media should serve the needs of all the people but do not necessarily do so because of high costs, and

WHEREAS, networks and independent and local stations have not seen fit to provide equal time for all candidates,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW urge the FCC to require stations to allot prime time as "people's time," so that all candidates may be heard equally, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW demand legislation that would compel all stations to furnish free and equal time in the public interest.

CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING IN THE MEDIA

1970

We propose the following actions and reforms:

1. Citizen's suit for equal time for feminist views on TV and radio.
2. FCC complaints against unfair representations about women.
3. NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund; seek grant for commercials for a positive image of women (analogous to anti-cigarette ads).
4. NOW decries sex role stereotypes presented on educational TV and calls for a meeting between producers of Sesame Street and feminist psychologists and writers.
5. Establish a committee for awards to movies, etc. for honest portrayal of women as human beings and for progress toward eliminating male-female stereotypes.
6. Call for more women media executives.
7. Organize and educate women already in media. Work toward getting them into NOW.
8. Call for more women on news and substantive programs on TV networks.
9. At chapter meetings, conduct letter-writing campaigns to companies with particularly obnoxious commercials.
10. Stickers on ads - "this ad is offensive to women."

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11. Every member should write letters commending fair coverage of the women's movement (and encourage any effort in that direction).
12. NOW has reached the point where we can complain to newspapers about unfair or dishonest or snickering treatment and the reporter, male or female, who writes such an article should receive no further cooperation. The committee unanimously adopted a motion to urge cooperation with an honest reporter, male or female.
13. Techniques for improving coverage in the media:
 - Picket newsstands urging boycotts of particularly obnoxious newspapers;
 - NOW news conferences should be scheduled at 9 a.m. if possible, and scheduling of other NOW events should take competing news into consideration.
14. Investigate the power of sit-ins to encourage the media to be fairer to women. Ladies Home Journal sit-in produced a number of desirable changes.

IMAGE OF WOMEN IN MASS MEDIA

1968

RESOLVED that NOW members and friends implement a Creative Complaining Project.

MENTAL HEALTH

PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSES

1986

WHEREAS, there will be serious harm done to women by the newly proposed DSM-III-R diagnoses: Premenstrual Dysphoric Mood Disorder, Paraphilic Coercive Disorder, Sadistic Personality Disorder, and Self-defeating Personality Disorder; and

WHEREAS, sufficient empirical data have not demonstrated that such diagnoses can differentiate any woman from those who have mental disorders or those who demonstrate criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, inclusion of these diagnoses will further victimize women;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women at its 20th Anniversary National Conference in Denver, Colorado, June 13 - 15, 1986, deplores the diagnoses, Premenstrual Dysphoric Mood Disorder, Paraphilic Coercive Disorder, Sadistic Personality Disorder, and Self-defeating Personality Disorder and demands that they not be included in the proposed DSM-III-R; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NOW National President send a letter so informing the American Psychiatric Association, 1400 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, and encourages all NOW chapters to take appropriate action to widely publicize this impending danger to women.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE

8/76

Motion adopted that the National Organization for Women form a Task Force on Mental Health to combat forced psychiatric procedures, to investigate alternatives, and to raise the consciousness of the professionals to the particular vulnerability of women due to sex role stereotyping.

MILITARY

9/95

Moved that the NOW Action Center issue a proclamation recognizing the history-making effort of Shannon Faulkner to integrate the Citadel Military Academy and thank her for her courage and strength in working to eliminate discrimination against women.

LIFT THE BAN

1993

WHEREAS, the ban against lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals serving in the military disproportionately affects lesbians, bisexual women and those women perceived as such; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women has a strong history of opposing all forms of discrimination against lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals; and

WHEREAS, the Clinton administration and the Democratic controlled Congress has wholly failed to take a strong position opposing discrimination against lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in the military and appear willing to deny equal treatment for our lesbian, gay and bisexual service members;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women strongly opposes any compromise that denies lesbians, gay men and bisexuals the right to equal treatment and civil within the military;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and the military decriminalize sodomy by repealing article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, since this article is used primarily against lesbians, gay men and bisexuals even though this law clearly applies to both homosexuals heterosexuals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women calls on President Clinton to follow through on his campaign pledge to totally lift the ban on lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in the military;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the ban on lesbians, gay men and bisexuals serving in the military is not fully and completely lifted, the National Organization for Women will embark on a campaign of direct action, including civil disobedience, to demonstrate to President Clinton and Congress our outrage, and that these actions include veterans to further illustrate the irrational discriminatory impact of the ban on peoples' lives and careers.

LESBIANS AND GAYS IN THE MILITARY

2/93

WHEREAS, President Clinton has taken the first steps toward ending discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the military; and

WHEREAS, the response to this modest initiative has included a vitriolic, mean-spirited smear campaign designed to foster the impression that lesbians and gay men are undeserving of basic human rights and simple dignity; and

WHEREAS, this shameful assault is directly linked to the continuing oppression of women, members of racial and ethnic minorities, and others viewed as being outside of the mainstream; and

WHEREAS, the actions of the administration and Congress on this issue will provide a clear indication of the depth of their commitment to fundamental justice.

THEREFORE, the National Organization for Women demands that President Clinton and Congress support an unequivocal ban on discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the military and that they reject such insulting alternatives as segregated units and restricted duties. Nothing less than full equality is acceptable.

MILITARY

TAILHOOK INCIDENT

1992

WHEREAS, at the Tailhook Association convention in September 1991, Navy aviators surrounded unsuspecting female guests, including 14 female Navy officers, and passed them down a gauntlet, grabbing at their breasts and buttocks, attempting to strip off their clothes, and jeering and taunting; and

WHEREAS, the publicity surrounding the Tailhook Association incident reveals an attitude of contempt toward women held by many military men and tolerated by much of the military leadership; and

WHEREAS this practice has occurred since 1986 with the knowledge of senior military leaders; and

WHEREAS, military leaders did not take the women's reports of the incident seriously and the perpetrators and others aware of the incident obstructed the investigation; and

WHEREAS, high-ranking officers have long been aware of the pervasive nature of sexual harassment of military women as evidenced by a Department of Defense report showing that in a single year 64% of all military women had experienced some form of sexual harassment, but yet these leaders have given little more than lip service toward addressing the problem; and

WHEREAS, a primary purpose of sexual harassment in the military, as elsewhere, is to ensure that men will not have to compete on fair terms with women; and

WHEREAS, the combat exclusion policies, by precluding women from the core functions of the military, define women as marginal service members, thereby fostering sexual harassment and denying women their right to full citizenship;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women denounce the Tailhook incident and the subsequent handling of the investigation as contemptible, and demand a thorough and objective investigation, together with full enforcement of DoD policies against sexual harassment and the appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW again call on Congress, the President, and DoD to repeal the combat exclusion law and all combat exclusion policies and immediately begin full integration of women into all positions in the Armed Forces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW commend Lt. Paula Coughlin and others like her for their remarkable courage in speaking out about the victimization of women in the Tailhook incident.

See Also: Violence Against Women

MILITARY WITCH HUNTS

1992

WHEREAS, since the Persian Gulf War the military has stepped up the "witch hunts" forcing lesbians out of the military; and

WHEREAS, in 1990 the military spent 27 million dollars to prosecute, discharge and replace service members who are otherwise fully qualified to serve; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense policy systematically intimidates and controls women; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Cammermeyer, who was awarded a bronze star, served two tours in Vietnam, was selected Nurse of the year in 1985, and has over 26 years of exemplary military service, is one of the most recent service persons to be unjustly discharged;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW strongly supports H.R. 5208, sponsored by Representative Pat Schroeder, which will prohibit discrimination in the military based on sexual orientation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW initiate actions in support of Colonel Cammermeyer and other women who are facing military investigation and discharge based on their sexual orientation.

See Also: Lesbian and Gay Rights

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

9/90

WHEREAS, during the Equal Rights Amendment fight, our opposition effectively fanned the flames of fear that women would be drafted and thrown into foxholes in some strange and distant country; and

WHEREAS, with women soldiers playing a more significant role in the Persian Gulf than ever before in our military history, we may have an unprecedented opportunity to bring to an end the long debate over whether women should be in combat, to expand career opportunities for women in the military and to remove what has been an overwhelming obstacle to women's equality and the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, exclusion of women from positions arbitrarily defined as "combat" is based on archaic ideas of what women and men are physically and emotionally capable of doing and outdated ideas of what modern military theory and combat are; and

WHEREAS, the definition of "combat" is ambiguous and varies from branch to branch; armed conflicts since World War II rarely involve readily definable front-lines, rear echelon units may be a 30 second missile flight from the so-called front-line, and in modern military theory rear support troops are destroyed first before assaulting those up front; and

WHEREAS, the combat exclusion does not protect women; 80-90% of the casualties in conflicts since World War II have been civilians and the majority have been women and children; women and children are subjected to violence every day on the streets and in our homes; rather than creating restrictions on women under the guise and illusion of protection, we would all be better protected by seeking diplomatic, economic and other non-violent ways to resolve international differences other than armed conflict; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of women from combat in the modern military is a fraud only to perpetuate a second class status of women in the military; economically and educationally disadvantaged young women cannot use the armed services, which are the largest vocational training grounds in the U.S., in the same way young men can to help themselves; young men can join, get training, a possibility of pension and often veterans preferences in hiring when they leave the military; young women face higher entrance requirements and quotas limiting the numbers of women who get into the military -- and once they get in, women receive less training and fewer promotions; women are almost 11% of the military, but fill only .9% of the military's top 1000 officers' jobs and only about .8% of the top 15,000 senior enlisted positions; and

WHEREAS, the combat exclusion hurts our country's defense and foreign policy; women are effectively eliminated from most high ranking leadership positions in the military by being excluded from career enhancing, command positions defined as "combat"; and with women's perspective missing from the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other military policy bodies, our country's public policy is poorer; and

WHEREAS, all of us are better protected when those serving in the military are selected based on their individual strength and ability to do the job and not on an automatic presumption that all men and no women are qualified for the 50% of the military jobs defined as "combat";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW demands equality for women in joining the military and in training, job assignments and benefits in the military; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW actively supports elimination of statutory restrictions on women in the military.

MOTHERS LIBERATION

NOW ACTION ALERT ON “FATHERS’ RIGHTS”

1996

WHEREAS organizations advocating “fathers’ rights,” whose members consist of non-custodial parents, their attorneys and their allies, are a growing force in our country; and

WHEREAS the objectives of these groups are to increase restrictions and limits on custodial parents’ rights and to decrease child support obligations of non-custodial parents by using the abuse of power in order to control in the same fashion as do batterers; and

WHEREAS these groups are fulfilling their objectives by forming political alliances with conservative Republican legislators and others and by working for the adoption of legislation such as presumption of joint custody, penalties for “false reporting” of domestic and child abuse and mediation instead of court hearings; and

WHEREAS the success of these groups will be harmful to all women but especially harmful to battered and abused women and children; and

WHEREAS the efforts of well-financed “fathers’ rights” groups are expanding from a few states into many more, sharing research and tactics state by state; and

WHEREAS many judges and attorneys are still biased against women and fathers are awarded custody 70% of the time when they seek it per the Association of Child Enforcement Support (ACES);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women (NOW) begin a national alert to inform members about these “fathers’ rights” groups and their objectives through articles in the *National Now Times* (NNT); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as a part of this alert, NOW establish a clearinghouse for related information by sharing with NOW state and local Chapters the available means to challenge such groups, including the current research on custody and support, sample legislation, expert witnesses, and work done by NOW and other groups in states where “fathers’ rights” groups have been active; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW encourage state and local Chapters to conduct and coordinate divorce/custody court watch projects to facilitate removal of biased judges; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW report to the 1997 National Conference on the status and result of this national alert whereupon its continuation or expansion will be considered.

See Also: Judges/Law

USING MOTHER'S DAY AS A TOOL TO AFFIRM MOTHERS

1994

WHEREAS, the struggles of women with children are increasing as our economy deteriorates; and

WHEREAS, in this period of economic deterioration, the right-wing is using fear and confusion to further intimidate women in their roles as mothers; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the National Organization for Women articulate the real needs of mothers for economic security, respect, affordable quality child care, and health care, and put forward a vision of a society in which the community cares about every child, and women and men play equal roles in the care and nurturing of children; and

WHEREAS, Mother's Day provides a perfect opportunity to raise the real needs of mothers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women begin a campaign to use Mother's Day as a forum to promote feminist family values by encouraging chapters to do Mother's Day actions such as signature ads, demonstrations, letter writing campaigns, and teach-ins; and by sending out an action kit prepared by the Mothers Liberation Conference Implementation Committee and National NOW.

MOTHERS LIBERATION

MOTHERS' LIBERATION

1993

WHEREAS, 70% of adult women (age 15 and over) are mothers; and

WHEREAS, although the work of raising children is vitally important and deeply rewarding, those who perform this job are expected to work 24 hours a day without pay or time off, and are not even considered to be working; and

WHEREAS, although many fathers want to share equally in the work of parenting, economic and social conditions as well as sex role conditioning force fathers into a secondary role and mothers into the primary role; and

WHEREAS, progress to be made in allowing, encouraging, and expecting fathers to take equal responsibility for raising children; and

WHEREAS, the raising of healthy and happy children benefits the entire society, and the society should therefore provide adequate support to the caretakers of children; and

WHEREAS, there is a double standard being applied to mothers in which middle and upper class mothers are told they should quit their jobs for the sake of their children, and poor mothers are told that they are lazy and a burden on society when they stay home to raise their children; and

WHEREAS, there is little recognition of the existing diversity of family types and child raising practices; and

WHEREAS, women who have children often engage in on-going struggles to obtain childcare, adequate income, fair treatment by employees, and maintain good relationship, escape abusive ones, rest, raise their children well and in a non-sexist manner; and

WHEREAS, little change in these conditions will occur unless mothers organize themselves as a constituency within the women's movement; and

WHEREAS, by addressing the needs of mothers, the National Organization for Women will attract many women as members who find themselves dissatisfied with the choices they face and will retain more activists who become mothers; and

WHEREAS, NOW's goal of bringing women into the mainstream of society as full equals cannot be reached for women with children without substantial changes in the way mother are treated; and

WHEREAS, NOW has recognized the need for other female constituencies to focus attention on their special conditions, such as women of color, lesbians, and young feminists;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- 1) NOW establish a Mothers Liberation Conference Implementation Committee,
- 2) Future National NOW conferences will have an issue hearing for mothers' liberation,
- 3) NOW develop materials for chapters to raise awareness of and take action for mothers' liberation, and
- 4) NOW work toward holding a national conference on the status of mothers in the next 3 years.

OLDER WOMEN'S RIGHTS

SOCIAL SECURITY

1990

WHEREAS, women have always earned less than men and have been denied access to economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, older women are far more likely to live at or near poverty than are older men with retired women workers averaging only 76 cents to every dollar male retired workers receive; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women has as one of its highest priorities moving women out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, women who choose to be homemakers have no Social Security account of their own but receive Social Security only and always as a dependent of men;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this inequity be compensated for in calculating Social Security benefits for women. Calculated benefits would include credit for years spent on unpaid work in the home; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW place emphasis on the need to reform Social Security with the objective of achieving equity for women by:

1. moving the earnings sharing proposal, designed to assure that all homemakers have their own Social Security account, from the shelf where it presently sits to the floor of Congress;
2. until such time as the earnings sharing is instituted, NOW supports HR4422 which will eliminate the two year waiting period divorced wives must now endure before drawing the dependent benefit even if they are over 62 years of age;
3. supporting the right of good faith spouses to dependent benefits as if they are legal spouses; and
4. supporting HR2731 and S2290 which will remove barriers to the rights of disabled widows and widowers to disability benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Social Security funds not be used for purposes other than Social Security payments.

PROPOSED MANDATORY RETIREMENT RESOLUTION

3/89

WHEREAS, the Federal government has eliminated mandatory retirement because of age for almost everyone in the United States; and

WHEREAS, an exception the law still permits college faculty to be forced into retirement at age 70; and

WHEREAS, many colleges and universities are implementing such policies; and

WHEREAS, the majority of these faculty members are still capable of productive and useful service; and

WHEREAS, the majority of these faculty, like the majority of older Americans, are women; and

WHEREAS, sufficient means exist to deal with the occasional faculty member who may no longer be capable of satisfactory performance, without the need for discriminating against an entire class;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women is opposed to all mandatory retirement because of age, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will publicize this opposition in the NNT, and will publicly support any appropriate future legislation or court cases which seek to end such discrimination.

WOMEN AND AGING

1988

WHEREAS, the NOW 1985 National Conference passed a resolution called "Greater Awareness of Older Women's Issues", and

WHEREAS, that resolution required "the formation of a National Task Force to work with state and local

OLDER WOMEN'S RIGHTS

units to form task forces to work on issues of particular concern to older women."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Conference reaffirms the intent of the resolution of the 1985 NOW National Conference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the opening of the chair of a National CIC on Women and Aging be advertised in an every member NOW publication within six months of this Conference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Board conduct a national search for candidates for this position and present the results in an every member NOW publication within a year of this Conference.

GREATER AWARENESS OF OLDER WOMEN'S ISSUES

1985

WHEREAS, older women are challenged by the double burden of ageism and sexism; and

WHEREAS, society perceives the older woman as obsolete rather than an under-utilized resource; and

WHEREAS, the Reagan administration is continuing its assault on the elderly through cutbacks in social services; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing percentage of midlife and older women in America are more and more likely to face their later years without adequate income, housing or health care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women reaffirms its commitment to work to improve the lives of midlife and older women through both legislation and raising society's consciousness of aging; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women develop a National Task Force to work with state and local units to form committees and/or task forces to work on issues of particular concern to older women; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that NOW include work to ensure the continuation of group health and disability insurance in the case of death or divorce of a spouse/partner in this program.

REFORMING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

1985

WHEREAS, the poverty rate for women over 65 years of age is 60 percent higher than it is for older men; and

WHEREAS, 85 percent of all single persons over 65 who live below the poverty level are women; and

WHEREAS, Social Security benefits for these woman are the major and frequently the only source of support; and

WHEREAS, Medicare does not pay for treatment of chronic disabilities, dental care and/or eyeglasses; and

WHEREAS, the elderly are forced to contribute significant amounts of their social security benefits to pay for such treatments and third party insurance to supplement Medicare;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women in all its units consider the needs of older women a priority issue, and take action on presently proposed and future legislation to see that the Social Security system is both preserved and reformed; and that Medicare be expanded and not undermined; that local chapters of NOW lobby their own legislators for these purposes; and that national officers of NOW continue to speak out on the problems of older women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Social Security system, including Medicare, be modernized and reformed to take into account the needs of women in the following ways:

1. Inequities which result from Social Security benefits being based on earnings--which are lower for women because of discriminatory practices-- must be eliminated.
2. Women must not be penalized in Social Security benefits for the years spent in unpaid work in the home.
3. Establishing a basic floor of protection for Social Security benefits based on realistic

OLDER WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- assessments of costs of necessities for the elderly as they pertain to the area in which the recipient resides.
4. Expanding Medicare to provide quality medical care at a time when it is most needed without first pauperizing the recipient.
 5. Giving top priority to implementing these adjustments immediately to ensure the survival of the frailest and most vulnerable of the population.
 6. If adequate funding cannot be provided under the present system, then the general funds of the United States Treasury should be utilized to assure that there is no loss or reduction of benefits and that the reforms can be carried out.
 7. The federal government should propose a system whereby Medicare can be taken out of the Social Security Trust Fund and instead become a part of a national system of health insurance financed in such a way to become a health system for all survivors.
 8. And, that until an actuarially sound system is established, any expanding costs for Medicare be financed from the investment profit which the insurance companies which currently underwrite Medicare realize each year.

WOMEN IN NURSING HOMES (In Memory of Alice Paul)

1978

WHEREAS, more than half the institutionalized patients in this country are in nursing homes, and 3 out of 4 of those patients are women, probably numbering more than 1 1/2 million; and

WHEREAS, almost all the care of nursing home patients is given by women workers, possibly numbering half of a million persons; and

WHEREAS, almost all of these patients and all of the workers are women in poverty, many on welfare; and

WHEREAS, nursing home aide is one of the few jobs available to very young women, minority women and displaced homemakers; and

WHEREAS, the yearly nursing home bill is \$7.5 billion plus, an increase of 1400% since 1960, and more than 50 federal programs aid nursing homes (few industries are so wedded to the federal government); and

WHEREAS, nursing home aides are literally hired off the street, paid minimum wages or a little more, work under intolerable conditions and have a turnover rate of 75% -- just when patients most need stable, devoted care, and incalculable patient suffering occurs because of the poverty, lack of training, misery and turnover of workers; and

WHEREAS, one out of five women end their days in a nursing home, where they often lose their basic human rights -- as did Alice Paul.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women declare the present nursing home situation a social crime against all women; and

FURTHER, that a special committee be designated on a national level to develop a strategy to tackle the problem from a feminist perspective to include persons interested in women and poverty, trade unions, health, minorities and older women; and

FURTHER, that chapters be encouraged to initiate action based upon materials developed by this committee, so that this social crime can be brought out into the open, as was the issue of the battered women; and

FURTHER, that NOW reaches out to: other women's organizations; to activists on aging such as the Gray Panthers, the National Council on Senior Citizens, and the National Council on Aging; to trade unionists and organizations of minorities on this issue.

OLDER WOMEN'S RIGHTS

GENERAL POLICY

1974

WHEREAS...the negative images that are called ageism are not dissimilar to sexism; dependence; having someone speak in one's behalf instead of speaking for oneself; being told to step aside to make room for someone else who is more entitled to whatever it is one wants -- a job, recognition, opportunity, self-growth...

AND WHEREAS...sexism is compounded with ageism as a woman grows older, and women experience the negative effects of age discrimination at an earlier age, so that there is a double standard of aging in our society...

AND WHEREAS...women live longer than men (average life expectancy for males is 67 years, for females, 74 years) and women greatly outnumber men in later years (1,000 elderly women to 722 men), and the outlook is for continued growth of the older population, with a declining ratio of men to women...

AND WHEREAS...technological and social changes continue to erode the jobs, status and social role of older persons, especially women (such as the decline of the family farm and extended family) thereby increasing the dependency of older persons, with the consequent feeling of uselessness...

AND WHEREAS...aging is a hush-hush subject except as a "social problem" -- something to fear alone before the mirror but seldom planned for in a realistic way (we hide our ages, until at the arbitrary age of 65 we are eligible for meager benefits...)

AND WHEREAS...many older women who accepted the social dictum of marriage as a career now find themselves suddenly forced to fend for themselves, or are threatened with that eventuality...

AND WHEREAS...jobs are as important to older people as to any other segment of the population and for the same reasons: economic independence, to live better, to have something worthwhile to do and for a sense of self-worth. And older women experience virulent job discrimination especially in those fields where women are supposed to serve a decorative function. And older women are expected to perform the least desirable jobs at the lowest wages, and be grateful for them...

AND WHEREAS...women who have endured a half century of challenge, who grew up in the depression and who reared children alone during World War II, who "manned" machines in war factories, who were unsung heroines in military services who managed households on rationed foodstuffs, who lost sons and husbands in three wars, and often had to start anew -- now in their middle years are seen as passive and dependent creatures, "over the hill" in the job market and too old to be retained...

AND WHEREAS...women who have raised children and are about to embark upon new projects related to their own self-growth and independence often face a new round of responsibilities for elderly relatives who are victims of a callous social attitude toward aging (it is seldom the man who takes on day-to-day care of his own or his wife's parents)...

AND WHEREAS...our health delivery system is a disgrace for an advanced country, preventative medicine practically unheard of, and old people (especially old women) are given lowest priority and age is considered a disease from which no one will ever recover, so that complaints are no longer listened to; pains are attributed to aging, not illness; depression to senility; and anger to senile psychosis...

AND WHEREAS...menopause is another hush-hush subject that has been brushed aside by the male-dominated medical profession, and myths of raging hormones go unchallenged by research (except recently by feminists)...

AND WHEREAS...the sexuality of middle aged and elderly women has been consistently denied, ignored, derided, feared and poorly understood. It is socially acceptable for older men to pair off with younger women, while the reverse is ridiculed (despite the fact that male sexuality is known to peak at a much younger age than female sexuality). Moral standards for sexual behavior have changed for everyone except older women, while, at the same time, many women are forced, against their will, to live without benefit of marriage, because of social security penalties and punitive wills. While the bachelor is sought after, the "spinster" is still shunned...

OLDER WOMEN'S RIGHTS

AND WHEREAS...in order to achieve our feminist goals we need to build a personhood that crosses age barriers and bridges generation gaps as well as one that helps to overcome racial, ethnic, religious and class differences, all of which serve to keep us separate and powerless..

AND WHEREAS...we will all get old, if we live so long...

THAT...we affirm the positive values that maturity brings, the relevance of life experiences, and we are determined to combat ageism in its many manifestations.

THAT...we support more equitable social security for women. While we work for immediate increases and against inequities, we advocate more basic changes, such as recognition of the financial value of non-paid work in the home and community by allowing women to accumulate credits under the social security system in their own names (women should be eligible for income maintenance because they have earned it, not because they are dependents)..

THAT...we work for pension law reforms: such as early investing, protection of survivors, pro-rate coverage for part time work, etc....

THAT...we urge women of all ages to plan ahead to accept responsibility for their own lives, so that they can look forward to a future less bleak than that of most older women today...and we will work for realistic counseling, education and training to provide essential safeguards as women move from dependency to liberation...

THAT...we demand the right to earn a livelihood and to be economically independent. We will combat age discrimination in employment by working for enforcement of existing legislation (such as the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967) while working to include proscriptions against age discrimination in other legislation designed to provide equal opportunity for all persons...

THAT...we demand government funded programs providing decent jobs for older women to replace women now exploited as volunteers...

THAT...we recognize and encourage as many choices for older women as for any others: in housing, in lifestyle, in sex, in sexual orientation, in education, in recreation. We value the contribution of the woman who elects homemaking as a career (if that is her choice) just as we value those who choose other occupations. We will work to raise the status of homemaking (its rating as an occupation assignment of monetary value in the GNP: tangible rewards such as tax benefits...)

THAT...we recognize that many older women have invested years of (non-paid) labor in marriage, with expectation of social and economic security in their futures. We will work to protect their interests as divorce laws and customs change, so that they do not become victims of unwelcomed "liberations"...

THAT...we will work for a more humane health delivery system that will value a person's well-being at any age. Specifically, we seek alternatives to profit-run nursing homes, and meanwhile will work for more stringent regulations of current ones. We seek financially supported research by feminists on menopause, preventive medicine and creative aging...

THAT...we demand a voice in all the institutions that "serve" us, and treatment as full human beings, without condescension...

THAT...we strongly urge local chapters to organize local task forces to raise the consciousness both inside and outside of NOW to the problems of ageism and the older woman, as well as to implement programs based on the above...

THAT...we demand that the Board designate an employee of the National Office to work full-time on implementing the mandate of NOW Conferences on Women in Poverty resolutions, including older women.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE

1973

BE IT RESOLVED that NOW establish a Task Force on Older Women, the functions of which shall include:

OLDER WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- 1) to investigate how women can document cases of age discrimination
- 2) to give attention to a "supportive community" for older women; e.g., alternative life styles
- 3) to promote affirmative action legislation to insure that employers have proportionate percentages for older women to develop a policy regarding the issue of equitable Social Security benefits for all women, including housewives, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sixth Conference recommend that NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund support test cases on discrimination against women on the basis of age; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixth National Conference of NOW go on record attacking the cult of youth which applies mostly to women.

OTHER

HONORING ALICE COHAN

12/94

WHEREAS, Alice Cohan has been a chapter, state, and national NOW activist for over 20 years and has contributed mightily to the accomplishments and reputation of our organization and of the women's movement; and

WHEREAS, Cohan came to the National Action Center 1977 as one of its earliest employees after years of service to New Jersey NOW and as a National Board Member; and

WHEREAS, Cohan has been involved in planning every major action, working on every political strategy and coordinating the political direction of NOW for 17 years;

WHEREAS, her tireless work for the Equal Rights Amendment throughout the country brought us so very close to victory; and

WHEREAS, Cohan has devoted her life to equality for women.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Board of NOW thank Alice Cohan for her years of service and tireless efforts for NOW and wish her the best in her new position with the Feminist Majority.

HONORING DIXIE JOHNSON

12/94

WHEREAS, Dixie Johnson is a long time NOW activists who served as President of Washington NOW as well as Chair of the National Consciousness Raising Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Dixie Johnson was a valued employee and resident desktop publishing wizard of NOW for over 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Dixie was the backbone of eight National Conferences, many issue conferences, as well as a key organizer in the National office; and

WHEREAS, Dixie Johnson, the Cosmic Conference Crone, is the first NOW staffer to retire.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Board of NOW thank Dixie Johnson for her many years of activism and service and for her many contributions to the organization, wish her the best in "retirement" and encourage her further involvement with the organization in every way possible.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING ANNABELLE LUNDY FETTERMAN, WORKING WOMAN BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

1994

WHEREAS, Working Woman magazine has named Annabelle Lundy Fetterman, Chair of Lundy Packing Company, Clinton, North Carolina, as one of their "Businesswomen of the Year" several times, most recently May, 1994; and

WHEREAS, 27 workers have contracted brucellosis at the Lundy Packing Company, accounting for one-half of all of the swine brucellosis cases reported across the nation in 1993; and

WHEREAS, brucellosis, which is spread from freshly slaughtered animals to humans, is a rare illness but, if not diagnosed and treated early, often becomes seriously debilitating; and

WHEREAS, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the North Carolina Department of Labor fined Lundy in January, 1994, \$13,500 for health and safety violations found during a six-month investigation and approximately half of the OSHA fine was linked to the company failure to protect workers from exposure to brucellosis; and

WHEREAS, this action came after workers trying to organize a union criticized several regulatory agencies for failing to take strong measures to stop the brucellosis outbreak; and

WHEREAS, Lundy chairman Annabelle Lundy Fetterman has refused to limit her hog supply by restricting buying to brucellosis-free herds;

OTHER

WHEREAS, Senator Lauch Faircloth owns more than \$1 million worth of stock in Lundy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women urge Senator Lauch Faircloth to pressure Lundy Packing Company to comply with OSHA regulations, limit its hog supply to brucellosis-free herds, and that it begin immediately to improve working conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW strongly urge Working Woman magazine to adopt and publicize a policy of heavily weighing factors pertaining to the good citizenship and social responsibility of businesswomen it honors and holds up as role models for other working women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW strongly urge Working Woman to publish a comprehensive article on working conditions for all workers at the Lundy packing plant; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW strongly urge Working Woman to withdraw its award from Annabelle Fetterman.

ALLEN PARKWAY VILLAGE

12/93

WHEREAS, the residents of low rent housing, Allen Parkway Village of Houston, Texas, are being relocated from their long-term homes and residents making their home here for 25 years are being relocated to tear down and destroy their homes, and

WHEREAS, this is prime property. This very insensitive act by the City of Houston Housing Authority is unacceptable.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National NOW Board phone, fax or write letters in support of the residents of Allen Parkway Village to keep their homes. Communication should go to Henry Cisneros, Secretary of HUD, Representative Henry B. Gonzales, (D) Texas, and Mayor Bob Lanier of Houston.

FEMINIST CHRONICLES COMMENDATION

12/93

"NOW commends Toni Carabillo, Judith Meuli and June Bundy Csida for the completion of their 13-year work, Feminist Chronicles 1953-1993, which features the work and ideas of the National Organization for Women, its chapters and activists. We especially commend Toni Carabillo who was the first and founding president of Los Angeles NOW and the first National VP in charge of PR with NOW and Judith Meuli, also a pioneer for NOW, whose love, dedication and commitment to NOW and feminism make this work which will provide this and future generations knowledge of NOW's depth and diversity and makes our work possible."

ANTI-SIZE DISCRIMINATION RESOLUTION

1990

WHEREAS, fat people face daily discrimination in the areas of employment, insurance, health care, education, adoption, access, and social interaction;

WHEREAS, women are the main victims of discrimination based on size;

WHEREAS, society's obsession with thinness has led to epidemic proportions of young women and men suffering from eating disorders and that eating disorders continue to grow and are known to contribute to extremely hazardous health conditions;

BE IT RESOLVED, that National NOW shall be officially on record as opposing all size discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW shall make a public statement condemning size discrimination, especially in areas of employment, insurance, health care, education, adoption, and access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that National NOW shall be in favor of adding "size" or "height and weight" to the protected categories under existing equal opportunity laws and regulation; and

OTHER

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW shall endorse future local, state, or federal laws which ban such discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Board send this resolution to the 1990 National Conference and urge its adoption by the Conference.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

1/88

Moved that the officers of NOW express our outrage at the lack of support by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights for our issues by sending a letter to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights' Executive Committee and that this statement be made public.

HANDS ACROSS AMERICA

2/86

NOW endorses Hands Across America.

WORLD'S FAIR

12/82

Women's pavilion at the World's Fair -- Moved that NOW join the committee of 100 Organizations (cost \$100) and permit New Orleans NOW to designate the representative to that committee.

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON NUCLEAR POWER

2/80

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women declares nuclear power to be a threat to the health and reproductive rights of people. Be it further resolved that NOW adopts a position against the use of nuclear power in favor of safer energy methods. The Board intends that NOW may add its name to the list of organizations opposing nuclear power, but does not wish to commit NOW time or NOW resources to this issue.

PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE

5/79

Moved that NOW join the Progressive Alliance.

COMMITTEE PLACEMENT

10/78

Motion adopted that Rural Women's Committee be included under the Societal Equality Committee.

RURAL WOMEN -- GENERAL RESOLUTION

1978

WHEREAS, one-third of the United States population is made up of rural Americans; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the unratified states are predominately rural (the average being 70% as per the U.S. Census Bureau Report of 1970);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women establish a Rural Women's Committee which shall be charged with the following tasks:

1. Gather information about rural women.
2. Strategize passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in rural states and communicate with the ERA Strike Force and others in the organization working for ERA passage.

OTHER

3. Study and develop legislation unique to rural women.
4. Provide support to rural women in their feminism. This will include the devising of ways of making NOW activism more accessible in sparsely populated areas.
5. Take other appropriate actions as indicated by the information gathering on rural women.

DESEXIGRATING CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

1973

WHEREAS, NOW is dedicated to the active pursuit of equal opportunity for women and men in all spectra of life;

WHEREAS, federal and state legislation, executive mandates and judicial rulings have maintained the obligation of corporations to provide equal employment opportunity, benefits and professional development to all employees regardless of sex;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution guarantees equal protection of people;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that NOW publicly condemns any civic or professional organization, particularly the U.S. Jaycees, which purports to develop leadership, particularly through community service, but whose bylaws limit its membership to men, wrongfully utilizes tax exempt status, and consciously violates the law and the spirit of the land regarding the basic American commitment to equality for people;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that NOW and its chapters will actively work to desexigrate any such organizations.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE

1971

WHEREAS, the ideal of NOW is truly equal partnership for men and women, and

WHEREAS, the reality is that many women continue to find men a stumbling block to their own development and many men still are not free to develop in ways other than those considered typically "male," and

WHEREAS, the pervasive effects of "privileges" for women and "prerogatives" for men are equally injurious to their mutual growth and maturation,

WHEREAS, human liberation necessarily involves the critical examination, vigorous analysis and daily reacceptance of themselves as women and men, and

WHEREAS, consciousness-raising groups of a continuing nature provide both the time and framework within which such an examination can occur,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW create a task force on the Masculine Mystique charged with suggesting the best methods in which women and men can successfully raise their consciousnesses to make truly equal partnership a reality.

SEX ROLES

1971

WHEREAS, the emancipation of women involves the emancipation of men as well, and the questions of women's rights and responsibilities must be viewed as a function of the whole complex of roles and division of labor imposed on both women and men by upbringing, tradition, legislation and practice, and

WHEREAS, decisive and ultimately durable improvement in the status of women cannot be attained by special measures aimed at women alone but that it is equally necessary to abolish the conditions which tend to assign certain privileges, obligations, or rights to men, and

WHEREAS, policy must be continually challenged which attempts to give women an equal place with men in economic life while at the same time confirming women's traditional responsibility for home and child care, and

OTHER

WHEREAS, special commissions affecting women must be so designed as to encourage the full integration of women and men into all facets of society that heretofore have defined both the problems and solutions relating to the status of women too narrowly,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW request that national and state Commissions on the Status of Women be renamed Commissions on Sex Role Policy to formulate policy that promotes equality between the sexes and to begin requesting government sponsored Commissions on Sex Role Policy.

HURRICANES

1969

Motion passed that communication be sent to National Hurricane Center in Miami asking that hurricanes not be named exclusively female names.

PAY EQUITY

A CALL FOR JOB ACCESS AND PAY EQUITY

1994

WHEREAS, women earn 70 cents to every dollar earned by men in the United States, with women of color burdened even more by this sort of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, women still are affected by gender stereotyping both in the kinds of jobs they are permitted to hold and the wages they receive; and

WHEREAS, legislative efforts to end pay discrimination, such as the Equal Pay Act, have fallen short of addressing pay inequities due to job-clustering in low-paying jobs; and

WHEREAS, true pay equity cannot be achieved without making sure that women and men are paid equitably across formal classifications for jobs with comparable requirements; and

WHEREAS, women who move outside of traditionally underpaid jobs are hindered in getting access to the work, either as workers or owners of businesses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women support municipal, state and federal efforts to engage in comparable worth studies of both public and private workplaces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW push for such governmental-mandated studies at the municipal, state and federal levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW pursue the restructuring of municipal, state and federal pay scales so that they ensure pay equity for all workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW pursue government set-aside programs for women in construction and women-owned businesses at the municipal, state and federal levels; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW support the National Pay Equity legislation to be introduced in Congress in 1994 by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton.

PAY EQUITY

1988

WHEREAS, the undervaluation and underpayment of work done by women and people of color are major causes of impoverishment; and

WHEREAS, pay equity is a crucial strategy to eliminate the gender and race bias which perpetuates the low wages associated with female- and minority-dominated jobs; and

WHEREAS, it is time to develop a new consensus about what work should be valued and compensated in American society; and

WHEREAS, the institution of consistency and bias-free standards in all job evaluation and compensation systems is necessary to implement this consensus; and

WHEREAS, the leadership of feminists in coalitions for comparable worth reform is necessary to the elimination of wage differentials based on sex and race, and to the positive revaluation of work done by women; and

WHEREAS, the full participation by women in the wage-setting process requires the dissemination of information on the sources and consequences of low wages, and on strategies for the change in the economic condition of women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women develop and disseminate materials to help chapters and states bring pay equity initiatives to every public and private employer across the nation. These materials may include model municipal and state laws, video tapes and fact sheets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that public education strategies, which may include speaking tours and media campaigns, be designed to mobilize a grassroots, nationwide demand to end wage disparities and women's impoverishment.

SEX AND RACE BASED WAGE DISCRIMINATION

1986

WHEREAS, as a result of major societal, economic and industrial changes over the past three decades, women and minorities constitute the majority of the paid workforce; and

WHEREAS, despite the massive influx of women workers into the American workforce and despite the existence of federal and state civil rights legislation prohibiting segregation at the workplace and all other forms of employment discrimination, the workforce as a whole remains rigidly segregated along sexual and racial lines; and

WHEREAS, women and minorities are arbitrarily and unlawfully segregated into a limited number of jobs within the workforce which are compensated at rates lower than "white male" jobs requiring similar components of skill, effort and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the dual practices of unlawful workplace segregation and wage discrimination are principal contributors to the growing impoverishment of women and children in this country;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW reaffirms its commitment to ending sex-and-race based wage discrimination and, to this end, will establish a National Coordinating Task Force on Workplace Segregation and Wage Discrimination to develop strategies for eliminating wage discrimination and job segregation and the means to implement those strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local chapters of NOW are encouraged to establish chapter task forces to develop strategies to achieve pay equity at the state and local level, including lobbying of private as well as public employers to comply with existing law by correcting discriminatory wage rates; lobbying administrative agencies to assure enforcement of appropriate legislation; working in concert with unions and other local organizations to secure an end to wage discrimination; and providing assistance in the filing of charges of discrimination with appropriate state and local anti-discrimination agencies; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW will join in the filing of appropriate wage discrimination lawsuits, either as parties or amici, and will otherwise, to the extent it is able, provide resources and support for such litigation.

AFSCME V. STATE OF WASHINGTON

2/84

WHEREAS, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 expressly prohibits 'discrimination in compensation' based on sex, race, national origin and religion; and

WHEREAS, EEOC and the Justice Department forcefully urged the Supreme Court and other federal Courts to declare sex-based wage discrimination illegal, prior to the inauguration of President Reagan; and

WHEREAS, it is no longer debatable! Sex-based and race-based discrimination for work now being performed is illegal. The Supreme Court of the United States so held in 1981 (Gunther v. County of Washington and IUE v. Westinghouse). The Supreme Court held that an employer cannot discriminate by paying occupants of traditional female jobs less than it pays occupants of traditional male jobs which are different but require equal skill, effort, and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the evidence produced in AFSCME v. State of Washington showed that the more than 30% difference in pay between traditional male and female jobs requiring the same skill, effort, and responsibility resulted from segregation and discrimination caused by the employer, and that the former governor of the state had publicly stated that the wages paid the state's female employees were discriminatory; and

WHEREAS, Judge Tanner ruled that the evidence of direct, historical, and systematic discrimination by the State was 'overwhelming,' that the results of sex discrimination 'are just as insidious and devastating' as race discrimination, and that 'there is nothing in Title VII that distinguishes between race and sex in the employment discrimination context'; and

PAY EQUITY

WHEREAS, the Justice Department has announced its intent to reverse the position which EEOC and the Justice Department took in the courts prior to the inauguration of President Reagan. The Justice Department appraisal that the Judge was 'absolutely wrong' was made without the benefit of reviewing the evidence, since a transcript of the court proceedings is not yet available. The position of Reagan's Justice Department can be defended only by those who believe that sex bigotry is acceptable and that ideology is a proper substitute for the obligation of the President and Department of Justice to enforce the law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That President Reagan instruct the Justice Department to take all possible action in AFSCME v. State of Washington in support of the courageous action of the victims of discrimination; and
2. That the Senate of the United States insist that Attorney General-designate Meese carry out the civil rights laws and that he commit the Department of Justice to join with and support the victims of discrimination in the AFSCME case.

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1984

WHEREAS, the drive to achieve pay equity is crucial to closing the wage gap and ensuring the economic survival of women and minorities, who continue to suffer from severe occupational segregation and wage discrimination which robs them of millions of dollars of lost wages each year, and

WHEREAS, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination based on sex, race, national origin and religion, and the Supreme Court in 1981 declared sex-based wage discrimination illegal in Gunther v. County of Washington, and I.U.E. v. Westinghouse, and

WHEREAS, prior to the Reagan Administration, the EEOC and Justice Department acted to uphold and enforce Title VII, a legal duty which has been abandoned by the current Administration, and

WHEREAS, the AFSCME v. Washington State case documents a decade-old, more than 20% pay differential between female and male dominated jobs which require the same skill, effort and responsibility, and the Reagan Justice Department has threatened to intervene in this appeal on the side of discriminator, Washington State, and

WHEREAS, pay equity is an umbrella issue which positively impacts on and strengthens nearly every other item on the NOW agenda, and

WHEREAS, pay equity will financially empower women to more effectively realize all other goals on the NOW agenda;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NOW place pay equity in the forefront of our agenda as a priority and proceed with all the resources available to NOW to implement pay equity across the nation.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NOW acknowledge with gratitude the leadership that AFSCME and attorney Winn Newman have taken to achieve pay equity for women, and that NOW demand that the Justice Department uphold the law and submit an amicus brief on behalf of the women of Washington State who have been discriminated against, and that NOW undertake a campaign at the state and local level to educate the public that equal pay for equal work and work of equal value are the law, urge their local public and private employers to obey and implement the law, and bring public attention to the Reagan Administration's actions which support sex-based wage discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW develop a plan of action and tools with which to carry out this campaign, including fact sheets on the wage gap, occupational segregation, the status of current litigation and legislation, rebuttals to arguments against pay equity, model local and state initiatives and implementation plans, and suggested outreach efforts among our members and the public at large; and specifically support efforts such as NOW New Jersey's campaign to override the Republican Governor's veto of the Pay Equity bill overwhelmingly passed by the New Jersey Legislature and other strategies of local NOW units.

POLITICS/ELECTIONS

REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

1996

WHEREAS, the purpose of the National Organization for Women's (NOW) Political Action Committees (PACs) is to increase the number of feminists elected to public office; and

WHEREAS, protection of civil rights is a paramount goal of NOW; and

WHEREAS, experience has taught us that increasing feminist and minority representation at every level of government is critical to achieving progress on our priority issues; and

WHEREAS, recent Supreme Court decisions undermine the progress achieved by the Voting Rights Act, which allowed the election of record numbers of feminist minority candidates;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NOW urge its PACs at all levels to work with renewed fervor to elect feminist candidates to positions which control judicial appointments to stop the right wing erosion of our political rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW reaffirm its support for a strong, effective, and enforced Voting Rights Act; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NOW urge its PACs to prevent feminist minority candidates from losing their seats through court ordered reapportionment and to work diligently to reelect those redistricted candidates wherever they are forced to run.

WOMEN'S VOTE: USE IT OR LOSE IT

1996

WHEREAS, as a result of the 1994 elections, the conservative onslaught on Congress and on the states threatens all of the progress made by women resulting in all of our rights hanging in the balance; and

WHEREAS rather than flocking to the polls in 1994 women stayed home in record numbers because candidates and parties did not address the real issues in their lives, which resulted in devastating losses for progressive candidates;

WHEREAS the new motor voter law allows us increased ability to identify potential new voter registrants around support for feminist issues and to register them.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women (NOW) declare that reversing the right wing assault on women be its highest priority in 1996 and direct its local and state chapters to stress the importance of targeting, registering and turning out the feminist women's vote to elect feminist candidates and defeat discriminatory ballot measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW urge NOW Political Action Committees (PACs) to ensure that the 1996 elections represent a turning point in this nation's history in which women will flock to the polls to seize power by electing those candidates who will truly protect women's lives, their families, and their livelihoods; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NOW urges NOW/PAC to prepare and distribute materials on targeting districts, precincts, and voters that will maximize our goals.

VAWA ELECTORAL STRATEGY RESOLUTION

1995

WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) passed in the last Congress (421-0 in the House and 94-6 in the Senate) and was signed on September 13, 1994 as part of the Crime Bill; and

WHEREAS, 1.62 billion dollars was allocated to VAWA over six years as part of the Crime Victims Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, this Trust Fund is in reserve to be used for education and prevention programs as well as community direct services for victims of battery and sexual assault; and

POLITICS/ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, both Democrats and Republicans vowed to preserve VAWA funds even as they were cutting other Crime Bill programs; and

WHEREAS, both Democrats and Republicans campaigned for re-election heralding their support for the VAWA and their opposition to violence against women; and

WHEREAS, efforts are mounting in Congress to cut VAWA funding and reduce the monies that will be appropriated to fight violence against women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) will recommend that NOW/PAC use the issue of violence against women in its criteria for endorsement or denying endorsement to any member of Congress or candidate for Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will recommend to NOW/PAC that they support members of Congress who meet our criteria for electoral support on other issues, who support full VAWA funding and other aspects of the 1994 VAWA as it was authorized; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW work to educate the public on the voting record of Congress on VAWA and the decisions of the PAC.

See Also: Violence Against Women

MAINE WON'T DISCRIMINATE

1995

WHEREAS, in November 1995, the voters of the State of Maine will be voting on the first East Coast "Colorado style" referendum in opposition to lesbian and gay rights; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW) has a long history of opposition to this kind of oppressive legislation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW will mobilize in opposition to this right wing effort by:

1. Providing staff support to a field organizing effort in Maine in conjunction with the NOW activists and chapters, students on college campuses and the statewide anti-referendum efforts led by Maine Won't Discriminate;
2. Undertaking targeted fundraising among NOW members in New England to support NOW's efforts; and
3. Making, if feasible, a monetary contribution to the efforts of Maine Won't Discriminate to ensure adequate media in support of the campaign.

See Also: Lesbian/Gay Rights

CREATING THE FEMINIST GENDER GAP

1995

WHEREAS, the right-wing control in Congress, state legislatures, and local boards have moved forward an agenda that is anti-feminist and anti-civil rights and the National Organization for Women (NOW) recognizes the wide array of attacks on women's equality as part of a right-wing campaign; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that a gender gap in the 1996 elections could result in major electoral change at all levels of government and that NOW has played a leading role in motivating and organizing the women's vote in recent election years and has the opportunity to win major feminist races in 1996; and

WHEREAS, the right-wing in California has been most aggressive nationwide in attacking affirmative action, and the role of women in the debate is being shaped now; and

WHEREAS, NOW, historically, has taken national leadership in the fight for affirmative action, and can play a decisive role in generating the feminist response to the right-wing attack; and

WHEREAS, presidential candidate Pete Wilson (Governor-CA) has made the abolition of affirmative action the centerpiece of his campaign and the myth continues to be perpetuated that the Wilson campaign is appealing to women; and

POLITICS/ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, House Speaker Newt Gingrich is the engine driving the right-wing agenda in races nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the Republican National Convention is scheduled to be in California where the platform is expected to include dismantling affirmative action and other equal opportunity programs, a constitutional ban on abortion, and other anti-feminist positions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW sponsor a national mobilization in California in 1996; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOW simultaneously coordinate a national Fight-the-Right electoral campaign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW adopt "Shadow Wilson" and "Newt Watch" campaigns, so that wherever presidential candidate Pete Wilson and House Speaker Newt Gingrich campaign across the country, they will be met with actions and demonstrations regarding their open hostility to women's equality, and will coordinate other candidate watch campaigns, such as campaigns against Dole and Gramm and others, as necessary; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW conduct a national campaign to beat the anticipated anti-affirmative action ballot initiative in California and other states where it may arise, and to defeat anti-affirmative action legislation in the Congress.

See Also: Affirmative Action

ELECTORAL POLITICS

1995

WHEREAS, the 104th Congress, state legislatures, and other governmental entities are poised to roll back decades of progress on women's rights; and

WHEREAS, the 1996 elections represent an opportunity for women to elect state, local, and national officers who will preserve and advance our rights; and

WHEREAS, filling the political pipelines with feminists will result in a proactive feminist agenda such as the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, women historically have been excluded and discouraged from participating in the electoral process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) urge all NOW Political Action Committees to launch campaigns to elect feminist women to fill up the political pipeline at all levels of state, local, and federal government; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW renew its campaign to educate and mobilize our members to be involved in the electoral process, including targeted voter registration, involvement in political parties and campaigns, and independent efforts to raise women's issues through the electoral process.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CAMPAIGN RESOLUTION

5/95

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women takes pride in its 29 year history of achievements toward gaining equality for women in our society, we in no way concede that 200 years of discrimination have been remedied by 25 years of poorly monitored affirmative action; and

WHEREAS, NOW recognizes that women and minorities are on the frontlines in this battle to save affirmative action and that the current climate of attacks is a camouflage for scapegoating women and minorities and an attempt to delay constructive answers to our country's economic problems; and

WHEREAS, NOW's grass-roots activists will play an essential role in mobilizing a campaign and soliciting donations to defend affirmative action prior to the 1996 elections; and

WHEREAS, NOW has a commitment to defend the legacy of Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King and the many activists who marched and/or died for the concepts of equal opportunity for all people.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women launch a national campaign dedicated to defeat any attempts to abolish affirmative action laws and programs, and that this campaign start with focus on California and the proposed "Civil Rights Initiative;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW recommend that the National NOW PAC endorse no candidate who expresses opposition to affirmative action laws or programs so long as this debate exists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that National NOW endorse and publicize a rally to be held on July 4, 1996 in California designed to illustrate the significant contributions of women and minorities in this state and to organize/mobilize opposition to the anti-affirmative action initiative that is currently proposed for the 1996 elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all chapters of NOW be informed and educated on the significance of this issue in a National Call to Action/Fundraising letter which will outline the campaign and provide relevant activist materials.

WOMEN IN ELECTED OFFICE

5/95

WHEREAS, 1995 is the 75th anniversary of woman suffrage; and

WHEREAS, NOW is in the forefront of electing feminist women into office; and

WHEREAS, women are still seriously underrepresented in elected office at the federal, state, and local level; and

WHEREAS, a significant voting gender gap is necessary for 1996 electoral victories;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NOW Board of Directors recommend to the NOW PAC that the 1996 PAC campaign be kicked off in conjunction with Women's Equality Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a goal of this kickoff will include coordinated press conferences in major media centers with a goal of 75 feminist women candidates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that chapters and states be encouraged to host simultaneous press conferences with local feminist candidates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW attempt to coordinate a national television program dedicated to women's suffrage on a cable or network station on Women's Equality Day;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW encourage chapters to host house parties to view the Women's Equality Day special with the goal of identifying donors and supporters for the 1996 electoral campaign, and conducting voter registrations among feminist voters;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the house party actions be encouraged to generate local media coverage.

IMPEACHMENT OF CLARENCE THOMAS

1/95

WHEREAS, the Congress plans to wreak havoc on our nation and destroy the few rights that women have won, and

WHEREAS, women willing to testify against Clarence Thomas' confirmation were silenced with malicious disregard for the truth, and

WHEREAS, by this elevation of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, the Senate trampled not only on the lives and reputations of the women directly involved, but also on the lives and reputations of all women, and

WHEREAS, Clarence Thomas committed perjury throughout his confirmation process, and

WHEREAS, before the Senate can do further harm, it must first eliminate the harm it has already created.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW initiate a campaign calling for the immediate impeachment of Clarence Thomas under Article III, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution. **See Also: Judges/Law**

SURGEON GENERAL - (DR. ELDERS)

12/94

WHEREAS, Dr. Joycelyn Elders has been unceremoniously asked to resign as Surgeon General; and
WHEREAS, other key appointments have been blocked and/or negatively impacted by organized opposition;
and

WHEREAS, many candidates supported by NOW lost their races in recent elections; and

WHEREAS, losing candidates or removed political appointees may feel isolated or abandoned after their loss or removal, or may be in need of jobs or support services during their transition to other situations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that

1. NOW issue a public statement in support of the outspoken honesty of Dr. Elders, expressing concern that the Clinton administration's reaction to the political environment is having a disproportionate negative impact on women and people of color.
2. Chapters be encouraged to take action to express these same concerns in communications to the Clinton Administration.
3. Dr. Elders be invited to speak at the April rally.
4. Chapter and members be encouraged to express their continuing support to candidates and NOW friends who lost their races or who may have been unfairly blocked from confirmation or removed from their appointments or administrative jobs, by continuing contact and support including offers of office space, speaking engagements, job referrals; etc...

100 DAYS OF ACTION

12/94

WHEREAS, the 104th Congress led by Republicans Newt Gingrich and Robert Dole, have declared war on women issuing, among other things, their "Contract on America;" and

WHEREAS, the Republican leadership has proposed to erase funding for the violence prevention and human services programs associated with the Violence Against Women Act, to reinstate the "Gag Rule," to decimate the enforcement of Freedom of Access of Clinic Entrances Act to attack basic civil rights protections in the workplace, and to take a punitive approach to poverty in this country by implementing cruel welfare policies which scapegoat poor women; and

WHEREAS, the focus of the national press and mainstream politicians will be on the possible successes of the Republican agenda; and

WHEREAS, Gingrich intends to have the "Contract" read at the start of every day that Congress is in session; and

WHEREAS, the Republicans have pledged to bring every proposal in the "Contract" for a vote in the first 100 days; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local officials across the country are also attempting to implement many of the same proposed attacks on women's rights at the local level.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women engage in a 100 Day Action Campaign beginning on January 1 to expose the myths and dangers of this regressive agenda through actions both in Washington, and at the grassroots, with the National Office sending out a mailing with talking points and suggested actions such as: zap actions, regular briefings on the "Contract" myths, getting opinion pieces written to local, state and national media, and more; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these actions be directed not only at Congress, but also at building for NOW's national actions April 7-9, 1995 to call for an end to violence against women.

See Also: Violence Against Women

CONTRACT ON AMERICA

12/94

WHEREAS, NOW has called for a national mobilization against violence in April 1995, including a Young Feminist Summit, National Clothesline Display, and a mass action, and

WHEREAS, the November 1994 election has resulted in an attack on many critical women's rights issues; and
WHEREAS, feminist legislation and budget items such as the Violence Against Women Act and FACE are under attack, and state legislatures across the country are also attacking women's equality issues; and

WHEREAS, the NOW Board is committed to providing leadership in making this event a success;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women match the Republican's Contract on America with 100 days of action starting January 1, 1995, to recognize our legislative losses in November and culminating with our rally in Washington, D.C., on April 9, 1995. This should include a NOW action every day somewhere in the United States which will be publicized by the Action Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that chapters and states will receive an Organizing Kit to assist in mobilizing attendance at the spring activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that chapters and states encourage organizations to co-sponsor the rally and urge them to mobilize activists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW board members make an effort to speak to groups about the mobilization and encourage State Coordinators/Presidents and chapters to do public speaking to promote the mobilization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW elected officers across the country make an effort to promote the mobilization and the issues we are addressing in the media; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW board members will contact the states in their region to facilitate contact with chapters so that activists across the country can mobilize their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW activists be encouraged to contact their elected officials to encourage them to become involved in the spring action as co-sponsors and to encourage the elected officials to help organize for the event; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW board members, state coordinators, and other activists be encouraged to remain in Washington, DC after the January board meeting for a Volunteer Action Day, and that activists be encouraged to volunteer at the Action Center when they can to mobilize for April; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW Board committees focus their committee work at the January 1995 board meeting on the spring action issues that relate to their committee; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW board members will report back at the January 1995 board meeting on the organizing activity in their region in support of the mobilization.

See Also: Violence Against Women

1994 ELECTORAL STRATEGY AND
ANTI LESBIAN AND GAY INITIATIVE ELECTORAL
TACTICS OF THE RADICAL RIGHT

1994

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women has dedicated itself to electing feminist women, and successfully elected feminist women to public office in record numbers in 1992; and

WHEREAS, many of these feminists are now being targeted for defeat, often by radical right opponents who want to defeat them before they develop seniority; and

WHEREAS, the increased number of feminist women elected to Congress clearly has made a difference and

POLITICS/ELECTIONS

there are even more opportunities in 1994 to elect additional feminist women to political office on all levels; and

WHEREAS, the connection is clear between the electoral goals of the radical right and its use of hate tactics to inflame and mobilize its voting block; and

WHEREAS, it does not appear to be a coincidence that in those states where the radical right wing has targeted to launch anti lesbian and gay initiatives, there are also major electoral opportunities and battles; and

WHEREAS, in many states, while the radical right is collecting signatures on petitions for anti lesbian and gay initiatives, they are at the same time fielding radical right candidates.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women research more of these connections and "initiative fronts" for the radical right's drive for political power, and educate and mobilize the electorate in those states and across the country to the stealth electoral tactics of the radical right; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Elect Women for a Change Project include in its material information about the anti lesbian and gay initiative electoral tactics of the radical right; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW continue to work not only to retain our elected feminist friends in office and increase the numbers of feminist women in public office, but also to halt the radical right's drive for power; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW urges the NOW/PACs to continue to raise Political Action Committee funds at the national, state and local levels and to build Elect Women for a Change projects in targeted states to create-feminist coordinated electoral campaigns to maximize our efforts.

LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO ELECT PROGRESSIVE WOMEN TO SCHOOL BOARDS

1994

WHEREAS, school boards make far-reaching decisions profoundly affecting young women's lives, such as school-based clinics, Title IX implementation, sex education and career counseling and development; and

WHEREAS, school board seats are being targeted by the extreme right to advance its agenda of promoting creationism, false patriotism, anti-sex education, and to limit the roles of women in society; and

WHEREAS, school board races can be won using local grassroots campaign techniques not requiring large financial resources, and districts are easily targeted; and

WHEREAS, women have the experience of working within the school system through attendance, PTA work and often through their own children's education; and

WHEREAS, school board races provide electoral experience for both present and future candidates and campaign workers, and women school board members make excellent candidates for other races; and

WHEREAS, the national Organization for Women PACs have a history of electing women to office, focusing on Congress, statewide offices and state legislatures/

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women urge the NOW Equality PAC to develop a School Board Elections Project that state and local PACs can implement to recruit and elect progressive, feminist women to school boards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW encourage activists to attend, participate in, and influence local school board meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW/PAC develop kits on running successful grassroots campaigns for school boards.

TRIBUTE TO REP. ELAINE GORDON

4/94

WHEREAS, Florida State Representative Elaine Gordon, the Dean of the House, has worked actively for 22

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years on behalf of women's rights;

- for abortion rights for access to medical services for all (universal health care);
- for the elderly and disadvantaged;
- for the humane treatment of people with AIDS;
- for the rights of minorities and economically disadvantaged;
- for the defense of battered women;
- for a fair Family Leave policy, and numerous other feminist issues;

WHEREAS, Representative Gordon championed the efforts for women's equality as a primary sponsor and strategist for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, supported the increased number of women to boards and to elective office, and mentored many who followed her trailblazing path;

WHEREAS, Representative Gordon epitomizes feminist principles and the goals of the National Organization for Women as activist, public servant, and stateswoman;

WHEREAS, the announced retirement of Representative Gordon marks an end of the first wave of feminist leadership in the Florida Legislature;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women salutes Representative Elaine Gordon for her years of dedicated service and that NOW acknowledge her bold and enterprising tactics which proved unparalleled during her tenure as legislator;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW congratulates Representative Elaine Gordon for her extraordinary efforts in raising the feminist consciousness of countless Floridians, especially within the legislature where she became the first woman to chair a legislative committee and the first woman Speaker Pro Tempore in the Florida Legislature;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW wish Elaine a well deserved retirement from the legislature and look forward to working with her in her new endeavors as a private citizen and public feminist.

THE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

4/94

WHEREAS, the Senate Majority Leader is the most powerful position in the US Senate and has the ability to facilitate or hinder legislation of importance to women; and

WHEREAS, the current Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell has announce that he will retire at the completion of his term and is also under consideration for the US Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Senate Caucus votes on the selection of leadership positions like the Senate Majority Leader;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW congratulate the women Senators who have announced that they will screen candidates for the role on their positions regarding women's issues such as abortion, and offer our assistance to that women's caucus in accomplishing this task; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chapters and activists be alerted to contact Democratic Senators and urge them not to vote for any candidate for Senate Majority Leader who doesn't support abortion rights, the Equal Rights Amendment, ending racism, lesbian and gay rights, and other women's rights issues, with particular attention to thank the five Democratic women who have taken a stand already.

1993 SUPREME COURT DECISION

1993

WHEREAS, women are significantly under represented at every level of elective office from school boards to county commissions to city councils to state legislatures to the U.S. Congress;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court in June 1993 in Shaw v. Reno significantly weakened the power of the Voting Rights Act of 1964 to remedy inequities in people-of-color representation;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW condemns the Supreme Court decision; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will investigate and recommend action which will reverse the impact of this decision, and will seek to amend and expand to include women by either legislation or litigation.

See Also: Affirmative Action

COMBATING THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT

1993

WHEREAS, the Religious Right is organized from the lowest to the highest levels; and
WHEREAS, they have enormous funds to use for prime time network ads and similar public messages; and
WHEREAS, they are running in and winning local elections by disguising their intent and identity;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National NOW Action Center, in concert with local chapters, provide concrete solutions and a working agenda, including candidate screening materials, as well as clear information regarding the methods of the religious right "stealth" strategy, in order to stop the Religious Right by being as organized and focused as they are.

See Also Religious Right

9/92

Moved that the NOW National Board recommend to the NOW/PAC that its '92 strategy continue to be to work to elect more feminist women candidates.

9/92

Moved that the Board fund those two [PDP] proposals recommended by the PAC from California [\$3,950 to combat a ballot measure which would cut funding for Aid to Families with Dependent Children and enact other punitive welfare-related measures] and Colorado [\$9,300 to combat an anti-lesbian and gay ballot measure in the state]. Also funded the Political Development Program proposal from Wichita, KS [\$1,800].

DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTY CONVENTIONS

1992

WHEREAS, the Democratic and Republican parties will be meeting this summer of 1992 in their National Conventions; and
WHEREAS, the Republican Party, its President, its leadership in Congress and its platform have led the fight against women's rights in general and abortion rights in particular; and
WHEREAS, while the Democratic Party may in its platform affirm its support for a woman's right to choose abortion, the Democratic controlled Congress and Democratic controlled state legislatures with the assistance of Democratic governors have too often enacted punitive legislation restricting abortion; and
WHEREAS, Operation Rescue is planning to target their activities to coincide with the Democratic National Convention in New York City and the Republican Convention in Houston; and
WHEREAS neither party will stand up to Operation Rescue's terrorist tactics;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women stand firm in protecting women's abortion rights and concentrate efforts at the national party conventions by joining our feminist sisters and brothers at the clinics, defending women's access to abortion against the terrorist assaults on our right, and
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW/PAC invite and encourage feminist candidates attending their national party conventions to join NOW in standing up for abortion rights by defending clinics, and women's access to them in New York City and Houston during the Democratic and Republican conventions.

See Also: Reproductive Freedom

ELECT WOMEN FOR A CHANGE

1992

WHEREAS, the 1992 elections offer the opportunity for a dramatic breakthrough at all governmental levels in electing more feminist women to public office; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Judiciary and Ethics Committee has perpetuated its own power rather than represent the will of the people; and

WHEREAS, the Senate's action in the Clarence Thomas/Anita Hill hearings and refusal to investigate the allegations of sexual harassment by their members demonstrates its utter contempt for women; and

WHEREAS, NOW has recognized the need to encourage and recruit more feminist women to run for elective office at the federal, state and local levels with the goal of flooding tickets; and

WHEREAS, the NOW PACs are determined to make 1992 the year women are elected for a change by mobilizing people to march to the polls just as we have mobilized people to march in the streets to ensure women's abortion rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW chapters, states, and activists in geographic areas where feminist women candidates are running for elective offices join in supporting a coordinated feminist campaign for all NOW PAC endorsed feminist candidates rather than working solely on any one candidate's campaign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW endorse the NOW PACs' coordinated feminist women campaigns - THE ELECT WOMEN FOR A CHANGE campaigns - which include public organizing meetings and rallies, door to door and telephone canvassing, outreach and election day polling and visibility actions which will build public awareness of the real difference women in office can make and increase voter support for the women candidates endorsed by the NOW PACs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that in districts where both major parties candidates are opponents of women's rights and where the filing deadline for independent candidates has not passed, NOW should recruit independent feminist women candidates to challenge the major parties' nominees.

21ST CENTURY PARTY - THE NATION'S EQUALITY PARTY

1992

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women has adopted the Bill of Rights for the 21st Century; and
WHEREAS, the 21st Century Party was created from the work of NOW's Commission for Responsive Democracy, which heard testimony from more than 500 people in a year-long series of hearings; and

WHEREAS, the Commission called for the formation of a new political party with internal democracy, candidate adherence to the party's platform and accountability to its membership as basic tenets; and

WHEREAS, political discontent in the United States, according to a major national poll, "appears to have reached [an] unprecedented level in modern times . . . [and] the performance of the two political parties and the institutions that they control have left the voters disillusioned, frustrated, dissatisfied and downright angry with both parties." (Gordon Black Poll, May 1992); and

WHEREAS, both major parties have consistently denied positions of power to women and people of color which has led to their gross under-representation and exclusion from elected office; and

WHEREAS, the majority of potential voters are so alienated that they do not participate in elections; and

WHEREAS, women's lives and women's rights have never been in greater peril as the Supreme Court stands ready to take legal abortion completely away from women; and

WHEREAS, the nation is slipping further and further behind as the economy continues to falter and both parties remain silent as the Savings and Loan scandal rages while the ranks of the poor and homeless grow and people starve on the streets of the U.S.A. and abroad; and

WHEREAS, the nation can no longer suffer the attacks on affirmative action, equal opportunity, the

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environment, education, and health care; and

WHEREAS, too many generations have been squandered by the backward policies and thinking of the current parties, which were formed in the 18th and 19th centuries when African-Americans were slaves, women were chattel and indigenous people were not considered human; and

WHEREAS, only a new political party will have the courage to stand up on behalf of the future because it does not have to defend the mistakes of the past; and

WHEREAS, new political parties have historically affected the direction of our national politics at critical turning points in the past;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW endorse the formation of the 21st Century Party, the Nation's Equality Party, and recommend to the NOW PAC that it support the 21st Century Party up to the legal limit, and

That NOW recommend to its members that they assist in the development of the party and its candidates; and That it be understood that nothing in this resolution will prevent or inhibit NOW members from endorsing and working for women's right's candidates of other parties or prevent NOW's members from affiliation or activity with other political parties, and recommends to the NOW PAC that it continue to support feminist candidates of all political parties, including the 21st Century Party.

COMMISSION FOR RESPONSIVE DEMOCRACY

9/91

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NOW National Board enthusiastically endorses the recommendation of the Commission for Responsive Democracy to form a new political party;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NOW National Board finds there is a need for a new force in U.S. politics to ignite in the United States the revolution for democracy that is sweeping the world in order to politically and economically empower all people of the United States.

Fueled by the public disgust with the massive unprecedented corruption, greed and hypocrisy in the Republican and Democratic parties, the NOW National Board recommends to the National Organization for Women that it provide leadership with other constituencies, grassroots activists, and those fundamentally alienated from the current system in the establishment of a new independent political party, dedicated to equality, social and economic justice, demilitarization and a healthy environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National NOW Board recommends that the new party include as part of its basic tenets internal democracy, candidate adherence to the party's platform, and accountability to its membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Board asks state organizations to move immediately to explore their states statutory requirements and explore the potential for expanding our political base in their state for the formation of a new party and communicate that information to the national organization.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Development of a new Bill of Rights for the 21st Century shall ensure an action-oriented party platform that is inclusive of all those constituencies pushed aside by the old party system and represents a holistic vision for justice and freedom in the United States.

RESOLUTION ON COMMISSION FOR RESPONSIVE DEMOCRACY

1991

WHEREAS, the NOW National Conference, in June of 1989, issued a Bill of Rights for the 21st Century affirming certain inalienable economic, political and social rights that are necessary for the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness of all people;

WHEREAS, the Conference, condemning the failure of the Republican and Democratic parties to include women and to recognize, legislate, or guarantee these rights, also called for the creation of a National

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Commission to explore the establishment of a new, independent political party to lead the enactment of the expanded Bill of Rights and secure for each person these benefits;

WHEREAS, the morally bankrupt leadership of the Republican and Democratic parties has given us Rehnquist, Scalia, Kennedy, Souter, and now Clarence Thomas for the Supreme Court; has given us the S&L boondoggle and eleven years of disgraceful, bloated military budgets; and has launched a frontal attack on women's rights, civil rights, and individual rights;

WHEREAS, the National Commission for Responsive Democracy has taken nationwide testimony among the people confirming the widespread and deeply-rooted disenchantment among the grassroots citizenry with both the Republican and Democratic Parties -- and with the failure of the so-called two-party system;

WHEREAS, the Commission quickly found a great diversity of strong, sophisticated, and intense organizing activities at the local level where small groups and large constituencies are hungering for a vehicle to bind their efforts together in greater strength;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by this Independence Weekend, 1991 NOW Conference that we, the membership of NOW, do hereby urge the National Commission on Responsive Democracy to hold its final hearing following the September Senate Confirmation process to fill the pending vacant Supreme Court seat. We urge you to take into consideration the performance of both parties in the confirmation process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request that you communicate your recommendations to the National NOW Board before Election Day, 1991, a year before the 1992 elections, so that the National Board can take concrete steps to build a powerful independent political movement to secure the rights and liberties guaranteed to our citizenry by the Bill of Rights for the 21st Century -- **BECAUSE WE WILL NOT GO BACK!** -- and we need the tools, the structure and the wisdom to link arms with other grassroots activist constituencies to lead our people into equality, economic justice; and peace in the next millennium.

THE FAIR ELECTIONS BILL

11/90

WHEREAS, NOW is committed to economic, political and social fairness and equality for all women and minorities;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women endorse the concept of fair election laws and furthermore, that National NOW endorse the Fair Elections Bill, HR 1582, introduced by Congressional Representative John Conyers, to set fair and uniform standards for independent parties and candidates to get on the ballot in every state by collecting 1,000 signatures equal to 1/10 of 1% of the number of persons who voted in the most recent previous federal election.

LOUISIANA PROJECT

1990

WHEREAS, the Louisiana legislature has passed the most restrictive anti-abortion law in the U.S., providing criminal sentences for women and their doctors; and

WHEREAS, this legislation does not even contain exceptions for rape, incest, or fetal deformity; and

WHEREAS, the legislation was passed by a Senate composed of 36 men and no women, and by a state House of Representatives composed of 102 men and 3 women -- the lowest representation of women in any state legislature in the country; and

WHEREAS, a majority of men in the Louisiana legislature voted in favor of this heinous law, while 100% of the women, though small in number, voted against the bill; and

WHEREAS, the entire Louisiana legislature is up for election in 1991 and there is urgent need for greater numbers of women and women's rights supporters in the Louisiana legislature;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women launch a campaign, similar to

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the Pennsylvania Project which saw 91 women on the ballot in 1990, to work with the women of Louisiana to dramatically increase the number of women and women's rights supporters running for and elected to office in Louisiana in 1991 and 1995; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event this bill becomes law, the National Organization for Women adopt the women of Louisiana and establish an emergency volunteer network to assist them with transportation and housing in neighboring states in order to obtain safe, legal abortions.

1990 GUBERNATORIAL RACES

1990

WHEREAS, women comprise 17% of state legislators and only 5% of the members of Congress, and there are only three women governors at the current time; and

WHEREAS, women elected officials -- regardless of party -- fight harder than men elected officials and provide much more leadership on our issues, such as women legislators in Florida provided the leadership to defeat anti-abortion legislation, while in Congress they provided the leadership on Medicaid funding for abortion. Women are consistently the strongest supporters of the ERA, family and medical leave, child care, and our other issues; and

WHEREAS, the 1990 gubernatorial races are key in the strategy to gain more seats for women in reapportionment and redistricting in 1991 and in the upcoming battles for abortion rights, given the legislative influence and veto powers governors possess; and

WHEREAS, 1990 offers great opportunities for political empowerment of women with strong feminist women running for governor in several states and promising gender balance in apportionments; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Helms has been the major opponent of many of the crucial issues of feminism including abortion, civil rights, lesbian and gay rights and free speech;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National NOW Conference urge the NOW PAC and NOW activists to target the gubernatorial races and work for the election of:

1. Dianne Feinstein, California
2. Barbara Hafer, Pennsylvania
3. Evelyn Murphy, Massachusetts
4. Ann Richards, Texas
5. Barbara Roberts, Oregon

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National NOW Conference urge the NOW PAC and NOW activists to target the North Carolina U.S. Senate race to defeat Jesse Helms and elect feminist Harvey Gantt.

DECLARATION OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

1989

WHEREAS, women are grossly underrepresented in the legislative halls of this country at the national, state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, without the equal representation of women our legislation advancing women's rights will not move from committee hearings to final passage,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Organization for Women recognizes the failure of both major political parties to address women's needs and serves notice on the parties that NOW will support and seek to elect candidates who will move toward the feminist agenda, notwithstanding party affiliation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW form an exploratory commission to investigate the formation of a new party dedicated to equality for women, and an expanded Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, including but not limited to:

1. the right to freedom from sex discrimination;

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2. the right to freedom from race discrimination;
3. the right of indigent women to public funds for abortion, birth control and pregnancy services and the right of all women to freedom from government interference in abortion, birth control and pregnancy;
4. the right to freedom from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation;
5. the right to freedom from discrimination based on religion, age, ongoing health condition, or a differently-abled situation;
6. a right to a decent standard of living, including adequate food, housing, health care and education;
7. the right to clean air, clean water, safe toxic waste disposal, and environmental protection; and
8. the right to be free from violence, including freedom from the threat of nuclear war.

HATE CRIMES BILL

12/89

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women shall work to amend the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Bill to require the Attorney General to acquire data on the incidence of criminal acts that manifest prejudice based on gender and age, in addition to the existing categories of hate crimes included in the pending bill before Congress.

ABORTION RIGHTS

12/89

Moved that NOW and its subunits will count members of Congress as pro-choice or "for" abortion rights only if they are co-sponsors of RHEA (Reproductive Health Equity Act), FCA (Freedom of Choice Act of 1989), as well as teenagers access to abortion without parental consent or notification.

Moved that in light of the need for continuing negotiation on the wording of S. 1912 (Freedom of Choice Act), NOW affirms its commitment to support no erosion of the protection of women's right to choose abortion already present in Roe v. Wade.

Moved that the National Organization for Women and NOW subunits will count public officeholders and candidates for public office as pro-choice or pro-abortion rights only if they are supporters of Roe v. Wade, Medicaid funding, and teenagers' access to abortion without parental notification or consent.

EQUAL REPRESENTATION

1989

WHEREAS, women comprise only 5% of the members of the United States Congress and only 17% of the members of state legislatures nationwide; and

WHEREAS, women legislators are more likely than male legislators to have held appointive government offices which served as stepping stones for a political career; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown repeatedly that women in elected office support in higher percentages equality for women, abortion, reproductive rights and economic equity; and

WHEREAS, in European countries, positive quotas for women candidates in the major parties have resulted in women holding between 30% and 40% of the seats in their national parliaments in nine countries; and

WHEREAS, 95% of all Congressional incumbents in the US get re-elected.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that just as the suffragists fought for and won the right to vote for women, we must now win direct and equal representation for women in elected office at all levels of government by:

- Giving preference to feminist women candidates over men candidates and encouraging far more

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- women and feminists to run for elected office;
- Passing Gender Balance Laws at the national, state and local levels to mandate that half of all appointments to public office be women and that appointments to committees, boards and commissions be balanced by gender. Gender Balance Laws have already been introduced or passed in eight states;
- Developing and supporting reapportionment and redistricting plans and initiatives and referendums that decrease the power of incumbency, and that place redistricting responsibilities in independent commissions where women have equal representation, rather than in the State Legislatures. Pursuing legal strategies which challenge reapportionment plans for gender and racial bias. Requiring redistricting guidelines that make gender balance and increasing representation for women a priority;
- Passing equal representation laws that cover every elected office in every district, at every level of government, and eliminate run-off primaries;
- Changing political party rules to ensure equal candidacies for women and equal representation in party endorsements and decision-making.

HATE CRIMES

1/89

Moved that NOW continue its effort to have gender added to the Hate Crime Statistics Bill and that a staff member be assigned to lobby at all levels, with guidance from the Action Vice President.

1/89

Moved that NOW sign onto the Family and Medical Leave Act with reservations.

EQUAL REPRESENTATION

1988

WHEREAS, women are severely underrepresented in the governing bodies of this nation: only five percent of Congress, and 15 percent of state legislatures; and

WHEREAS, at the current rate of growth, it will take until the year 2333 to obtain equal numbers of women and men in Congress; and, until the year 2038 to have equality in state legislatures; and

WHEREAS, the major national political parties give endorsements to candidates running for public office at the state, local and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party already has equal representation within the party at national conventions and on working party committees; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to extend equality from the convention floors and onto the ballots;

WHEREAS, major parties in other countries have adopted rules to increase the participation of women, such as the Labor Party in Norway, which now has a feminist woman president;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW endorse the "Change the Rules" Campaign to pledge the National Democratic and Republican Parties in this nation to mandate equal representation in candidate endorsements for public office at the local, state and national levels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW endorse the Feminization of Power Campaign to dramatically increase the numbers of women in public leadership;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW expand a network of "Take the Power" briefings to encourage chapters to spread the message of the Feminization of Power;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW fully endorse the Feminization of Power Campus Campaign to inspire women on campuses to take power.

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DELEGATE SELECTION RULES

1988

WHEREAS, feminists and civil rights activists within the Democratic Party have worked hard to build an open, representative party structure with affirmative action for minorities and equal division for women; and **WHEREAS**, the 1984 and 1988 changes in the rule for delegate selection have eroded, not furthered, the goals toward which we are working;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women urge the delegates to the Democratic Convention meeting in July 1988 to mandate that the rules commission for the 1992 Democratic National Convention roll back the number of national super delegates and that they be required to be equally divided, and furthermore, that the selection begin later in the year than currently; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that "winner take all" primaries be abolished as they do not fairly reflect the wishes of the voters in those states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW urge that delegates be awarded proportional to the votes they receive by Congressional District or smaller with no threshold or a small threshold.

4/88

Moved that all levels of NOW begin immediately to contact delegates to the Democratic National Convention for purposes of lobbying and organizing them to insure inclusion of NOW's priority issues in the Democratic Platform.

4/88

Moved that on June 30 we include in our activities a picket of the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, DC.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

4/88

Moved that NOW endorse the bill by Rep. Gerald Kletska (Wisconsin) to extend protection of Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 to women, and that if the Supreme Court reverses Runyon vs McCrary and limits the coverage of Section 1981, we urge Kletska to include extension of that coverage to include women.

THE IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

1987

WHEREAS, the Christic Institute, founded by the NOW members on the Karen Silkwood Team, is the only private independent organization which is utilizing the subpoena power of the Federal Courts against the private Contra supply network (the "Secret Team"). Evidence relating to the Iran/Contra Scandal, which is emerging from this and other investigations, supports the following charges:

1. That Ronald Reagan has violated his constitutional oath of office to respect and obey the Constitutional principal of the "Separation of Powers" which grants exclusive legal authority to the Congress to "raise armies" and to "declare war" by his defiance of the Boland Amendment;
2. That Ronald Reagan has committed "High Crimes and Misdemeanors" by attempting both personally and with Edwin Meese to obstruct justice by stopping, delaying and impeding the investigation and criminal prosecution of supporters of the Contras, men who were engaged in violating following federal criminal statutes:
 - (a) The Federal Neutrality Act forbidding private wars launched or supplied from the United States against foreign countries with whom the United

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- States has diplomatic relations;
 - (b) The Arms Export Control Act forbidding the illegal export from the United States of lethal weaponry;
 - (c) Federal narcotics laws forbidding the importation, distribution and sale of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana;
 - (d) Federal currency laws forbidding the "laundering" of secret monies through banks and business;
 - (e) Federal fraud laws prohibiting and defrauding the U.S. Government of government property and income;
 - (f) Federal perjury laws prohibiting lying and the withholding of information from the U.S. Congress.
3. That Ronald Reagan has violated his constitutional oath of office to see that the laws of the United States are fully and faithfully executed. He personally conspired with and caused his agents and subordinates to break the law by providing direct and indirect aid to the Contras in knowing and willful violation of the Boland Amendment.

WHEREAS, this unlawful President must not escape justice by stacking the Supreme Court with Robert H. Bork, the man who fired the Watergate Special Prosecutor, and the man who will institutionalize the Reagan Agenda starting with the reversal of Roe v. Wade;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW endorse the Christic Institute lawsuit, call for a comprehensive investigation of the charges, and disseminate this information through the NOW network; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOW calls for the introduction to and passage by the U.S. House of Representatives, of Articles of Impeachment against President Ronald Reagan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW national, state, and chapter organizations be urged to spearhead rallies to simultaneously stop Bork and impeach Ronald Reagan.

1986 SENATE STRATEGY

1985

WHEREAS, NOW has a basic electoral strategy that has as its primary goal the election of feminist women and men at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, NOW is committed to this primary goal as its first priority in the 1986 election cycle; and

WHEREAS, the 1986 U.S. Senate elections could have a major impact on abortion rights and other women's rights since a large number of incumbent anti-women Senators who are up for re-election are also members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the committee which has jurisdiction over confirmation of accessibility to sex education programs; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW recommend to the NOW/PAC that it develop an additional electoral strategy for 1986 to take advantage of the unique opportunity to make changes in the anti-abortion composition of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, a committee crucial to the preservation of abortion rights; and that

NOW FURTHER RECOMMENDS that such election strategy be developed in cooperation with the state NOW leadership of those states with anti-abortion Senators serving on the Senate Judiciary Committee and shall focus on those races where we have lost the best opportunity to defeat anti-abortion Senators.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

1985

WHEREAS, in the past ten years the number of women serving in state legislatures has increased from 8% to only 14.3% and the number in the United States House and Senate from 3.5% to only 4.5%; and

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WHEREAS, women's rights will continue to be jeopardized by the significant under-representation of women at every level and in decision-making positions in all branches of government; and

WHEREAS, we must ensure that the state legislatures which will be called upon to ratify the ERA are representative of all of the people of this country; and

WHEREAS, one of the traditional avenues for access to national office is through elective and appointive office at the state level and women must be positioned to seek national office following the 1990 and 2000 reapportionment processes; and

WHEREAS, NOW's resources must be allocated and focused in a manner which will achieve the greatest possible progress for feminist candidates and issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW, working with its state and local units, will undertake the development of a national data base and resource talent bank for women and feminists who can, should or have run for elective office at any level of government and will work in cooperation with similar efforts by other organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will facilitate the development of a network for NOW activists seeking or serving in public office to further the sharing of strategies, resources, experience and contacts; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT NOW, will continue, and recommends to its PACs that they also continue to encourage and recruit NOW activists and other feminists to run for office and to provide assistance to said candidates with early money, technical assistance and access to experienced, feminist campaign staff and volunteers.

1986 SENATE STRATEGY

1985

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WHEREAS, NOW is committed to this primary goal as its first priority in the 1986 election cycle; and

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NOW FURTHER RECOMMENDS that such election strategy be developed in cooperation with the state NOW leadership of those states with anti-abortion Senators serving on the Senate Judiciary Committee and shall focus on those races where we have lost the best opportunity to defeat anti-abortion Senators.

1986 ELECTIONS

6/85

WHEREAS, during the 1984 elections, the right-wing spent substantial amounts of money and other resources on attacking candidates as pro-abortion and pro-lesbian and gay rights; and

WHEREAS, referenda on abortion, lesbian and gay rights and state ERAs have faced difficult campaigns in Colorado, Houston, Maine and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the right-wing has over the last decade used abortion and lesbian and gay rights to attack the ERA in such pamphlets as Phyllis Schlafly's "GAY/ERA/AIDS Connection"; and

WHEREAS, the 1986 elections will bring similar situations in such races as Madeleine Kunin's campaign for

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re-election as Governor of Vermont, and the Senate candidacies of Harriet Woods, Geraldine Ferraro, Elizabeth Holtzman and Barbara Mikulski (should they choose to run), as well as in other races; and

WHEREAS, THE VOTE IN THE STATE ERA in Vermont, and abortion funding referenda in Arkansas, Massachusetts and Oregon also will provide a platform for the right-wing's agenda;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NOW National Board shall direct its President, Vice President-Action and other officers and PACs to develop a strategy for the 1986 elections to take the initiative on the issues of abortion rights and lesbian/gay rights that will deal effectively with the right's attacks on feminist candidates around these issues. Such a strategy shall include the development of electoral campaign techniques, public education and other tactics and shall aggressively challenge the myths and stereotypes the right-wing promotes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NOW officers consult with the NOW LDEF to develop a state ERA enforcement strategy to better utilize those existing state ERAs to promote full legal equality for women, and to protect these statutes from attempts to weaken their coverage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NOW officers shall, in developing these strategies, consult with the NOW PAC, the NOW/Equality/PAC, the NOW Lesbian Rights CIC, the NOW Reproductive Rights CIC and the NOW Economic Equality CIC.

WOMAN VICE-PRESIDENT

1984

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women is totally committed to the defeat of Ronald Reagan; and **WHEREAS**, public opinion polls show that a woman on the Democratic presidential ticket will result in a substantial gain for the Mondale ticket and will provide the margin of victory; and

WHEREAS, the polls show a woman on the ticket will increase the turnout of Democratic women, minority women, Southern women, and Western women; and

WHEREAS, a woman on the ticket will cause Republican women and independents to cross over to support the Democratic ticket; and

WHEREAS, a woman on the ticket who is strong on women's rights will focus visibility on those very issues on which Reagan is most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, a woman vice-presidential candidate will lead the strongest ticket to defeat Ronald Reagan by maximizing the gender gap and energizing the electorate; and

WHEREAS, a woman on the ticket will send a strong message to women and minorities that a Mondale presidency will open the decision-making process to those who have been systematically excluded from the political process; and

WHEREAS, by opposing Ronald Reagan but still withholding majority support from the Mondale candidacy, the nation's women are telling the Democratic male leadership "show us you will match your actions to your rhetoric;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women recommends to the NOW/PAC the following strategy: an intensified campaign for a woman vice-president, which will involve galvanizing delegate support and organizing public support and, if necessary, the introduction on the Convention floor the name of a woman for Vice President -- a woman who is strong on women's issues, a woman for all the right reasons, not as a symbolic nomination but as a viable candidate that will win the majority of votes of the delegates at the Democratic convention.

We are saying to our endorsed nominee, and fellow NOW member, Walter Mondale, "run with a woman, win with a woman."

WOMAN VICE-PRESIDENT

4/84

NOW Leaders shall be kept informed on polling, demographic, and other data that demonstrate the impact of a woman vice-president on the electability of the Democratic Presidential ticket.

NOW shall establish an immediate Action program through leadership alerts, educational packets and a lobby campaign of Democratic Party leadership and other constituency groups to select a feminist woman as the Democratic nominee for vice-president in 1984.

VOTER REGISTRATION, EDUCATION, AND GET-OUT-THE-VOTE

1984

WHEREAS, recent political events, notably the defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment by male dominated state legislatures and President Reagan's three and a half year assault on women's rights, have shown that the only way women will win equality is to register and vote for candidates who support women's equality; and **WHEREAS**, in November 1980 there were more than 27 million unregistered women of voting age nationwide and more than six million women who were registered but did not vote, while a shift of less than five million votes could have changed the outcome of that Presidential election; and

WHEREAS, in November 1984 eight million more women than men will be eligible to vote; and

WHEREAS, 1980 exit polls showed that pro-ERA women and men voted overwhelmingly against Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, through higher registration and turnout women could have made the difference in 1980 and can make the difference in 1984; and

WHEREAS, 22 million women, including a disproportionate number of low-income and minority women, are not registered to vote; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that voter registration targeted to potential voter supporting women's rights, education, and get-out-the-vote drives among women, especially low-income and minority women, will be a top priority for all units of NOW in the next four months. This should include:

1. Non-partisan, where legally necessary, voter registration drives.
2. Voter registration in conjunction with the Women's Truth Squad on Reagan activities, by unincorporated chapters, in accordance with the National NOW legal guidelines.
3. Registration of clients, where permissible, by NOW members employed in private or public social services and health agencies, welfare and unemployment offices, hospitals, cheese or food distribution sites, etc.
4. Registration by NOW members in the waiting rooms, reception areas, and lines at these agencies, etc.
5. Registration efforts at other sites where women, especially low-income, minority and working women gather, such as supermarkets, office buildings, day care centers, etc.
6. Registration at NOW activities, actions, and events, in accordance with the National NOW legal guidelines.

VOTING RIGHTS AND THE ERA

1984

WHEREAS, the run-off primary was instituted in the late 1800's to disenfranchise the political participation of Blacks; and

WHEREAS, the run-off primary is in effect in only 10 of the 50 states; and

WHEREAS, the run-off primary has a disproportionate impact on women and minorities seeking elected office, harming the prospects of increasing progressives in the legislature and the prospects for ratifying the

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ERA; and

WHEREAS, it is inequitable to employ a different standard for the nine (9) Southern states and Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, 9 of these 10 states did not ratify the ERA, and an overwhelming majority of women and minority candidates support the ERA; and if more blacks and women were elected to these state legislatures, the ERA would be ratified in these states; and

WHEREAS, women sought eight elected offices for Congress and Governorships between 1976 and 1984 and lost seven elections in the run-off primary; and

WHEREAS, women and minority candidates have difficulty raising money to seek elected office and are economically strapped when required to participate in run-off primaries; and

WHEREAS, studies comparing at-large and district electoral systems have shown that minorities and women are much less likely to be elected when the at-large format is used; and

WHEREAS, gerrymandering has traditionally been used as a method to dilute the voting participation of groups by drawing lines which determine the electoral district to minimize or exclude a group's participation in the political process; and

WHEREAS, annexation minimizes the concentration of certain groups such as minorities, the poor, and blue collar workers; and

WHEREAS, dual registration and dual voting are barriers to the right to vote and dilute the strength and participation of minorities and women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women supports the elimination of all voting barriers and methods which dilute the political empowerment of women and minorities such as run-off primaries, at-large elections, gerrymandering, annexation, dual registration, and dual voting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we reaffirm our support of the Voting Rights Act and stand committed to support the minority plank on the Voting Rights Act in the platform of the Democratic National Committee.

PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT

12/83

WHEREAS, the Mondale record on issues of concern to women is outstanding. As a United States Senator, Mondale co-sponsored the Equal Rights Amendment, was the chief Senate advocate of the Women's Education Equity Act, supported women's right to choose abortion and Medicaid funding for abortion, supported every major legislative initiative to win economic opportunity for women, and championed child care, child nutrition, and other programs that benefit women and children; and

WHEREAS, Mondale supports NOW's position on lesbian and gay rights, ERA, and reproductive rights. Mondale led many civil rights struggles in the Senate, including the fight for fair housing, school integration, and equal educational opportunity. Mondale also supports an end to discrimination on the basis of sexual preference; and

WHEREAS, women in the Mondale campaign hold positions as press secretary, deputy campaign manager, chief speechwriter, head of delegate selection, deputy director of scheduling, comptroller, and deputy director of advance. We believe that Mondale will fulfill his commitment to choose a running mate who is also committed to the issue of women's equality, and we know that he is seriously and fully considering women for the post; and

WHEREAS, Mondale supports a mutual verifiable negotiated freeze and has fought for arms control and believes that the only real safety for our nation and our people is through an entire and creative search for world peace; and

WHEREAS, perhaps most importantly, Mondale has strong support from the largest elements of the Democratic constituency. These include labor organizations, representatives of the black and Hispanic

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communities, teachers, and social workers, all of whom we are proud to be allied with. The grassroots strength and vitality of such groups as these are the strong point of the Democratic Party, and we believe that adding women to that combination will carry Walter Mondale to victory; and

WHEREAS, we take our responsibility to the women of this nation very seriously, and the political realities of 1984 dictate an early endorsement. We intend to be a force for women's issues within the Mondale campaign, on the floor of the Democratic Convention, and throughout the election process. NOW's first priority, indeed, our only reason for existing, is to advance women's rights. What we are doing today is not politics as usual for NOW. But we must challenge early and aggressively the reelection of a President who threatens not only the hope of future progress for women, but also the limited gains we have made in the past; and

WHEREAS, we are determined to defeat Reagan, because we know that four more years of this presidency would be four more disastrous years for women. The Reagan budgets that have been punishing to women will be slashed further, enforcement of equal pay and equal protection laws will lapse even more, and we will face the prospect of anti-ERA, anti-choice appointees to the Supreme Court, to Federal and District Courts, and to the Civil Rights Commission who will outlast Reagan's term. If Reagan is reelected, we will live with a Reagan Supreme Court for the rest of our lives; and

WHEREAS, the potential for a Reagan reelection represents a crisis for American women. We will not sit this one out.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NOW National Board of Directors recommend to the NOW/PAC that it endorse the candidacy of Walter Mondale for President of the United States.

JOAN GROWE

12/83

The NOW Board will send the following telegram to the leadership of the AFL/CIO and key union leaders:

The defeat of Senator Rudy Boschwitz is critical in 1984. This can't be done if women and labor are divided. Representative Oberstar's position on right to life is unacceptable to the women's movement.

Even though we support Secretary of State Joan Growe, we believe it serves both labor and women for the Minnesota AFL/CIO not to endorse at this time. Joan Growe is a top vote getter in Minnesota and has a perfect labor and women's record. She is believed to represent one of the very few chances for a woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984. Please urge the Minnesota AFL/CIO not to endorse. It's imperative women and labor are united in 1984.

TRUTH SQUAD

1983

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan's election to the Presidency has had devastating social and economic implications for women; and

WHEREAS, since his election two and a half million women have sunk below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, no Presidential administration in more than fifty years has been so callous and compassionless toward the most vulnerable in our society; and

WHEREAS, no presidential administration in the past twenty years has set out so deliberately to reverse the progress of women toward equality of rights and opportunity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women demand that the Republican Party nominate a candidate whose platform includes the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women continue and expand the Women's Truth Squad (Women's Rights--Reagan's Wrongs) by:

1. Publicizing Reagan's record and announcing each new offense;
2. Meeting Reagan everywhere with Truth Squad demonstrations, with ERA YES signs and rounds, and

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- our favorite colors green and white;
3. Expanding the Truth Squad to include picketing of major members of the Reagan administration;
 4. Circulating petitions on Reagan nationwide;
 5. Writing letters to the editor rebutting Reagan's lies;
 6. Calling for more state legislatures to follow the lead of West Virginia by holding hearings on the direct connection between Reagan and the feminization of poverty;
 7. Raising public visibility on the threats to women of four more years of Ronald Reagan; and
 8. Making the Ratification of the ERA the NUMBER 1 domestic issue of the 1984 Election Campaign.

1984 ENDORSEMENT

1983

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women has a responsibility to the people of this nation to use its political power to win equality for women; and

WHEREAS, feminists will seek the strongest possible ticket to defeat Ronald Reagan and the extreme right;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW:

1. Will help shape the ticket by endorsing a Presidential candidate for 1984;
2. will work to strengthen the ticket by advocating a woman committed to women's rights issues as the candidate for vice president;
3. will not accept a false geographic or ideological balancing of the ticket with a vice presidential candidate whose views diminish or negate the commitment of women's rights to the Presidential candidate; and
4. will promote the strongest possible ticket by maximizing the gender gap to defeat Reagan and the extreme right by making women's rights issues highly visible among the priority issues of the endorsed Presidential candidate.

NO THIRD PARTY OR INDEPENDENT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN 1984

1983

WHEREAS, the priority political goal in 1984 for the National Organization for Women is the defeat of Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, independent and third party candidates won enough votes in nineteen states where, had those votes gone to Carter he would have won those states; and

WHEREAS, in fourteen of those states, just the Anderson vote going to Carter would have made him the winner to bring his total winning states to twenty; and

WHEREAS, many of these fourteen states had large Electoral College votes such as New York, Michigan, and Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, it is clear from exit polls that most independent and third party votes cost President Carter, and we do not have the luxury in 1984 of having any "spoiler" votes giving an advantage to President Reagan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that if Ronald Reagan is the candidate of the Republican Party, that the National Organization for Women urge the NOW/PAC to not support third parties and particularly John Anderson, and his proposed new party, and instead urge them to join NOW and other like-minded organizations in the campaign to defeat Ronald Reagan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW recommend that its PACs not support any independent or third party presidential candidates in 1984.

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1984 BOARD ENDORSEMENT - BOARD MOTION

9/83

The National Board will recommend a Presidential endorsement to NOW PAC at its next Board meeting. The recommendation is to be based upon candidate's stands on issues as reported by our Executive Committee and others, levels of visibility on women's issues, platforms and records, placement of women on their staffs, as well as electability. The timeline is selected to allow maximum reporting from convention delegates and states and chapters.

ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

12/82

The National Board recommends to the NOW/Equality/PAC that a line item in its Budget be established to train and assist feminist candidates and NOW political activists in the electoral arena.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

1980

WHEREAS, NOW in December, 1979, took a stand to oppose actively the reelection of President Carter;

WHEREAS, as a result of strong feminist impact, the Democratic Party at its recent Convention has strengthened its commitment to the ERA and to the defense of women's reproductive rights;

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan has become the presidential candidate and titular head of the Republican Party which repudiated its 40 year commitment to the Equal Rights Amendment, has endorsed the so-called "Human Life Amendment," and is now held totally captive by the Radical Right;

WHEREAS, Reagan's election to the presidency would bring into power dangerous extremists dedicated to the proposition that America, and American women especially, must be returned to the 19th century when we are on the verge of entering the 21st;

AND WHEREAS, the Republican Party is being used by the Radical Right to change the face of America by using issues like gun control, abortion, STOP ERA, Panama Canal, and by using the millions of dollars big business is pouring into political action committees, to seize control of state legislatures and control of the Congress of the United States itself;

AND WHEREAS, in light of these dire developments NOW cannot remain on the sidelines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That NOW actively oppose the election of Ronald Reagan as President and work in every state to ensure that he does not receive 270 Electoral College votes;
2. That NOW expose to the public Reagan's medieval stance on women's issues through national action in the form of pickets wherever Reagan and/or Bush appear anywhere in the U.S.;
3. That NOW launch an unceasing campaign to turn out votes for our friends in Congress and in the state legislatures;
4. That NOW withdraw the National Board resolution of December, 1979;
5. That NOW endorse the platform of the Democratic Party as it pertains to women's rights.

(Electoral activities are conducted by the National Organization for Women Political Action Committees (PACs) and a number of state and local NOW PACs according to federal tax and election law. NOW may not engage in electoral activities. Accordingly, the electoral aspects of the resolution adopted by the national conference are referred to the NOW Political Action Committees.)

EQUALITY IN ELECTORAL POLITICS

1980

For years women have worked to achieve greater participation in the political life of this nation. That only a

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handful of women have ever sat in either house of the United States Congress; that no woman has ever been a Supreme Court Justice or President of the United States; that relatively few women have served the Judiciary at federal, state, or local levels; that state legislatures, city councils, and county commissions remain the preserve of men--all these are constant sources of degradation and reminders of the second class status of women in this nation.

Relatively few women ever have the opportunity to be more than viewers of the political scene -- mere cheerleaders on the political sidelines of life.

Years of struggle brought the victory of equal division at the 1980 Democratic National Convention, and the presence of women as 50% of the delegates clearly demonstrated that equal division does make a difference in the adoption of platform planks.

In an unprecedented advance for women, the 1980 Democratic Convention mandated equal division of women and men for all future conventions, for all committees and commissions of the Democratic National Committee (itself equally divided), and in all state Democratic central committees.

These actions coupled with the passage of support for medicaid funding for abortion and the mandate against funding or technical assistance for anti-ERA Democratic candidates all point to the clear impact of equal division.

As Democratic Party development and platform have been changed by equal division of delegates, so can the Congress and the state legislatures of this country be changed by equal division.

Why have women's rights been jeopardized in the legislative halls of this nation? Why are the ERA, child care legislation, Medicaid funding for abortion, lesbian and gay rights legislation, aid to battered women, social security reform, just to name a few -- why are these moving so slowly? Must we continue to beg for our rights?

Until we have women legislators in numbers equal to men our issues will continue to receive short shift. And the lesson of equal division at the 1980 Democratic Convention is that, indeed, when women are one half, it makes a difference for women.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women calls for and commits itself to work for parity in the legislative halls of this nation and at every level of government.

CRITERIA

1980

WHEREAS, NOW is not a single issue organization; and

WHEREAS, the advocacy of lesbian rights and the elimination racism are recognized as central priorities of NOW;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this conference direct the National NOW PAC to question -- when possible -- every candidate for financial support from National NOW PAC in order to ascertain her/his position on at least the following issues: Lesbian Rights, ERA, Reproductive Rights and Racism.

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1980 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION - BINDING RULE

7/80

WHEREAS, NOW fought for equal division of women and men as delegates to the Democratic convention;

WHEREAS, the 1980 convention will be the first in which 50% of the delegates will be women;

WHEREAS, for the first time in history the Democratic Party seeks to impose a requirement on delegates that they be bound on the first ballot to the candidate for whom they expressed preference at the time of their election as delegate;

WHEREAS, the "Binding Rule" removes any shred of responsibility or freedom of choice and makes irrelevant whatever representative function that once may have been inherent in the idea of a "delegate" as a "person authorized or sent to speak and act for others";

WHEREAS, the 'binding rule' seeks to gag women at a time when their collective political voice can finally be heard;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NOW priority at the Democratic Convention be to work for an open convention so that there be an opportunity for a Presidential and Vice Presidential nominee to emerge who will provide effective leadership on issues crucial to the quality of life and survival of American women and that a platform be passed that will protect the rights of all women and men in this country.

NATIONAL BOARD

2/80

The National Board of Directors is released in order to be able to make statements of personal support for political candidates.

NATIONAL BOARD RESOLUTION

12/79

WHEREAS, President Carter has failed to use the power of his office to secure the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, in three years in the office of President, he has failed to have even one serious meeting concerning ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, he has placed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment below all other major national domestic issues in priority; and

WHEREAS, the political allies of the President have placed the issue of equal rights for women on the political auction block repeatedly;

WHEREAS, President Carter has demonstrated his willingness to use the power of the presidency when it suits his purposes;

WHEREAS, during Carter's term of office, we have lost reproductive rights for poor women, military women and dependents, Peace Corps women, teenage women, with the threat of similar losses for government employees, teachers and District of Columbia citizens and whereas his callous disregard for women is exemplified by the statement 'Life is unfair.'

During the presidential campaign, we speak out against the President's action and non-action on women's rights.

We will hold the President responsible as did the suffragists, and direct our national officers to speak out against President Carter's anti-feminist policies.

We oppose re-election of President Carter, including in the General Election in November if he is the

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Democratic candidate.

Chapter and state actions in connection with National NOW/PAC's endorsement of presidential candidates shall be in accordance with the usual chapter and state participation in national activities, that is, chapters and states may determine their own level of participation and therefore may choose to (1) make Anderson and/or Kennedy endorsements through their own PACs, (2) encourage their members to remain uncommitted as to candidates although active in the election campaigns on behalf of NOW issues, (3) encourage their members not to participate in the election campaigns, or (4) encourage their members to participate in anti-Carter activities.

INDEPENDENCE FROM POLITICAL PARTIES

1978

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW) has always been an independent feminist organization; and

WHEREAS, NOW and its subunits wish to remain independent and free from political party pressure, yet able to endorse individual candidates who support NOW's positions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that no political party be allowed to use NOW or any subunit of NOW as a vehicle to further its political goals.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PAC

1977

WHEREAS, the continuing powerlessness of women with regard to control over their own lives is demonstrated, in part, by a widening gap in median income between men and women, an incipient constitutional amendment to prohibit abortion, child care legislation vetoes, and defeats in ERA ratification efforts in many states; and

WHEREAS, NOW as the largest feminist organization in the world, must therefore involve itself in a leadership role in direct political action in order to elect feminists to office; and

WHEREAS, a resolution adopted by the 1968 National Conference in Atlanta empowered the National Organization for Women to engage in electoral politics through the establishment of a "political promotion fund"; and,

WHEREAS, subsequent federal and state campaign disclosure laws have severely restricted the manner in which organizations can contribute to political campaigns; and

WHEREAS, such restrictions limit NOW's ability to participate in the political campaigns which would achieve the societal changes for which NOW was originally founded;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women establish a Political Action Committee (PAC) within the context of, and in compliance with, applicable federal and state campaign disclosure laws, with the following responsibilities:

1. To raise money for political campaigns and related activities;
2. To determine allocations of such monies to candidates' campaigns and related projects;
3. To disburse such monies in accordance with such prior determination; and
4. To assume such other political responsibilities; activities and projects as may, from time to time, become relevant or necessary.

All of the foregoing shall comply with applicable federal and state law.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the National Board of NOW incorporate the following criteria in the formation of NOW-PAC.

1. NOW-PAC shall be established at the National Board meeting following the Regional Conferences to

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be held in June of 1977:

2. NOW-PAC shall be comprised of nine (9) NOW members:
 - Each current NOW President (who shall chair NOW-PAC);
 - Each current NOW Treasurer (who shall be Treasurer of NOW-PAC);
 - Each current Action Vice President;
 - Three National Board members, who shall not be National Officers (2 of whom shall be selected from among those serving a two-year term); and
 - Three general members.The President shall appoint the three (3) Board members, with consent of the Board; the three general members shall be appointed by the six (6) Board members, with consent of the Board. Overall composition of the PAC shall be geographically representative.
3. Upon receipt of monies for political purposes, the Treasurer of NOW-PAC shall create three separate bank accounts (funds) as follows: NOW-PAC/State and NOW-PAC/Education. NOW-PAC monies shall not be commingled with the general funds of NOW.
4. States shall be resources for NOW-PAC by providing relevant information (voting records on feminist issues, etc.) on candidates, which information shall be utilized by NOW-PAC in determining the allocation of campaign monies.

BOARD MOTION

4/77

The National Board affirms its support of the resolutions passed by the NOW National Conference. The Board also reaffirms NOW's traditional policy that it is an open and democratic organization that does not exclude or otherwise discriminate against any member on the basis of political affiliation.

SWP INTERVENTION

1977

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Conference protests attempts by the Socialist Workers Party to use the National Organization for Women as a vehicle to place before the public the agenda of their organization and to exploit the feminist movement. We bitterly resent and will not tolerate any group's attempts to deflect us from pursuit of our feminist goals.

IMPEACH NIXON

1974

WHEREAS, there is substantial public evidence of President Nixon's participation in high crimes and misdemeanors, and

WHEREAS, there is also substantial evidence that he has obstructed the administration of justice and has repeatedly refused to comply with the requests of the House Judiciary Committee, and

WHEREAS, it is even more significant to the National Organization for Women that the President has unconstitutionally impounded funds appropriated by Congress for programs in education, child care, health and research, which are vital to the needs of women and children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women urge the House of Representatives to impeach Richard Milhous Nixon, President of the United States.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS PLANK

1971

BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW insist on the inclusion of a women's rights plank in all party platforms and

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recommends that the NOW National Board present our demands to the Platform Committees at the Parties' National Conventions.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

1971

BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW endorse the National Women's Political Caucus in our joint effort toward the following goals:

1. Forming women's caucuses within every party and every state;
2. Forming a caucus within every county in every party;
3. Forming a caucus within every congressional district in every party;
4. Ensuring that 50% of delegates to national conventions are women;
5. Raising funds to send a woman delegate to challenge the seating of state delegations of the national political parties if they are not proportionately representative of women;
6. Ensuring that women delegates are not "Aunt Toms" chosen to support the status quo;
7. Teaching women through schools for political candidates and otherwise how to get candidates not only on the party ticket but elected in the primaries and later elected against the opposition candidates from major parties
8. Be it understood that NOW's support for the NWPC does not preclude similar activities by NOW or its chapters.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

1971

WHEREAS, leaders of NOW joined with a broad coalition of women throughout the nation on July 10-12, 1971, in Washington, D.C. and

WHEREAS, the coalition's purpose is to build a multi-partisan women's political coalition in each state in order to elect more women to public office,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW urges its members to support NWPC by helping to organize women's political caucuses at the state level, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW educate its members to work effectively in political parties with the object of educating citizens about women's rights and with the object of persuading them to nominate feminist women candidates for party and public offices, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW shall inform women immediately as to methods of delegate selection in each state, and give top priority to organizing support for female candidates to ensure that 50% of each delegation to national political conventions shall be women.

UNITY OF THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT

1971

WHEREAS, we are committed to a society that will allow all individuals to realize their full human potential economically, socially and culturally, and

WHEREAS, we are opposed to those elements who would pit one group against another to divide and conquer,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NOW condemns the actions of individuals, groups and organizations that act to divide and exploit the feminist movement for their own goals and purposes, and who seek to drive a wedge between women, and

BE FURTHER IT RESOLVED: that NOW condemns the behavior of such elements that attempt to disrupt and manipulate feminist groups and coalitions for their own partisan ends.

POLITICS AND LEGISLATION

1970

NOW recognizes the need to act politically to achieve equal rights for women. We are non-partisan: we owe allegiance only to the cause of women's liberation, not to any political party, but we will work through existing political institutions to achieve our aims. We urge women to run for office from any political party and we will work for candidates who support and campaign for our goals.

We support the formation of women's rights caucuses within existing political parties and organizations and the establishment of independent women's political caucuses. These groups would seek out candidates to run for office in support of women's issues and would seek passage of legislation to further the cause of women's rights.

Even when election appears unlikely, NOW members should run for office to educate the public about our concerns. Local chapters should encourage women already active in politics to run on women's issues. Local chapters should set up committees to seek out candidates. Regional conferences should include workshops to train prospective candidates and campaign workers.

NOW urges all political parties to dissolve their women's divisions which have relegated women to servant roles in political life. Women should be included on all levels of party activity on an equal basis with men. In view of the fact that only 2 percent of all elected officials are women, we call on political parties to seek out and run women candidates who represent women's rights and needs.

NOW reaffirms its unalterable opposition to the confirmation of G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court of the United States on the grounds of his sexist action in the Phillips vs. Martin-Marietta case. We understand that the President is committed to the balanced court, and we urge him to appoint a distinguished woman jurist to the present vacancy on the Supreme Court.

We support the May 9th New York City demonstration against Rep. Emmanuel Celler of Brooklyn to protest his opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment.

If possible, the national NOW board meeting should be held in Washington, D.C. May 2 - 3, immediately before the hearings on the Equal Rights Amendment so that we can call attention to the hearings and urge that national attention be focused on the problems of women.

NOW officers and chapters should seek union support for our legislative goals and work to have unions insure equal rights for women on the job and within labor organizations.

National funds should be earmarked to hire a lobbyist to work on feminist issues in Washington, D.C.

We call a 24-hour general women's strike to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day women won the right to vote. The strike would focus on the continuing oppression of women and signal the start of a major political effort for the liberation of women.

We advocate that sex discrimination be forbidden in employment, education, housing, public accommodations and government services and that NOW work to add this provision to all local and state laws where it does not

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appear. NOW should take affirmative action and should insure that enforcement agencies take affirmative action to carry out the law.

We advocate equalizing the legal position of women and men in regard to child care responsibilities, interstate succession and prostitution.

We support United Nations treaties promoting the progress of women, and, advocate U.S. government sanctions against any country where women are not enfranchised.

Until our goal of dissolution of women's divisions is reached, we urge the women's divisions of the political parties to run women's candidates for office both within their party and at large.

We urge the Congress of the United States to allow Monica Mortz and other women to be employed as pages.

APPOINTIVE POSITIONS

1968

There should be legislation to include women on all commissions, boards and other appointive bodies at all governmental levels.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION: POLITICS

1968

RESOLVED, that NOW set up a political promotion fund which will be used to support the candidacy and election for public office of qualified persons sympathetic to and advocating NOW's purposes.

NIXON

1968

RESOLVED, that a committee be formed at once to visit President-elect Nixon at the earliest possible moment to discuss with him the discrimination against women which exists in every aspect of American society.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that we tell him we expect him to name to his personal staff a full time person to deal with this problem, and that we urge the citizens' advisory council to be continued, but with broader powers.

RESOLVED, also that we expect women to be given major political assignments, such as appointments to the cabinet, as ambassadors and other significant positions, since women represent 51% of the population and are qualified and ready to contribute to the decision making processes of government.

POLITICAL RIGHTS

1967

We urge women working in political parties to refuse to lick stamps and envelopes and give tea parties unless men do their share and women are elected to policy making positions.

Women must be given proportionate representation on all policy making boards, commissions and committees to reflect the number of women in said area that said commission represents.

NOW supports the adoption of Federal legislation to make unlawful any distinction on account of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status in the qualifications for service, and in the selection of any person to serve, on grand or petit juries in every Federal and State court.

PORNOGRAPHY

AMERICAN PSYCHO

1/91

WHEREAS, there have long been efforts on the grassroots level in the National Organization for Women to combat violence against women -- including participation in and initiation of Take Back the Night marches, picketing of "snuff" films, helping to create and generate public support for battered women's shelters and rape crisis centers, combating the violence and terrorism of Operation Rescue and lobbying at the state and national level for the inclusion of women in hate crimes legislation; and

WHEREAS, today rape and other forms of violence against women are a primary concern of women; and

WHEREAS, in many areas of the country, violence against women is on the rise and is likely to be exacerbated by current economic trends;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW declares its intention to increase its activism on all levels to stop violence against women. Our program will be spearheaded on the national level led by our Committee on Violence Against Women. This group, together with the Vice President Action, is charged with developing a comprehensive campaign to stop the war against women being waged in the homes and on the streets of this nation.

In the last two months, the Los Angeles Chapter of NOW has taken the initiative to bring to the attention of the public the proposed publication of American Psycho. Los Angeles NOW's action strongly encourages women and men of conscience to protest the massive and unrelenting violence against women depicted in this book.

We hereby instruct a delegation of NOW leaders to meet with Sonny Mehta of Knopf to voice our conviction that the publication of American Psycho is socially irresponsible and legitimizes inhuman and savage violence masquerading as sexuality. This is totally unacceptable.

We therefore call upon Knopf to reconsider their publication decision and reject the manuscript in its entirety. The delegation to Knopf shall report to the NOW leadership their recommendations for future action.

See Also: Violence Against Women

COMMITTEE ON PORNOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

11/90

WHEREAS, since 1984 NOW has been on record recognizing that "pornography, as distinct from erotica, is a systematic practice of exploitation and subordination based on sex, which differentially harms women and children;" and

WHEREAS, the 1985 Conference resolution identified that "pornography promotes sexual assault and is used increasingly and commonly in battery, in rape and in forcing women and children into prostitution;" and

WHEREAS, the home video market has increased the prevalence and availability of eroticized violent pornography; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the NOW National President appointed a committee to devise appropriate strategies for NOW to move forward;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Board gives that committee the following charge:

1. To investigate legislation adding gender as a reportable category under the recently passed Hate Crimes Statistics Act or to take other legislative strategies to accomplish the same goal;
2. In light of the lack of consensus within NOW on past and pending legislative remedies, to draft and arrange for the introduction of legislation to address two areas of specific harm to women, namely appropriate civil and/or criminal remedies:
 - a. For women coerced into appearing in pornography; and

PORNOGRAPHY

- b. For victims of sexual assault where it can be shown that violent pornography played a causative role;
3. To design a major public education campaign focusing on the connections between pornography and harm to women and children.

VICTIM COMPENSATION

9/89

Moved that NOW endorse the concept of compensation for victims of violent women-hating pornography, which shows mutilation, forcible rape, or torture of women, and empowers the Executive Committee and National Board to construct a model act which will accomplish the stated goal without threatening literature such as lesbian/gay literature, literary classics or erotica, and to work in Congress or at state or local levels to accomplish this goal.

PORNOGRAPHY

10/87

WHEREAS, the 1984 NOW Conference resolved that NOW supports actions by the chapters on this issue, pornography; and the 1985 NOW Conference resolved that NOW, as the largest feminist organization in the United States, should properly take a leadership position on the issues; and, that NOW will explore possible legislative remedies; and, that NOW encourage subunits of NOW to participate in action on pornography; and **WHEREAS, THE PORNOGRAPHY VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 1987**: introduced by Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania-#S703 and Representative Bill Green of Manhattan-#HR1213 enables persons who have been coerced, intimidated or fraudulently induced into posing or performing in pornography to seek civil and/or criminal recourse against producers and distributors; and

WHEREAS, this Act is the first pornography legislation in the history of Congress to address adult victimization in pornography and to gain a Democratic majority in co-sponsorship; and

WHEREAS, the Act has been co-sponsored by feminist leaders Senator Barbara Mikulski and Representative Barbara Boxer, and endorsed by NOW chapters nationwide (New York City, Seattle, San Jose, Texas A&M University) and organizations concerned with rape, battered women, incest, prostitution and runaways, and the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press; and

WHEREAS, the Act's empowerment of victims with recourse actionable only on the three terms of coercion, intimidation or fraudulent inducement, after the fact, constitutes no "prior restraint", the hallmark of censorship, and therefore does not conflict with the First Amendment or restrict free speech,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW endorse **THE PORNOGRAPHY VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 1987**, include passage of the Act in the national NOW action agenda, and activate a national, state and chapter education and lobbying effort.

PORNOGRAPHY

1985

WHEREAS, the 1984 NOW Conference resolved that pornography is a factor in creating and maintaining sex as a basis for discrimination, and that pornography, as distinct from erotica, is a systematic practice of exploitation and subordination based on sex, which differentially harms women and children, through dehumanization, sexual exploitation, forced sex, forced prostitution, physical injury, and social and sexual terrorism presented as entertainment, and that pornography violated the civil rights of women and children; and

WHEREAS, the pornography issue is receiving widespread attention at this time and action at this juncture by a large, national organization of NOW's stature would serve and extend the interest; and

WHEREAS, NOW, as the largest feminist organization in the United States, should properly take a leadership

PORNOGRAPHY

position on the issue; and

WHEREAS, the feminist movement is deeply divided on numerous issues related to pornography -- ranging from whether pornography is harmful and to what degree, to whether legislation dealing with the content of pornography will effectively reduce violence against women; and

WHEREAS, the pro-pornography faction is funded by large and in some cases well-financed organizations, putting local chapters at a severe disadvantage as they try to deal with the issue at their local levels; and

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate sex education in our schools combined with accessibility of pornography gives pornography a virtual monopoly over sex education in our society; and

WHEREAS, pornography promotes sexual assault and is used increasingly and commonly in battery, in rape and in forcing women and children into prostitution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW will develop and produce an educational kit including a visual presentation to be used in educating chapters about the pornography issue, and the feminist analysis of it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will explore feminist approaches to laws including, but not limited to: products liability law; consumer law; libel law (individual and groups); and civil rights laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will work to encourage rape crisis centers and battered women's shelters nationwide to include questions regarding the use of pornography in instances of violence on intake forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the national office serve as a collection point to which subunits of NOW may submit evidence of crimes committed against women in which pornography was a factor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will explore possible legislative remedies, including but not limited to: a civil rights approach; current ordinance proposals; and laws requiring that all pornographic materials carry complete identification of the producer/financier, with the following guidelines: that they are urged not to join anti-pornography alliances that do not support explicitly the equality of women and lesbian and gay rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW encourage subunits of NOW to participate in education and action on pornography. Recommendations to chapters may include economic boycotts, primary and secondary; "buycotts" (buying where pornography is not sold); sidewalk counseling at pornographic businesses; house parties and other educational meetings; locating and reporting to national office of possible litigants (people with standing to sue) in their communities; monitoring of purchasers and distributors of pornography; zap actions; media monitoring; letter-writing campaigns; marches and pickets; and improving accessibility to sex education programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Issues Committee shall develop a concept paper on pornography; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW allocate an additional \$10,000 to the Action Program line item of the national budget.

See Also: Lesbian Rights 1980 General Resolution and Concept Paper

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1984

RESOLVED, that NOW finds that pornography is a factor in creating and maintaining sex as a basis for discrimination. Pornography, as distinct from erotica, is a systematic practice of exploitation and subordination based on sex which differentially harms women and children. This harm includes dehumanization, sexual exploitation, forced sex, forced prostitution, physical injury, and social and sexual terrorism and inferiority presented as entertainment. Pornography violates the civil rights of women and children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW supports education and action by the chapters on this issue.

PORNOGRAPHY

PLAYBOY

5/84

The NOW Board urges the NOW LDEF to remove Christie Hefner from the Corporate Advisory Board and also strongly urges the NOW LDEF not to accept funds from the Playboy Foundation.

PREGNANCY

TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

1986

WHEREAS, each year more than one million teenage pregnancies occur and 3 out of 4 of these pregnancies are unwanted; and

WHEREAS, nearly five million young women are sexually active, including two million 13 - 17 year old young women, and nearly seven million young men are sexually active, including 3.5 million 13 - 17 year old young men; and

WHEREAS, a complete knowledge of sexual and reproductive activities empower women's choices; and

WHEREAS, an emerging approach to improving adolescent health and addressing teenage pregnancy through school-based health clinics has reported dramatically positive results, including a dramatic reduction in the rate of teenage pregnancy where these school-based clinics exist; and

WHEREAS, the Right Wing in America has launched a campaign to force closure of existing school-based health clinics and to prevent the establishment of new clinics and has attacked the use of sex education materials in order to restrict education about sexuality to a single, repressive point of view;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW will actively support the development and distribution of programs to prevent unwanted teenage pregnancy, including comprehensive sex education programs responsive to feminist values of gender equality and women's autonomy; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that NOW support research across the country regarding the establishment of school-based health clinics in an effort to discover what has been accomplished and how it was accomplished and to share this information with our state and local chapters; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW will oppose local efforts, including school board actions, which would restrict the availability (including open library access) of sex education materials.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

1985

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The problems associated with teenage pregnancy be made a priority for the National Organization for Women; and that

NOW's Committees on Reproductive Rights, Economic Rights and Combating Racism work together to develop a national strategy and guidelines for state and local strategies, using the Connecticut NOW Task Force on Adolescent Pregnancy proposals as a model. (The Connecticut NOW Task Force recommendations included family-life education, school-based health clinics to provide access to pregnancy prevention information, job training and medical assistance for the working poor); and that

Strategies developed by the National NOW Issues Committees be sent to the office of NOW's Action Vice President for a full issue development campaign including research, resources, tactics and implementation at National, State and local levels, including ways of networking with groups for which teenage pregnancy is a priority, *i.e.*, the Children's Defense Fund, the YWCA, the National Council of Negro Women, Delta Sigma Theta, Girl Scouts, Junior Leagues, and the Urban League; and that

NOW take the offensive on the issue of teenage pregnancy as a matter of reproductive and economic welfare involving American women of all races as part of NOW's Campaign to Save Women's Lives.

PREGNANCY

PREGNANCY DISABILITY BILL

10/78

NOW will work for the passage of the Pregnancy Disability Bill without any restrictions on a woman's right to choose and if the final passage vote is on a Pregnancy Disability Bill with an abortion rider, we will support final passage and expose the "divide and conquer" anti-feminist tactic of attempting to kill all pro-woman legislation through attachment of abortion riders.

NOW VISION SUMMIT

1996

WHEREAS, NOW, the women's movement, and the social environment have evolved over the last 30 years; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue to create opportunities and respond to the challenges of the 21st Century, NOW must re-Vision itself; and

WHEREAS, we need a vision that comes from the combined ideas of our members with their enthusiastic support as an essential first step toward redefining a mission, values, goals, and strategies that will make us effective and successful in the 21st Century,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that members are strongly encouraged to continue the visioning process on the chapter, state, and/or regional levels and prepare to share those ideas at a Visioning Summit as the primary focus of the 1998 National NOW Conference, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each sub-unit of NOW be provided with instructions in the National NOW Times and a leadership mailing that enable them to contribute ideas about their vision for NOW, and that the results of these small group sessions be published in the materials provided at the conference.

**RACISM AND SEXISM IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM:
THE OJ SIMPSON TRIAL AND ITS AFTERMATH**

12/95

WHEREAS NOW recognizes that the justice system, like other social institutions, is infected with racism, sexism, and other forms of bigotry; and

WHEREAS the OJ Simpson trial and its aftermath reaffirm that our society does not deal effectively with the issues of sexism, racism, classism, or violence against women; and

WHEREAS NOW is an organization comprised of diverse individuals with different life experiences and different opinions, all of whom support feminist principles, the ultimate goal of equality for women and the elimination of all forms of discrimination; and

WHEREAS NOW is committed to exposing and eradicating all forms of racism and actively supports all those who experience its impact, both individual and institutional; and

WHEREAS NOW is committed to exposing and eradicating all forms of violence against women, especially domestic violence which often leads to the murder of women by someone who purported to love them; and

WHEREAS NOW recognizes that women of color are often put in the unfair position of being told to choose between their allegiance to their communities of color or to the feminist community when responding to complex issues which encompass race, class, and/or gender; and

WHEREAS NOW does not create hierarchies of oppression, as if one form of discrimination were worse than another, but rather condemns all forms of discrimination;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOW reaffirms its commitment to activism to eradicate violence against women and to eradicate racism as issues with equal organizational priority; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW recognizes the need to coordinate its public statements and actions so that they consistently represent NOW's priorities.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW recognizes the importance of not ranking or trading off issues as if they were not equally onerous and deserving of our activism; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW requires all who speak on behalf of the organization at any level -- local, state, or national -- to consider seriously that the impact of any statements may go well beyond the immediate situation or location involved; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW demands the intense examination of all parts of the justice system, from police departments to the courts to the elected officials who make the laws, so that the incipient racism, sexism and classism that infect our societal institutions can be rooted out and can assure all victims of discrimination that they will have fair and just treatment without regard to race, gender, or economic status; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW commits itself to intense internal examination of

PRIORITIES

its own residual racism so that as an organization it is sensitive to the impact public events and political situations may have on its diverse membership, so that it can lead by example to a more equal and just future.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR CHAPTERS

1995

WHEREAS, the elimination of racism is one of the National Organization for Women's (NOW) priority issues and the establishment and cultivation of an affirmative action policy within each chapter is essential to the success of achieving an inclusive and diverse organization; and

WHEREAS, Affirmative Action has recently been propelled into the forefront of our National consciousness as a wedge issue by the Republican Party meant to de-value women and minorities; and

WHEREAS, NOW recognizes that to be truly effective and honest in our fight to defend Affirmative Action, we must "walk the walk" and encourage chapters to incorporate an effective Affirmative Action plan within their own structure; and

WHEREAS, NOW believes that until the many faces of feminism are reflected in our membership, there can be no true equality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that National NOW develop and promote an Affirmative Action Guide for chapters designed to educate and encourage chapters regarding the value of diversity and to provide the necessary resource materials and assistance needed to create such a program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this guide be compiled with assistance from the National Board, the Racial Diversity Director, the Affirmative Action Conference Implementation Committee, and any other appropriate NOW entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this guide include a format that stresses the importance of internal membership education prior to any recruitment campaign and that tools such as Consciousness-Raising be strongly encouraged; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to ensure awareness of such a guide, all chapters be mailed one free issue of the guide after its initial creation and that subsequent reminders of its availability be included in leadership mailings on a regular basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW develop a diversity questionnaire to be mailed annually to chapters for the dual purpose of monitoring successful models and sharing those models with all chapters; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Affirmative Action guide include sample affirmative action bylaws in order to facilitate such a policy.

See Also: Affirmative Action

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

5/95

WHEREAS, membership recruitment and development are essential parts of sustaining NOW as an organization; and

WHEREAS, on 1994 the Board established an Annual Membership Drive; and

WHEREAS, 1995 is the 75th anniversary of suffrage and it is now timely to focus on field organizing and building for the 1996 elections.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that board members commit to take responsibility in working with state and chapter leaders in developing a plan for membership recruitment and development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that board members meet with state coordinators to specifically work with them in developing a year-long membership campaign that will kick-off on August 26, 1995; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there will be a workshop on the membership campaign at the 1995 National Conference in Columbus, Ohio; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the campaign will include such elements as economic encouragement, numeric goals, the development of campaign packets to include materials in both print and electronic format, and field and chapter activist development training.

PRIORITIES

ORGANIZING AND LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

1990

WHEREAS, the numbers of members and activists in the National Organization for Women has soared to an all-time high in the year since the Supreme Court's decision in Webster, doubling and tripling the size of some of our chapters, and many people who have long supported women's rights philosophically now are willing to take action to secure those rights; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that NOW continue to provide leadership and direction not only on abortion rights but on the entire feminist agenda; and

WHEREAS, we must develop creative new structures and techniques to sustain the growth of NOW and the feminist movement, to include and involve new activists, and to put their energy and enthusiasm to work, taking into account that for many women, their activism must be fit into lives that already include two full-time jobs, one in the paid workforce and the other in the home; and

WHEREAS, to expand NOW's size and strength to meet the challenge of moving forward on our entire agenda, NOW must have not only more trained feminist leaders and activists, but also a sound financial base and an expanded communications system to recruit new members and to alert our activists when quick action is needed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW undertake a major leadership skills and issues training program to strengthen current leaders' abilities, develop new leaders, network with at-large members, and raise the consciousness of abortion rights activists on the whole range of feminist issues and on the important links among sexism, racism, homophobia, classism, able-ism and other forms of discrimination and oppression; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW develop new organizing techniques and formats for chapters to carry out their work on feminist issues, including pre-packaged issue briefings to provide chapters and action teams with a system of self-training for activists, public education and outreach, and media and action components; that we reinstitute Action Team Central and work with chapters to place NOW's new public service announcements on local television; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW launch a capital campaign drive at NOW's 25th Anniversary celebration with the goal of buying a building for the NOW Action Center in time for NOW's 30th Anniversary, that we continue to expand NOW's fundraising methods, such as more actively marketing an increased political product line and reviving annual "event" fundraisers similar to the Walk-A-Thons which raised as much as \$1,000,000 in one year for the chapters, states, and national NOW.

1985 PRIORITIES

12/84

BE IT RESOLVED that major national issue concentration for the coming year be on pay equity, reproductive rights and violence against women. This is not to preclude or to make secondary continuing action and development on the four top priorities of the organization: ERA, reproductive rights, lesbian rights and combating racism.

INCLUDING "SEX" IN NON-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION

3/69

Motion adopted that NOW push to include "sex" in all non-discrimination legislation.

PROSTITUTION

OPPOSING TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

1993

WHEREAS, NOW affirms the equality and dignity of women and girls; and

WHEREAS, since 1973 NOW has taken a strong position supporting the decriminalization of prostitution in support of a woman's choice what to do with her own body; and

WHEREAS, trafficking is the sexual slavery of women and children; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of trafficking in women and children, who are bought and sold in the U.S. and abroad for the purposes of prostitution and the commercialized sex industry, has reached 30 million women and children bought and sold since the mid-1970s; and

WHEREAS, the commercialized sex industry and sex tourism have become global multi-billion dollar industries because of the exploitation of economically, politically and socially oppressed women; and

WHEREAS, the enslavement of women and children in prostitution and the commercialized sex industry involves torture, rape, degradation, murder and the infliction of sexually transmitted disease; and

WHEREAS, the fastest growing area of forced prostitution is child prostitution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women urge members, legislators, politicians and government:

- 1) to support and promote legislation to prevent and punish trafficking in women and children in the U.S. and abroad;
- 2) to support and promote foreign policy that takes into account human rights violations against women and children;
- 3) to support and promote law enforcement in their pursuit of traffickers in the U.S. and abroad;
- 4) to support and promote education of individuals, government officials, law enforcement officials, business and legal professionals, the military, women's groups, human rights groups, religious groups and the media as to the violent and enslaving nature of illegal immigration and the trafficking of women and children in commercialized sex industries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women confront and fight the buying and selling of women and children here and abroad; and the exploitation of poor, young and powerless women in forced prostitution here and abroad.

See Also: Global

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE

7/82

Motion adopted to establish a Conference Implementation Committee on Prostitution with the charge of educating the membership on the feminist perspectives on this issue, and that it be assigned to the Human Rights Board Committee.

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1980

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women passed a resolution at the 1973 National Conference calling for the decriminalization of prostitution; and

WHEREAS, prostitution is still a crime in 49 states, legal only in brothels in two rural counties in Nevada and the 50th state; and

WHEREAS, more than 75,000 people are arrested on prostitution charges each year, 75 percent of whom are women; 55 percent of whom are Black, Latina, Asian or Native American, and 85 to 90 percent of whom are street prostitutes even though only about 10 to 15 percent of prostitutes work on the street; and

WHEREAS, many cities have set up de facto legalization of prostitution by requiring the workers in massage parlors to obtain licenses, often from the police departments, and by issuing business licenses to the owners of massage parlors, while maintaining a polite fiction that the businesses are not involved with prostitution; and

WHEREAS, the polite friction is maintained through the periodic raids of massage parlors in which women are arrested and jailed, and through periodic closing of the parlors which forces the women to work on the street, subjecting them to increased risk of rape, other bodily harm and arrest; and

PROSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the continued prohibition of prostitution has contributed to the incredible increase over the past year in the amount of sexual, physical and emotional abuse that prostitute women, and by extension all women, face in this country; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for shelters and other transition programs for women and juveniles who want help getting away from abusive prostitution situations or finding other ways to earn a living, and battered women's shelters around the country are inconsistent in their policies regarding prostitutes, and

WHEREAS, the current prohibition does nothing to help the 500,000 or more juvenile victims of the sexual abuse that is juvenile prostitution and pornography and only compounds their victimization by punishing them instead of those who abuse them; and

WHEREAS, Prostitution Committees are being formed in local NOW chapters around the country, including Baltimore, San Francisco, Tampa, Atlantic County and Detroit, with at least one State-level Committee, in California, while some committees that focus on rape and other violence against women are beginning to focus more on prostitution;

RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women form a national Prostitution committee, or a sub-committee of the National Violence Against Women Committee, to coordinate the efforts of NOW Prostitution Task Forces around the country, with appropriate funding.

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1973

WHEREAS, the existence of prostitution in this society is a reflection that women in the society are considered not to be the equals of men, and are valued, almost without exception, for their sexuality first, and their humanness second, and

WHEREAS, said society maintains a double standard with regard to the sexual activities of women and men, and, under this standard, women are harshly categorized, to wit, the woman who is loved and cherished is protected from any sexual deviation, but any kind of sexual deviation is permissible with a woman who prostituted herself; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that a woman becomes a prostitute for several reasons among these being a breakdown in positive reinforcement for her early creative and constructive efforts, an overemphasis on her sexuality as a vehicle for male attraction, and finally her economic distress, which in instances where she has defied the racial or sexual mores of one society is combined with social recrimination and is particularly overt; and

WHEREAS, coercion has been reported, first in the reports of some welfare social workers, encouraging women to supplement welfare checks by prostitution, and secondly, in reports in some cities of women being kidnapped and, through torture and drugs, being made dependent on earnings from the fast life, and

WHEREAS, the prostitute is often a victim of customer brutality but under prohibitive laws and discriminatory enforcement practices found through out the United States cannot seek police protection; and

WHEREAS, a practicing prostitute must ally herself with a pimp in order to achieve status in the sub-culture, but also for protection and to supply legal support when she is arrested, and then surrenders her earnings in exchange for his economic and psychological support; and

WHEREAS, prostitutes enter into an agreement, contractual in nature, with a consenting adult, to perform a service in private, and

WHEREAS, while the act of prostituting is almost always illegal in this society consorting with a prostitute and using coercion to influence a woman to prostitute herself are often also illegal; and

WHEREAS, statistics in the areas where all acts involved in prostitution (being a prostitute, consorting with a prostitute, or coercing a woman to prostitute herself) show that only the prostitute is arrested and convicted, and that customers are almost never arrested let alone charged or convicted; and

WHEREAS, a prostitute, having been imprisoned for an act she considers essentially a service, can be exposed to persons who may have committed heinous crimes, with the possible results of this interment being her perpetration of genuine crime, such as theft, against future clients; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of existing laws serve to make prostitution a crime only in the lower echelon of

PROSTITUTION

society (for example, the streetwalker) and at the same time virtually ignores prostitution in the middle and upper classes; and

WHEREAS, the entrapment of prostitutes requires an exorbitant outlay of police time, effort and expense and thus contributes to a situation in which public morality is regulated at the expense of the public safety; and

WHEREAS, policemen who volunteer for such activities as entrapping and arresting prostitutes often manifest verbal and physical abuse against these women and may as well suffer, because of these activities, a deterioration in their personal and professional self-images; and

WHEREAS, in the instances of crimes such as prostitution, which have no complainant, the police become the complaining party, a practice which lends itself to payoff and other corruption and in turn prompts a broad disrespect for the law; and

WHEREAS, there is no evidence to indicate that liberalization of such prohibitive laws will encourage women to become prostitutes; and

WHEREAS, the continued legal prohibition of verbal or physical threat in persuading a woman to prostitute herself would permit legal access to women who are coerced to prostitute themselves, either by private individuals or public agencies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1) that NOW condemns first the social and economic structure which limits women's alternatives and thus contributes directly to the decision of many women to seek prostitution in hopes that it will at least provide adequate earnings and remove them from the mindlessness of low-skill, low-paying jobs, and secondly condemns the legal structure which persecutes women prostitutes while ignoring the participation of men;
- 2) that said organization opposes continued prohibitive laws regarding prostitution believing them to be punitive, especially where women are concerned, and unenforceable, and furthermore, believing they do not deter women who must become prostitutes but rather that the laws encourage the prostitute to become involved in serious crime;
- 3) that said organization strongly opposes the licensing of prostitutes, believing that;
 - (a) such licensing will result in ongoing persecution of women who will not register because they do not wish publicly to proclaim themselves prostitutes, perhaps in the belief that they will one day seek an alternative life,
 - (b) such licensing would serve to place governmental bodies in the business of making money off the sale of women's sexual services and further place government in the role of regulating public morality, when in fact we believe that an ill-advised role for government and
 - (c) finally, it presents a false promise to clients who believe such licensing protects them from venereal disease, to wit, that prostitutes are regularly examined by a doctor, when in fact such medical checkups cannot provide such protection because of the relative infrequency of the checkups when compared to the numbers of clients seen daily by licensed prostitutes;
- 4) that said organization supports full prosecution of any acts of coercion by any person, public agency or group to influence women to become prostitutes;
- 5) that said organization seeks only to remove the inequities against prostitutes who are, on the one hand, brutalized without having legal recourse, and, on the other, are, by their singular arrests, the subjects of flagrantly selective law enforcement, realizing that to repeal the laws prohibiting prostitution is not to make a judgment that prostitution is morally good, but rather that it is instead a judgment about the appropriate use of the criminal justice system;
- 6) that said organization therefore favors removal of all laws relating to the act of prostitution per se and, as an interim measure, favors the decriminalization of prostitution.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

CHURCH BURNINGS

1996

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women (NOW) shall immediately issue a press statement to denounce the racially targeted church burnings which are a cowardly attempt to intimidate and silence *all* people working for social and economic justice; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NOW join the efforts of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and other allies in the civil rights community to keep pressure on the U.S. Department of Justice, the Attorney General, and the President to uncover and prosecute the responsible individual(s) and/or group(s) to the fullest extent of the law.

ACTIVISM ON NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES

1996

WHEREAS, Native Americans have alarmingly high rates of health problems such as alcoholism, heart disease, diabetes, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects, suicide or attempted suicide, death from breast cancer, and accidental death; and

WHEREAS, economic conditions on reservations are appalling including contaminated water, no electricity or plumbing, and a lack of adequate housing; and

WHEREAS, many young Native Americans are growing up in a dangerous and even lethal environment demonstrated by the high incidence of gang rape, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, murder, and child sexual and physical abuse; and

WHEREAS, the future of Native Americans has been jeopardized by the loss of their children through such programs as forced attendance at boarding schools and adoption and placement outside the tribe without tribal permission; and

WHEREAS, obstacles to reproductive freedom abound such as limited access to safe contraceptives, lack of access to safe abortions, and a history of forced sterilization which has now evolved into coerced sterilization; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans' culture has been debased through forced assimilation, laws forbidding religious practices, and disrespect of sacred sites; and

WHEREAS, governmental policies have fostered extermination of Native Peoples (i.e. genocide), as demonstrated by the fact that Native Americans currently number less than 2 million people nationwide with an average life expectancy of 45 years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women (NOW) solicit input from Native American women on current problems and issues affecting them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW develop educational materials on Native American issues to be distributed to chapters and the general public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW encourage chapters to increase participation of Native Americans in NOW events by such means as fundraising for NOW memberships or conference attendance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW calls upon Congress and the President to respect tribal sovereignty with regard to placement of their children by amending the 1996 Child Welfare Act to reinstate tribal permission regarding adoption and placement outside the tribe; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NOW form alliances with Native American groups to actively promote reversal of the damage done to Native American cultures and encourage the nation to celebrate the strengths and acknowledge the contributions, both current and historical, of Native American groups.

INDIGENOUS HAWAIIAN PEOPLES RESOLUTION

1996

WHEREAS, the Native Hawai'ian peoples are the indigenous peoples of the islands of Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, Queen Lili'uokalani did not abdicate her throne, but was forced to relinquish it on January 16, 1893, in order to protect her Hawai'ian peoples from certain violence and genocide; and

WHEREAS, in the 1993 Apology Bill to the Native Hawai'ian peoples, President Clinton acknowledged the

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i and formally recognized the American and the Hawai'ian societies; and

WHEREAS, prior to statehood, Hawai'i was scheduled to become an independent nation recognized by the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, under statehood the children of the indigenous Hawai'ian peoples have experienced a U.S. government-imposed, two-tiered system of discrimination based on fifty percent blood quantum, both below and above, which has divided the indigenous Hawai'ian peoples; and

WHEREAS, the indigenous Hawai'ian peoples have been deprived of the exercise of their sovereignty, including self-determination, control of their islands and ocean resources, use of their language, and exercise of their cultural and religious practices; and

WHEREAS, the self-determining indigenous Hawai'ian rights movement has sustained momentum from the first contact with other nations; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i National Organization for Women (NOW) has formally recognized the existence and work of the independent indigenous Hawai'ian peoples' NOW VISION SUMMIT self-determining grassroots sovereignty movement since October 1, 1994; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government is currently conducting a sovereignty vote through the State Office of Hawai'ian Affairs (SOHA);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NOW provide moral support for and encourage political recognition of the self-determining indigenous Hawai'ian peoples and the newly forming independent indigenous Hawai'ian women's non-governmental organization.

RACISM AND SEXISM IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM: THE OJ SIMPSON TRIAL AND ITS AFTERMATH

12/95

WHEREAS NOW recognizes that the justice system, like other social institutions, is infected with racism, sexism, and other forms of bigotry; and

WHEREAS the OJ Simpson trial and its aftermath reaffirm that our society does not deal effectively with the issues of sexism, racism, classism, or violence against women; and

WHEREAS NOW is an organization comprised of diverse individuals with different life experiences and different opinions, all of whom support feminist principles, the ultimate goal of equality for women and the elimination of all forms of discrimination; and

WHEREAS NOW is committed to exposing and eradicating all forms of racism and actively supports all those who experience its impact, both individual and institutional; and

WHEREAS NOW is committed to exposing and eradicating all forms of violence against women, especially domestic violence which often leads to the murder of women by someone who purported to love them; and

WHEREAS NOW recognizes that women of color are often put in the unfair position of being told to choose between their allegiance to their communities of color or to the feminist community when responding to complex issues which encompass race, class, and/or gender; and

WHEREAS NOW does not create hierarchies of oppression, as if one form of discrimination were worse than another, but rather condemns all forms of discrimination;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOW reaffirms its commitment to activism to eradicate violence against women and to eradicate racism as issues with equal organizational priority; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW recognizes the need to coordinate its public statements and actions so that they consistently represent NOW's priorities.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW recognizes the importance of not ranking or trading off issues as if they were not equally onerous and deserving of our activism; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW requires all who speak on behalf of the organization at any level -- local, state, or national -- to consider seriously that the impact of any statements may go well beyond the immediate situation or location involved; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW demands the intense examination of all parts of

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

the justice system, from police departments to the courts to the elected officials who make the laws, so that the incipient racism, sexism and classism that infect our societal institutions can be rooted out and can assure all victims of discrimination that they will have fair and just treatment without regard to race, gender, or economic status; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW commits itself to intense internal examination of its own residual racism so that as an organization it is sensitive to the impact public events and political situations may have on its diverse membership, so that it can lead by example to a more equal and just future.

FIGHTING RACIST ANTI-IMMIGRANT CAMPAIGNS

1994

WHEREAS, women who are residing in the United States of America and who do not have legal residency status, or are suspected of not having legal residency status, are under increased attack; and

WHEREAS, immigrants contribute significantly to our economy, but false and manipulative information regarding the impact of immigration on the economy has been used to attack people of color; and

WHEREAS, immigrants without legal status are restricted to federal public assistance for emergency health care only, and recent immigrants with legal status are restricted from many public assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, false and manipulative information regarding public assistance for recent immigrant residents has been used to promote a right-wing campaign; and

WHEREAS, women refugees from Haiti have been subjected to severe abuse in the immigration process, including violence and harassment;

WHEREAS, the state of California has a "Save Our State" initiative on its November 1994 ballot which would deny education and health services to immigrants and suspected immigrants and other states are considering such measures;

WHEREAS, the passage of the "Save Our State" initiative would result in further discrimination against people of color; and

WHEREAS, California Senators Boxer and Feinstein have not yet taken a position in opposition to the SOS initiative;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women re-affirm its commitment to fighting racism and to including all women in our political agenda, regardless of citizenship or legal residency status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that national NOW make available materials, including but not limited to the brochures "Fighting Racism" and "NOW Cares", available in Haitian Creole and Spanish (and other languages common in a geographical region) at meetings, conferences, and other public events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW respond to the attacks on the reproductive freedom of women who have immigrated or who are suspected of being an immigrant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW publicly oppose and take action to defeat the "Save Our State" initiative, including urging Senators Boxer and Feinstein to publicly oppose the initiative;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW take action to defeat racist and dangerous anti-immigrant measures that are introduced at all levels of government and on ballot initiatives.

4/94

Moved that the Long Island-Nassau NOW Chapter fully support and cooperate with the Nassau NOW Task Force on Women of Color, in its effort to seek redress for minority citizens in a class action against the County of Nassau, its Board of Supervisors and others for deprivation of Constitutional and Civil Rights in the use, abuse, implementation and processing of the current and past budgets.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

10/93

WHEREAS, National Organization for Women is committed to ending racism in all of its forms; and

WHEREAS, NOW is an organization whose membership includes diverse language, cultural, ethnic and racial

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

groups; and

WHEREAS, this diversity of languages and cultures is the strength of our participation in the feminist movement and of our country; and

WHEREAS, any one official language which excludes the non-English speaking people of this nation is an act of racism and exclusion; and

WHEREAS, proponents of English as the "Official Language" have defined English as the sole language government employees must use to explain rights and services to them in the women's native language and thus denied rights or protection by official language legislation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW opposes designation of English as an official language for laws or policy at all levels of government throughout this country.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

1992

WHEREAS, plans are underway to celebrate in 1992 the 500th Anniversary (Quincentennial) of Christopher Columbus's European awareness (the so called "discovery") of America; celebrations are occurring throughout the Americas and in Europe; and the media, through documentaries and other stories, will do much to promote the celebration of Columbus's arrival; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW) recognizes that the celebration of Columbus's arrival is based on a one-sided view of the beginning of contact between Native Americans and Europeans, a profound milestone in our collective history as Americans, which deserves a new interpretation; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus came to a land which was already inhabited by millions of people who had built thriving civilizations and societies; and

WHEREAS, the Indigenous People welcomed the newcomers, provided technical and material assistance for their very survival, and freely shared their land; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus's arrival in the hemisphere resulted in the decimation of the Arawaks, the first people he encountered, the initiation of slavery and the eventual genocide of millions of people in the Western Hemisphere (the indigenous population is estimated to have been 112,000,000 in 1492 and was reduced to 28,264,000 by 1980); and

WHEREAS, Columbus and other European explorers ignored and violated sovereign rights of Native Nations, which set a precedent for the United States government to similarly violate Native rights, including treaties made sovereign to sovereign; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have consistently made major sacrifices of land and resources for the welfare of all, and continue to offer strength and insights toward solving acute problems in economics, ecology and human relations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW does not accept the interpretation that Columbus or any other European explorer "discovered" the Americas, but instead exploited the already populated Americas;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW call upon local chapters, communities, and members to send letters to state and national legislators urging a balanced and truthful commemoration of the 1492 events;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW call upon its subunits to adopt resolutions and share information with members calling for the recognition of past wrongs and the acknowledgement of the contributions of historic Native American Civilizations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will encourage and participate in Alternative Forums to the Quincentennial and promote the renewal and regeneration of Native American cultures and communities in the United States and throughout the Western Hemisphere.

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1991

WHEREAS, NOW's National By-Laws include that all subunits shall have affirmative action programs; and

WHEREAS, NOW is committed to addressing the issues that reflect our diversity, including racism, sexism, classism, ableism, homophobia; and

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

WHEREAS, NOW seeks to increase our diversity internally and to address the issues of diversity in the broader community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women strongly urges individual NOW members and chapters:

- a. To communicate with racial and ethnically diverse individuals and organizations at the local and state levels.
- b. To make efforts to attend meetings and programs for the purpose of listening, learning and understanding the issues, concerns and needs of racial and ethnically diverse people.
- c. To work in joint coalitions on education programs and action projects to further goals of mutual understanding, respect, embracing diversity, social, political and economic equity.

1986 IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT

1991

WHEREAS, immigrants from Mexico, Central America, Asia, Africa and Middle Eastern countries make up a significant portion of this country's diverse population; and

WHEREAS, a study by the Rand Corporation revealed that over 50% of immigrants now migrating to the U.S. are women and children, many of whom end up working in marginalized, unregulated industries where exploitation and labor violations are rampant; and

WHEREAS, immigrant women face a triple burden of discrimination based upon their sex, race and immigration status; and

WHEREAS, passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA), with its employer sanctions provisions penalizing anyone who hires undocumented workers, has institutionalized the systematic exploitation of immigrant women in the workplace in the U.S., making them more vulnerable to sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination, and wage violations; and

WHEREAS, a March 1990 report issued by the General Accounting Office (GAO) revealed that IRCA's employer sanctions provision has resulted in widespread discrimination by employers against both immigrant and citizen workers; and

WHEREAS, IRCA's employer sanctions provision has weakened the remedies available to a significant number of women who suffer workplace abuses, including race and sexual discrimination, sexual harassment and wage violations; and

WHEREAS, IRCA and employer sanctions have created a subclass of disenfranchised, exploitable workers, a large number of whom are women working in unregulated industries; and

WHEREAS, employer sanctions have increased immigrant women's vulnerability to domestic violence by precluding their ability to find work and support their families when they attempt to leave a battering relationship; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW) seeks to improve the political, social and economic status of women of all nationalities; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, NOW voted in favor of a resolution of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) to support the repeal of the employer sanctions provision of IRCA;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women supports the repeal of the employer sanctions provision of IRCA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women investigate ways in which it can begin to address the overwhelming challenges faced by immigrant women in a post-IRCA environment.

ARIZONA BOYCOTT

4/91

Moved that in response to the failure of the Arizona legislature to act decisively in honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.'s civil rights work through a paid state holiday, and in solidarity with civil rights organizations and NOW chapters in Arizona which have worked for such a memorial in the state, the National Board of NOW rescinds its decision to hold a December 6-8 Board Meeting in Arizona and commends National NOW

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President Molly Yard's decision to regretfully decline to speak at national conferences in Arizona, including the June 6th Conference on Men and Masculinity, during the MLK boycott.

MIAMI BOYCOTT

1/91

Moved that NOW join the Miami convention boycott.

See Also: Boycotts

DIVERSITY THEME OF FUTURE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

1990

WHEREAS, NOW encompasses within its purposes the concerns, well-being, and issues of all women; and **WHEREAS**, the growth by numbers and participation in the workplace and all other aspects of life will soon cause women of racial diversity to be the majority of the women in America whom NOW seeks to represent; and

WHEREAS, at this time, as women of racial diversity are emerging in greater numbers, the country's affirmative action programs in many areas are faltering and threatened in the courts and the legislatures; and **WHEREAS**, racism exists in all parts of this society, including the women's movement, and the sensitivity to our own racism and the recognition of our diversity should be important to NOW; and

WHEREAS, within a national conference, it has been reported that individuals have made racist comments; and

WHEREAS, NOW seeks to increase significantly the participation by people of diversity in this organization; and

WHEREAS, the issue of racism and civil rights is one of the four major priority issues for NOW; and

WHEREAS, delegates to the NOW 1987 "Women of Color Reproductive Rights Conference" recommended a conference be held dealing with the issue of racism; and

WHEREAS, the key to NOW's continuing success is tied inextricably to our ability to encompass this increasing diversity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a theme for a National NOW Conference to be held within the next two years be on racism and the challenges of moving forward to embrace our diversity.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON CHIPPEWA TREATY RIGHTS

12/89

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government signed treaties covering parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan with the Chippewa Nation in which the Chippewa reserved the right to hunt, fish, and gather in territory ceded to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the federal courts have recently upheld the legality of these Chippewa Treaty Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa in northern Wisconsin have met with intense racist violence and verbal abuse while spearfishing in accordance with their treaty rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women supports the rights of the Chippewa to hunt, fish, and exercise all rights under their treaties, and NOW opposes efforts to abrogate these treaties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW opposes efforts by the states or Congress to force the Chippewa to sell or terminate these rights by threatening to withhold state or federal aid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW condemns the racism perpetuated by the federal, state, and local governments and area residents against the Chippewa people and will work with the Chippewa Nation to expose and confront such racist attacks.

BPW/USA NATIONAL WOMEN'S COALITION CONFERENCE

1/87

NOW will endorse and become a sponsor of the BPW/USA National Women's Coalition Conference to be held

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in early (January) 1988.

HOPI/NAVAJO RELOCATION

1986

WHEREAS, the National NOW Board has passed a resolution supporting the women-led resistance to relocation required by PL 93-531; and

WHEREAS, Moratorium and Repeal legislation will be introduced into Congress in the near future; and

WHEREAS, NOW has a history of commitment to women of color, poor women, and the elderly, and further objects to genocidal federal policies and recognizes that the traditional indigenous female values of sharing, cooperation, mutuality, and reverence for the earth and life itself are those values that we seek to realize in society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW recognizes the sovereign Hopi and Dine' (Navajo) nations that exist in the U.S.A.; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that NOW's state organizations, chapters and members be encouraged:

1. To utilize organizing skills including, but not limited to, educational programs, petitions, phone banks, letter writing, visits to congressional field offices and POM's to question and educate their congressional delegation until that delegation is able to support repeal of PL 93-531.
2. To request their Congressional delegation to investigate the legality of the Hopi Tribal Council and to consider the abolition of that body.
3. To request that Congress hold hearings on the Navajo and Hopi lands so that the "unfunded" traditional majority and their spiritual and religious leaders of both tribes can be heard by Washington.
4. To enlist the support of Rep. Udall of Arizona for a moratorium and repeal regarding PL 93-531.
5. To ask that all relocatees be allowed, at the expense of the U.S. Federal Government, to return to their ancestral lands if they so desire without penalty to them or their tribal government.
6. To request that the U.S. government forever cease attempts to relocate traditional indigenous peoples, i.e., genocide.
7. To keep the Action Alert Network informed of new developments via the National Vice President - Action.

BIG MOUNTAIN

5/86

WHEREAS, PL93-531, passed by Congress in 1974 mandates the forced removal of both Hopis and Navajos from their ancestral reservation grazing land to an urban environment by July, 1986; and

WHEREAS, the intent of that removal is to clear the land of people for extensive exploitation of coal and uranium by major corporations; and

WHEREAS, the forced removal to an urban environment would have genocidal consequences, i.e., the destruction of community and culture; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women has consistently taken a stand on civil rights issues;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NOW shall:

1. endorse the Big Mountain Resistance;
2. National officers actively seek the support of civil rights and women's organizations for Big Mountain, including the repeal effort;
3. a woman speaker from both the Hopi and Navajo be invited to speak on this issue during a plenary at the National Conference;
4. print an article in the next issue of the NNT; and
5. that an official representative for NOW attend the Big Mountain Support meeting this month.

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APARTHEID

6/85

WHEREAS, the national protests against apartheid, which have consisted of concurrent demonstrations in various parts of the country at embassies and consulates; sit-ins at coin dealers and merchants; pickets at banks; have been so effective at bringing the issue to the attention of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Reagan Administration refuses to abandon its policy of constructive engagement and adopt a more aggressive stance toward the racist policies of the white ruled South African government; and

WHEREAS, not only has this effort on the part of the Free South Africa Movement been successful, it has been the first to break through the complacency of today's college students, and it has prompted members of congress to submit legislation calling for sanctions against South Africa.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women endorse and work for passage of H.R. 1460 and its companion bill in the Senate, S. 635. This sanctions legislation would:

1. ban new investments and bank loans to the South African public sector;
2. prohibits the export of computer goods and technology to the South African government; and
3. prohibits the importation of Kruggerands to the U.S.

APARTHEID

12/84

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National NOW Board endorse and lend its support to the National actions designed to end the U.S. government's support of the South African government's policy of apartheid.

See Also: Affirmative Action (1984), ERA (1981), Politics/Elections (1984)

MINORITY WOMEN'S POLITICAL RESOLUTION

1983

WHEREAS, minority women hold a small percentage of elective offices in this country and represent an even smaller number of political appointments; and

WHEREAS, many of NOW's issues such as the ERA, reproductive rights and insurance affect all women, they disproportionately affect minority women, for example, white women receive \$0.59 to a man's dollar, black women \$0.54, and Hispanic women \$0.52; and

WHEREAS, certain proposed legislation currently before Congress adversely affects minority people and minority women, in particular; for example, the Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Reform bill

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. NOW reaffirm its commitment to search actively for and recruit minority women candidates to run for political office in accordance with NOW's policy, articulately at the state and federal levels.
2. Since many issues do impact differently on the lives of minority women, that input from minority women be sought and made a part of the decision-making process during ERA, Insurance or Reproductive Rights campaign strategy sessions, and increase their visibility in the campaigns.
3. Adopt the recommendation of the CIC (Committee to Combat Racism) Racism Committee to oppose the Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration bill. Several segments of this legislation have the potential to create problems, particularly the discrimination that might result in the hiring process, the institution of a national ID system, and the inclusion of anti-abortion language.

RESOLUTION TO ENHANCE 1982 MINORITY WOMEN'S RESOLUTION

1983

WHEREAS, many of the goals set forth in the 1982 Minority Women's resolution have been implemented and/or accomplished and a commitment has been shown to addressing the needs of women of color; and

WHEREAS, efforts to eliminate racism within NOW and outreach activities to the minority community should be outgoing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

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1. The minority issues staff person work with and provide technical assistance to states and chapters in developing outreach and anti-racism materials and programs in lieu of costly regional conferences.
2. That all states be urged to form a committee at the state level to combat racism. This is to be accomplished with the assistance of the minority issues staff person and the chapter development staff.
3. Continue coalescing with the Coalition of Conscience for the Martin Luther King anniversary march in a networking/information sharing capacity. Instruct the minority issues staff person to monitor the proposed study by civil rights groups on the "Ills of the Black Family" and determine how this program might impact on households headed by minority women, teenage pregnancy rates and all other issues of concern.
4. Minority issues staff person continue to promote the interests of minority women in all aspects of the organization and further that the staff person along with the appropriate CIC continue to develop materials, particularly a racism CR kit.
5. That each issue area staff person (not necessarily a minority) be held accountable for representing minority issues in that issue area.
6. NOW officers, while making major speeches whether to NOW members or at outside forums, continue to speak out against racism.
7. The 1984 National Conference will have speakers from minority groups represented in plenary sessions to continue to build better relations among all women and unify the women's movement.

1983 CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH

2/83

The National Organization for Women continues to support the August 1983 20th Anniversary March in Washington which commemorates the Martin Luther King, Jr., 'I Have a Dream' speech that epitomizes the relentless fight for civil rights. However, NOW must stress that equality for women of color, as for all women, be recognized clearly as one of the main issues along with jobs, peace, and freedom. The fight for equality for women is important because it falls within the continuing fight by all the groups involved in the March.

The Board expresses its deep dismay that the name of the 20th anniversary march no longer includes a reference to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech which the march commemorates and the Board directs the President to do all that is possible to have this omission rectified or at a minimum to have the word Equality added to the title of the march.

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1982

WHEREAS, the goals of NOW to eliminate discrimination are consistent with the goals of racial minorities.
WHEREAS, outreach by NOW to racial minorities has continually been superseded by other priority programs, and

WHEREAS, the previously adopted and established policies of NOW have not been implemented by sufficient action, and

WHEREAS, there has been an alarming increase in violence against minorities and governmental disenfranchisement of those civil rights gains of the past decade,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW:

1. Sponsor and support participation in a counter-rally in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the Anti-Klan National Network and participate in and support the August 26, 1983 major national civil rights commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Martin Luther King "I Have a Dream" statement.
2. Direct the minority issues staff person to work with the regions to develop regional conferences and to design programs and policy recommendations which will aid in the implementation of the action plan.
3. Create a full time administrative management position for a racial minority member who shall

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- be responsible to the membership to promote the interests of minority women in all aspects of the organization,
4. Expand the responsibilities of the Minority Women's Conference Implementation Committee to include establishing the priority of needs for the Minority issues staff person, based upon this resolution action plan and future adopted action plans.
 5. Action plan: Secure extra temporary staff to alert all chapters to mobilize and to coalesce with their local civil rights, religious and labor organizations to promote attendance at the counter-Klan rally.

Publish a job description and salary consistent with the duties described above for a Minority Issues manager and solicit resumes within the remaining term of the current administration. Contact those volunteers from the nation's chapters identified at this national conference to acquire their materials, products and suggestions regarding the following actions:

- establish a multi-cultural approach to media campaign; develop a racism CR kit with photos, tapes and films, etc;
- develop NOW materials that are multi-lingual on all levels; mandate a non-resolutions Plenary devoted to Minority Issues at the 1983 NOW National Conference;
- fund compilation of NOW minority herstory; seek out fundraising items that are representative of multi-cultural communities.

ANTI-KU KLUX KLAN

12/81

NOW protests the proposed disbanding of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms because that agency has been instrumental in investigating the KKK and racially motivated violence.

ANTI-KLAN NETWORK

12/80

Motion adopted that NOW participate in the Anti-Klan Network.

ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

1980

BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW recognize the special plight of minority women who face the double economic bond of discrimination based on both sex and race, and address their particular economic vulnerability in economic justice action planning.

At a minimum, impact on minority women will be addressed in the following areas:

- 1) Social Security charges and benefits;
- 2) welfare rights and minimum benefit standards;
- 3) employment rights and opportunities;
- 4) child care programs; and
- 5) access to adequate housing.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW, in compliance with the position adopted at the 1979 National Conference, actively recruit and encourage participation by disabled feminists at all levels of planning, development, and action; that facilities, sites and routes be chosen for, and modified to be, as barrier-free as possible; and that appropriate assistance be provided to meet the need of the handicapped.

THE MARGUERITE GAMBLE CASE

1979

WHEREAS, Marguerite Gamble is a young Black woman who was dismissed from the University of Minnesota Medical School,

WHEREAS, Marguerite Gamble has filed charges of race and sex discrimination against the University and

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Board of Regents,

WHEREAS, Ms. Gamble has appealed to civil rights organizations and the National Organization for Women for support and assistance,

WHEREAS, Ms. Gamble's dismissal and subsequent law suit have national impact on the treatment of minorities and women by institutions of higher education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this body strongly recommends the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund to examine the Gamble case and report to the next meeting of the NOW National Board recommending specific actions that may be taken and that immediately upon report by NOW LDEF, the National Board shall take appropriate action with regard to the Marguerite Gamble case including, but not limited to, the issuance of a written statement of findings and actions determined as a result of those findings to the Chairs of the NOW Education Discrimination Committee, the Minority Women's Committee, and the Women and Health Committee;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW help obtain a court transcript and the accompanying court tapes from the September hearing, before October 16; that a Marguerite Gamble mail-a-thon be established and activated in a timely manner through the Education, Minority Women's and Women and Health Committees; and that a national network be established to help secure placement for Marguerite Gamble in a sensitive and fully accredited medical school.

BOARD MOTION

12/77

In order to move toward the mandate of ensuring that there is no racism within NOW and to bring more minority members into the Feminist movement, the National Organization for Women should affirmatively include in public statements, materials, and programs, minorities and minority issues.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1977

WHEREAS, minority women of NOW are concerned about the organization's response and action with respect to issues personally affecting every Black, Chicana, Puerto Rican, other Latinas, Asian, and Native American women; and

WHEREAS, there is a great need for minority women to coalesce within NOW to support each other and to reach out to all minority women in order to promote feminism;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that there be established a permanent, National Committee of Minority Women composed of at least one (1) representative from each region. One member shall be designated by the committee to attend National Board Meetings.

NATIONAL BOARD CHARGE TO COMMITTEE

7/77

The purpose of the National Minority Women's Committee shall be to ensure that the concerns and needs of minority women are fully represented in the program of NOW to elevate the status of all women to full equality. Among the specific tasks of this committee shall be to eradicate racism;

- to identify minority NOW members;
- to recruit minority NOW members;
- to educate NOW members about the accomplishments, contributions, concerns, and needs of minority women so that the other organizations that have strong minority membership and that have programs in which NOW can cooperate to elevate the status of minority women to a place of full equality; and
- to monitor the activities of NOW to ensure that they contribute to the purpose of this committee.

The National President of NOW shall recommend a chair and co-chair(s) of this committee with the advice and

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consent of the Board. The membership of the Committee shall be comprised of at least one minority woman from each region.

The National Minority Women's Committee shall choose a delegate and an alternate to attend National Board Meetings. National NOW shall provide transportation and living expenses for attendance of the delegate or alternate at all Board Meetings in the same manner as such services are provided to Board Members.

The Committee shall be responsible for identifying NOW members who are minority women or are active in support of the purpose of this committee, for recruiting minority women as members of NOW, and for identifying organizations that support the purpose of this committee and that NOW could cooperate within specific actions.

The Committee shall be responsible for planning and carrying forward actions in support of its purpose, for ensuring that all NOW activities properly reflect the needs and concerns of minority women, and for ensuring that nothing that NOW undertakes works to the detriment of the achievement of full equality for all women.

The Committee shall be responsible for communicating with Committee Members, all NOW members, NOW officers and Board members, and other organizations with regard to its program as the occasion arises.

The activities of this committee shall include but not be limited to:

- Conferences for minority women, committee meetings, seminars, workshops at NOW conferences, and meetings of minority women at the local, state, regional and national levels.
- Monthly column in Do It NOW.
- Telephone networks.
- Minority Women's Resource Library.
- Special bulletins, flyers, pamphlets, etc.
- Fundraising.
- Actions, demonstrations, lobbying, testifying, letter writing, etc., in support of the program of the purpose of the Committee.

FUNDING: The National Organization for Women shall fund the activities of the committee in proportion to the importance of the work of the Committee and the available resources of NOW.

INITIAL MEETING: The Chair of the National Minority Women's Committee shall convene the Committee for a meeting as soon as at least five, but preferably nine, Regional Members have accepted appointment to the Committee to appoint the Delegate and Alternate to the Board Meetings, finalize the requisites of the Committee, and initiate and implement the purpose of the Committee.

NEEDS OF MINORITY PERSONS/NOW IMAGE

1973

WHEREAS, it is vital to the future growth and development of the organization to broaden its areas of concern in order to include those who are doubly oppressed,

WHEREAS, the present image of NOW is not perceived by minority persons as that of an organization working toward objectives relevant to their needs and concerns, and

WHEREAS, this image is a critical factor alienating many members of minority groups from this organization, and

WHEREAS, NOW's Statement of Purpose clearly defines the organization's dedication to work on behalf of all those who are oppressed,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a national organizational effort be mounted immediately within NOW on behalf of the needs of all minority persons, and that the following actions be undertaken towards the immediate elimination of structures, policies, and practices within NOW which tend to inhibit the participation

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of minority persons. The following affirmative action program is therefore recommended:

- 1) NOW should again condemn the policies of the Nixon administration as not being in the interest of minorities.
- 2) NOW should actively protest the dismantling of the OEO programs and the massive budgetary cuts to social service programs.
- 3) NOW, at both national and local levels, should take whatever action necessary to apply effective pressure upon state and local governments to implement the distribution of revenue-sharing funds for social services.
- 4) NOW, at both the national and local levels, should institute a sliding scale, starting with \$0.00, for the payment of dues and conference fees to facilitate the participation of lower economic status and the working poor.
- 5) Local NOW chapter meetings should be held accessible to minority persons with limited mobility and transportation.
- 6) Local NOW chapter meetings should include facilities for child care.
- 7) A deliberate effort should be undertaken to recruit minority members.
- 8) In support of Mexican-American sisters, NOW should endorse the United Farm Workers' Boycott of California-Arizona lettuce and Guild brandy.
- 9) In recognition of the significant number of sisters concerned with minority women, adequate facilities should be provided at the National Conference of NOW in order to facilitate the implementation of action programs directed towards meeting the needs of minority women.
- 10) Consciousness-Raising sessions, at whatever level they are conducted, are strongly urged to include the question of racism as a priority issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an immediate major publicity effort be undertaken both locally and nationally to make the above activities highly visible to minority persons.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ON CIVIL RIGHTS

4/73

Motion adopted to continue membership and pay dues in the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE

1971

WHEREAS, NOW recognizes the need to support all women in their struggle for equal rights; and

WHEREAS, NOW recognizes the double oppression of minority women by both racism and sexism.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that NOW add a national task force on minority women for the purpose of making coalitions with organizations of minority women to support them on common issues.

REFUGEES

SUPPORT OF HAITIAN REFUGEES RESOLUTION

1994

WHEREAS, the deepening political and economic crisis in Haiti has created intolerable social conditions -- including 70% unemployment -- for Haitian working people since the 1991 overthrow of the democratically elected government in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, since 1991, thousands of Haitian working people have been beaten, hundreds of Haitian women have been raped, and more than 3,000 Haitians, including many political activists, have been slain by rightist military forces, and some 40,000 Haitians have attempted to flee political repression by emigrating to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the administrations of Presidents Clinton and Bush have continued the policy of interdicting Haitian vessels on the high seas, burning the boats, and forcibly repatriating Haitian refugees, handing them over to the military regime; and

WHEREAS, even with the announcement by President Clinton that asylum interviews will be conducted outside of Haiti, there is no reason to believe that more Haitians will be granted asylum, because since the 1991 coup, less than 5% of the 55,000 applications for asylum at U.S. immigration offices in Haiti have received approval, and since forcing refugees back has been the goal of the U.S. naval blockade, and administration officials acknowledge that most refugees will still be turned away;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women go on record to call for an end to the U.S. government policy of forced repatriation to support the right of Haitian refugees to enter the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW/PAC screen federal candidates about their positions on the repatriation of Haitian refugees.

REFUGEES

7/80

WHEREAS, refugee policies of the federal government and Congress have exacerbated the conditions in Florida,

WHEREAS, NOW has historically acted on the basis that human rights are indivisible, and

WHEREAS, the pre-existence of racism, poverty, and police brutality have led to riots and continued unrest in Miami and elsewhere, and

WHEREAS, the arrival of Cuban and Haitian refugees exacerbated the conditions in Florida;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that to ensure the human rights and dignity of both the citizens and the refugees, NOW recommends to the Federal Government that it grant full Immigrant Status to the new refugees and provide adequate funds to local governments such as in Miami, Florida, to lessen the impact of this additional stress on the citizens living in the pre-existing conditions of poverty.

PROTEST OF POPE'S VISIT

1/87

National NOW will appoint an ad hoc committee to develop a coordinated action of protest to the Pope's visit to the United States in September for implementation in those cities and states scheduled for his visit. The committee should report at the May 1987 Board meeting.

THE VATICAN 24

2/85

Moved "that the National Board of Directors of the National Organization for Women express NOW's strong support for the 24 Catholic nuns who took a public position calling for an open dialogue within the Catholic Church on the issue of abortion. Faced with extreme pressures brought to bear by the Catholic hierarchy, the nuns have refused to recant their position, and now face possible expulsion from their religious orders. NOW commends them for their courage, and encourages NOW activists to support them in their efforts to open dialogue within the Catholic Church."

**DEMAND FOR REPARATIONS AND ESTABLISHMENT
OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

1977

WHEREAS, the churches have failed to proclaim the reality that all people are created in the image of God, and

WHEREAS, the churches have socialized the people of God into accepting the values of patriarchy with its emphasis on hierarchical authority, its imperialistic consciousness, and its division of humanity into two groups, the dominating and the dominated; and

WHEREAS, women, like minority peoples, defined as the dominated, have been socialized by religion in collusion with society to accept their second class citizenship, and

WHEREAS, women, defined by churches for society as "helpmeet" have been denied individuality, equal education, credit, pension benefits, equal pay for equal work; and

WHEREAS, women, defined by churches for society as "mother" have been denied contraceptive information, the right to make the moral choice of abortion or parenthood, adequate care for the children; and

WHEREAS, defined by churches for society as "temptress" have been subjected to witch-craze persecutions, to punitive divorce laws, to barbaric rape laws, to forced sterilization of those called sinful because they were born both poor and female;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women demands that the churches of the United States undertake reparations programs in recognition of the great wrongs they have done in oppressing women and other victims of patriarchy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a national committee be established to implement this resolution and to collect and disseminate information regarding related issues of sexism in religion.

RESOLUTION ON CONTRIBUTIONS

1971

WHEREAS, religious teachings and practices are a major cause of the oppression of women,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that women be encouraged to divert all or part of their religious contribution to the NOW Ecumenical Task Force on Women and Religion for work being done to improve the role of women in religion.

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1970

Since the church bodies have contributed to the development of concepts which encourage discrimination against women and have faithfully reflected these ideas in their own practices, and since the National Council

RELIGION

of Churches represents such a large coalition of churches, we urge that the NCC:

1. Challenge and assist church bodies to rethink and restate theological concepts which contribute to a false view of women.
2. Give stronger leadership to efforts to eliminate discrimination against women in society and in the life of the church.
3. Take the lead in uniting women of all denominations and religious groups to work together to support efforts to recognize the right of women to be ordained in religious bodies where that right is still denied.
4. Place the issue of discrimination against women and its relationship to the work of the National Council on the agenda of its general board, its divisions and their departments.
5. Develop personnel policies and practices that will achieve a more adequate representation of women at all levels of the executive staff of the National Council of Churches and of its affiliated churches.
6. Ensure that women are included in significant numbers among the planners, leaders, speakers and participants in all NCC-sponsored conferences.

The national conference of NOW decries the outdated, blatant discrimination displayed by the Roman Catholic Church recently in refusing to accept the credentials of the woman appointed to represent the West German government at the Vatican.

In light of the enslavement of body and mind which the church historically has imposed on women, we demand that the seminaries:

1. Immediately stop and repudiate their propagation of sexist, male supremacist doctrine.
2. Initiate women's studies courses which cut through the traditional male, religious mythology to expose church and other social forces denying women their basic human dignity.
3. Actively recruit, employ and justly promote women theologians and other staff in all departments.
4. Actively recruit, enroll, financially aid and seek equal placement for women theological students.

We demand that the churches desexigrate help-wanted ads in their own publications.

We demand that Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act be amended so that religious groups no longer have legal sanction to discriminate on the basis of sex.

RESOLUTION ON HEAD COVERINGS

1968

WHEREAS, the wearing of a head covering by women at religious services is a custom in many churches and whereas it is a symbol of subjection within these churches, NOW recommends that all chapters undertake an effort to have all women participate in a "national unveiling" by sending their head coverings to the task force chairman immediately. At the Spring meeting of the Task force on Women in Religion, these veils will then publicly be burned to protest the second class status of women in all churches.

DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AND TEACHING

1967

NOW endorses the resolution that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to assumptions of Church teaching and laws, and that it is in the very best interests of humanity to oppose religious teaching and laws which impose such discrimination.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

1996

WHEREAS, the religious political extremists are attempting to erode previously won rights by restricting or banning specific medical procedures such as the dilation and extraction (D&X) procedure; and

WHEREAS, abortion providers and women's health centers remain under attack; and

WHEREAS, attempts by the Roman Catholic hierarchy and religious extremists to deny access to, and prevent dissemination of, information and services about reproductive health and HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, the current economic climate that encourages the proliferation of hospital mergers and the privatization and elimination of school health services directly threatens women's reproductive options; and

WHEREAS, historically the National Organization for Women (NOW) has remained on the frontlines, uncompromising, for women's reproductive freedom;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NOW reaffirm its original and consistent position, represented by prior National Board motions and previous National Conference resolutions, that a woman's right to have a safe, legal, and accessible abortion is an absolute right without restriction.

BIRTH CONTROL IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

1995

WHEREAS, it is difficult, if not impossible, for women and men to have access to birth control, especially condoms, within secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, it is also difficult to obtain information about reproductive services in the community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) actively campaign for the distribution of condoms, lists of community resources, and safer sex information in secondary schools.

CLINIC DEFENSE

1/95

WHEREAS, reproductive health clinics around the country have repeatedly come under attack from anti-choice zealots; and

WHEREAS, the anti-choice zealots have taken violent and drastic measures including the execution of doctors, clinic workers, and escorts; and

WHEREAS, the right to safe and legal abortion is meaningless if there are no providers able to perform the procedure due to the fear of violence from anti-choice zealots;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women firmly supports the security measures being taken by these clinics including the use of armed guards, as these clinics deem necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW continue to pressure Federal, local and state governments, especially the Justice Department and the U.S. Attorneys, to provide for public safety and fund security measures at these clinics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in clinic defense efforts which NOW organizes, or participates in the organization of, that they stress NOW's philosophy of non-violent response.

CHILD EXCLUSION AND COERCED CONTRACEPTION

12/94

WHEREAS, child exclusion proposals have been introduced across the country and are included in the conservative agenda at the Congressional level; and

WHEREAS, California Governor Wilson has asked President Clinton for a waiver to enforce a child exclusion provision in California, which denies AFDC assistance to newborns whose families are already receiving assistance for other siblings; and

WHEREAS, the California Child Exclusion provision has an exception for contraceptive failure but only

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

if the contraception is Norplant, IUD, or Sterilization; and

WHEREAS, a woman has the right to terminate a pregnancy, use contraception, and to bear children, and the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of a right to privacy, and these proposals have the effect of coercing contraceptive and reproductive decisions; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair to cut benefit levels to families already living below the poverty line, and the combined benefits to families from AFDC and food stamps are below the poverty level in all 50 states and District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, excluding newborns from welfare only singles out the poorest children for unequal treatment; and

WHEREAS, social welfare analysts and scholars consistently report that the great majority of pregnancies among women on AFDC are unintended; and

WHEREAS, the Clinton administration has already issued waivers to states for similar programs; and

WHEREAS, comment on the waiver request is due by December 18, 1994;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW send a letter urging the Clinton administration to reject the California request for a waiver; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW also respond to similar waiver requests that are submitted from other states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW members, states and chapters in states with current waivers from the Clinton administration be urged to also submit a letter or objection during the comment period; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW activists take action against similar efforts across the country to implement child exclusion and coerced contraception proposals.

NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST ANTI-ABORTION VIOLENCE

9/94

WHEREAS, on July 29, 1994 Escambia NOW activists Jim and June Barrett and abortion provider Dr. Bayard Britton were brutally attacked as they approached the Ladies Center in Pensacola; and this attack resulted in the wounding of June Barrett and the deaths of Jim Barrett and Bayard Britton -- the first time NOW has lost one of its activists to anti-abortion terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Paul Hill, the fanatic who has been charged with the murder, has espoused the "justifiable homicide" theology since the murder of Dr. David Gunn in Pensacola only 16 months earlier; and David Trosch, an ordained Roman Catholic priest from Mobile, Alabama, said only days before the murders that NOW members will be "terminated as vermin," and

WHEREAS, the most recent anti-abortion attacks are part of a decade-long legacy of violence organized, promoted and perpetrated by a national ring of domestic terrorists who seek to control women by denying us access to abortion and birth control; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pensacola has allowed this reign of terrorism to continue through its inaction and has allowed a climate of fear and intimidation to breed the anti-abortion violence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW call to action feminist activists across the nation in response to the ongoing anti-abortion terrorism; that these activists be coordinated into geographic teams which are ready to respond to emergency situations like the events in Pensacola; and that National Board members contact the chapter and state leaders in their regions to identify activists who are ready, willing and able to assist during emergencies in their regions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Board of Directors urge local actions in each region calling for an end to clinic violence and for true access to abortion services to be held in October, recognizing that October 3, 1994 marks the day that the FACE trial for the Pensacola murders begins and the day that marks the anniversary of the death of Rosie Jimenez, the first known victim of the Hyde Amendment, who died of an illegal abortion because Medicaid funding was denied; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW's Pensacola Project -- similar to our successful Louisiana

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Project -- shall focus on changing the social and political climate which has allowed more than a decade of misogynist, racist and homophobic violence to continue and to thrive in Pensacola; and that this project shall implement a strategy of community education and feminist consciousness-raising, legislative initiatives and an electoral plan to identify, recruit and elect feminist candidates to city and county offices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National NOW Board of Directors endorses an economic project in Pensacola, which includes actions designed to inform civic, community and business leaders of the negative impact the climate of violence has had and continues to have on Pensacola's economy; and that the Board authorize as a last resort a full boycott of Pensacola, should the Executive Committee deem such action necessary to petition the government to guard against further violence or stem the continued erosion of women's rights there; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW call the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church to task for its inadequate and ineffective efforts to silence the violent messages of David Trosch and other ordained priests; and that NOW petition Pope John Paul II during his October visit to New York City by organizing a Rally Against Papal Hypocrisy, and by calling for the defrocking of any clergy who promotes or condones the "justifiable homicide" theology, or any act of violence committed to intimidate women or in an attempt to deny women our rights.

OPPOSING THE FAKE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT

1993

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women opposes restrictions to the Freedom of Choice Act including parental notification, denial of funding for poor women and institutional conscience clauses; and NOW demands that abortion rights be treated as all other civil rights with one federal standard applied to all women regardless of age, economic status or geography and;

WHEREAS, the current wording of the proposed Freedom of Choice Acts before both the Senate (S 25) and House (HR 25) includes language that would allow the states to decline to pay for abortions and require a minor to involve a parent, guardian or other responsible adult, and the Senate version also allows health care institutions to refuse to perform abortions based upon conscientious opposition and;

WHEREAS, these restrictions clearly discriminate against young and poor women's rights to abortion and NOW will not be fooled or bullied into supporting any bill that trades off the rights of poor and young women for the promise of rights for others and;

WHEREAS, the fake Freedom of Choice Act currently proposed may not reverse the devastating effects of Casey and Webster; and

WHEREAS, NOW strongly supports a real Freedom of Choice Act that codifies Roe;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOW:

- Take a firm, public position opposing the fake Freedom of Choice Act; and
 - Call upon pro-choice Senators and Representatives to work with us for a real Freedom of Choice Act by:
 - Removing their names from sponsorship on the fake Freedom of Choice Act and,
 - Introduce a FOCA that guarantees the rights of all women regardless of age, economic status, or geography, and
 - Voting against the fake Freedom of Choice Act and;
- Use the resources of the organization to:
- Direct Action Teams to express grassroots support for a real Freedom of Choice Act and against any fake Freedom of Choice Act and,
 - Use the public press, electronic media and other means to expose this fake Freedom of Choice Act for what it is, the Freedom of Choice Only for Certain Women Act, thus activating public support for a real Freedom of Choice Act and,
 - Continue to work with national coalition members to withdraw their support for the fake Freedom of Choice Act and work with us toward a real Freedom of Choice Act.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

PROMOTION OF ABORTION TRAINING

1993

WHEREAS, it is the role of the OB/GYN and family practitioner to provide the full spectrum of available medical services and to provide patients with the information to make intelligent choices regarding all their options;

WHEREAS, most medical schools do not require OB/GYN and family practitioner residents to be practiced in performing abortions to obtain their licenses;

WHEREAS, OB/GYNs are often called upon to do medically necessary therapeutic abortions without regard to choice;

WHEREAS, many abortion providers are reaching retirement age and no incentives are being offered for new doctors to learn to perform abortions;

WHEREAS, midlevel clinicians such as nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, and certified nurse midwives are barred from performing abortions in many states;

WHEREAS, accessibility to abortion does not exist in many areas and availability is declining everywhere;

WHEREAS, in counties where there are many abortion providers it is more difficult for anti-choice groups to target them and their clients for harassment; and

WHEREAS, a legal right to abortion is meaningless without the access to exercise it,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Organization for Women fully and actively supports the actions of organizations such as the National Abortion Federation and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in their efforts to promote training in contraception and abortion services as a required component of OB/GYN and Family Practice residency training and residency and board certification exams and advocates the training and licensing of midlevel clinicians to perform abortions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the National Organization for Women will support legislation, legal activity, or policy changes that furthers these ends and actively oppose legislation that would be contrary to achieving these ends.

YOUNG WOMENS REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

2/93

WHEREAS, the issue of young women's right to abortion is important to NOW and our reproductive rights work, and

WHEREAS, the Freedom of Choice Act (S 25) includes parental restrictions, and

WHEREAS, we anticipate that these restrictive laws will continue to be placed as amendments on reproductive rights legislation, and

WHEREAS, such laws threaten the very lives of young women, pushing them back to back alley abortions,

THEREFORE, the National Organization for Women demands that the issue of young women's right to abortion and reproductive rights be at the forefront of this struggle and be a major part of our lobbying efforts including the organization of a young women's lobby day at the US Capitol.

11/92

Moved that NOW co-sponsor the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights' Conference.

DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTY CONVENTIONS

1992

WHEREAS the Democratic and Republican parties will be meeting this summer of 1992 in their National Conventions, and

WHEREAS the Republican Party, its President, its leadership in Congress and its platform have led the fight against women's rights in general and abortion rights in particular, and

WHEREAS while the Democratic Party may in its platform affirm its support for a woman's right to choose abortion, the Democratic controlled Congress and Democratic controlled state legislatures with the assistance

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

of Democratic governors have too often enacted punitive legislation restricting abortion, and
WHEREAS Operation Rescue is planning to target their activities to coincide with the Democratic National Convention in New York City and the Republican Convention in Houston, and
WHEREAS neither party will stand up to Operation Rescue's terrorist tactics,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women stand firm in protecting women's abortion rights and concentrate efforts at the national party conventions by joining our feminist sisters and brothers at the clinics, defending women's access to abortion against the terrorist assaults on our right, and
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW/PAC invite and encourage feminist candidates attending their national party conventions to join NOW in standing up for abortion rights by defending clinics, and women's access to them in New York City and Houston during the Democratic and Republican conventions.

HOLDING THE LINE FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

1992

WHEREAS for the first time in history a fundamental individual right is being taken away from women in the United States, and

WHEREAS this callous, politically motivated action endangers all women and disproportionately endangers young women, poor women, and women of racial and ethnic diversity,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOW demand that Congress pass legislation to protect all women's reproductive freedom regardless of race, ethnicity, age, income, marital status, residency, or sexual orientation, including the Reproductive Health Equity Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm today that all the women of this country desire full reproductive freedom -- without wavering, without amendment and without compromise and we urge every organization working for abortion rights and every member of Congress to join NOW in holding the line against any and all amendments to weaken the Freedom of Choice Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW call on all presidential candidates to publicly support the unamended Freedom of Choice Act and to use their influence to keep the issue of reproductive freedom at the forefront in the 1992 elections.

POST-CASEY STRATEGIES

1992

WHEREAS the rights of women in this country are undergoing unprecedented vicious and sustained attacks, including the backlash against feminism and the anticipated loss of a fundamental Constitutional right, and

WHEREAS women are angered as never before, and are ready to fight back to protect our rights and our lives,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOW declare a "Days of Rage" Campaign and commit to:

1. organize women's wrath into high-visibility direct action in support of abortion rights and reproductive freedom;
2. expand and accelerate our non-violent civil disobedience strategy of strong, effective and on-going nationwide resistance against all efforts to limit our rights; and
3. keep abortion rights and reproductive freedom central in elections nationwide and force candidates at every level to take a public stand on these issues.

PLEDGE OF RESISTANCE CAMPAIGN

12/91

Signers pledge to engage in nonviolent civil disobedience to protest the loss of reproductive rights under the following circumstance:

- a) to begin with a mass action in Washington, D.C. following the March, to demand reproductive freedom for all women and more women in positions of power and policy making.
- b) upon the overturn of Roe, or when the next decision is handed down from the Supreme Court,

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

activists across the country engage in:

- 1) pre-planned scenarios in their communities, especially those in states with bad laws already on the books
- 2) pre-organized actions in Washington, D.C.
- 3) help provide information and resources to ensure women's access to safe abortions

Health care personnel may sign a pledge indicating:

- willingness to continue to provide safe abortions after Roe
- willingness to provide abortion information in Title X clinics

The Pledge of Resistance for Women's Lives:

- 1) would provide a unified framework for our actions across the country.
- 2) would encourage empowerment of local communities; it would also continue a national emphasis on reproductive freedom.
- 3) is an excellent organizing tool; every action should include the opportunity to sign the Pledge.
- 4) can build over time; allows us to be proactive, not reactive. If Roe is overturned, plans for an immediate and strong response and for on-going resistance will be in place nationwide.
- 5) would be announced on January 22, 1992 at press conferences throughout the country.
- 6) would be a major component of the April 5 March for Women's Lives; a repeated call to sign would go out during the rally, and many facilitators would circulate the pledge for signing. Potentially thousands will sign - a continuation of the excitement of the March and a fresh news hit.

PROPOSED PRIVACY AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

9/91

WHEREAS, the premise of Constitutionally protected privacy has been negated for lesbians and gays by the U.S. Supreme Court's Bowers v. Hardwick decision, and whereas the right to privacy in matters of reproduction has been and continues to be eroded by Webster and subsequent decisions, and

WHEREAS, while the state-by-state legislative methods are perceived by some to be more "realistic" than this umbrella effort, it is a perilous thing to be basing rights upon the advocacy of "criminal" or criminalizable practices, i.e. same-sex relations, abortion, and/or birth control;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that National NOW lend its name to this historic national effort to develop a proposed privacy amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

"The right to privacy in matters of birth control, abortion, and consensual adult sexual relations conducted in private shall not be abridged by the United States or by any state."

PRO-CHOICE COALITION

9/91

Moved that "In light of our current crises in Congress on abortion bills, NOW will continue in the National pro-choice coalition through this term of Congress at which time we will review whether ongoing participation is consistent with NOW's policy on coalitions. We will clarify that the coalition is not acting in our name when they are acting in violation of our policy, for example in compromising on young women's right to an abortion."

APRIL 5TH MARCH

9/91

Moved that the focus of the Spring 1992 March in Washington, DC be on abortion rights and reproductive freedom, with a clear message that women of color bear a disproportionate disadvantage when medicaid funding is denied and when young women's reproductive rights are limited.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

"WE WON'T GO BACK"

1991

WHEREAS, the reactionary forces in the Presidency, the Supreme Court, Congress, and the State legislatures are attempting to overturn Roe v. Wade, restrict access to birth control and family planning, and undermine 50 years of work to extend equality of the law to all persons regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, economic status or disability; and

WHEREAS, we pledge "We Won't Go Back and We Will Go Forward" in our struggle for equality for all.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women launch an unprecedented mass campaign of defiance and triumph: "We Won't Go Back -- We Will Have Our Rights NOW." This campaign will include:

1. An all-out fight to overturn the gag ruling enunciated by the Supreme Court in Rust v. Sullivan with direct action days in Washington, D.C. (beginning on July 18) and in the districts and states of targeted members of Congress.
2. A sustained fight to defeat the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court and any nominee who would sacrifice women's rights and civil rights.
3. The launching, in the Fall of 1992, of a new political campaign that will result in unprecedented numbers of feminist candidates based on the premise that women and people of racial and ethnic diversity and others who are determined to have economic justice, non-violence and a healthy planet cannot be sacrificed whenever convenient by two outdated parties without principles and dominated by greed. This campaign will support feminist candidates who challenge incumbents who have abandoned the dream of equality and the hope of a decent quality of life for future generations on the planet and will confront the present unresponsive two-party system.
4. A nationwide "We Won't Go Back" day of walkathons and actions on campuses, in big cities and small, and in states of determined people, to build momentum for the campaign and to raise resources for the sustained national, state, and local drive to save our rights.
5. The largest march on Washington in our nation's history in the spring of 1992 to make the 1992 elections hinge not on disgraceful tactics of racism, but become a national referendum on whether or not this nation will go backwards into a shameful era of racial and sexual oppression or forward into the 21st Century, settling once and for all the 19th Century question of whether women and people of racial and ethnic diversity are first class citizens.
6. And the National Organization for Women, for the first time in its history, officially calls for civil disobedience with the understanding that civil disobedience by definition includes proper training and structure. "We Won't Go Back!"

RESOLUTION ON YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISM AGAINST PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LAWS

1991

WHEREAS, young women's lives are directly threatened by growing support for state laws requiring parental interference for abortions, and

WHEREAS, many such women are under the voting age and therefore wield little electoral power regarding this issue, and

WHEREAS, National NOW has already implemented a strong and far-reaching agenda actively opposing parental interference legislation, and

WHEREAS, National NOW is officially working with young feminists to take control over their lives and their bodies,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW include parental consent/notification as an issue on its young feminist action agenda, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that National NOW include young feminists as active and leading forces in this struggle.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL

1991

WHEREAS, reproductive rights means that women and men of all ages, races, classes, sexual orientations, and degrees of abilities have a right to access to all modes of birth control and sex education, and

WHEREAS, reproductive rights means women have the self-determination to choose when and whether to have children and/or use birth control, and

WHEREAS, this is demonstrated in a California legal case where a woman of color, convicted of child abuse, was forced to "choose" between one year imprisonment with three years of parole or using the new birth control technology, Norplant, and

WHEREAS, forced use of birth control as a punishment is a deliberate manipulation of reproductive choice and ignores and does not address the underlying problems women in oppressive situations, such as women of color and lower classes face,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NOW condemns the actions of the U.S. legal system to force women to give up their rights to have children, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW lobby for safe and affordable birth control methods for all women of differing degrees of ability, races, classes, sexual orientation, and ages.

RESOLUTION ON MEDICAID FUNDING OF ABORTION

1991

WHEREAS, accessible abortion is a basic, fundamental right of every woman; and

WHEREAS, the United States government uses tax dollars to subsidize medical services through Medicare and Medicaid funding; and

WHEREAS, tax dollars should be available to pay for safe and legal abortions so that the fundamental right to choose whether to carry a pregnancy to term can be equally accessible to all women regardless of socioeconomic status;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW authorize the drafting of model legislation regarding funding at all levels for abortion and reproductive services in the States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Young Feminist Conference can begin the struggle to win back and retain Medicaid funded abortions by organizing non-violent mass demonstrations calling for the repeal of all limitations on Medicaid abortions and call for free safe abortions without restrictions.

LOUIS SULLIVAN

4/91

Moved that NOW institute a shadowing of Secretary Louis Sullivan to bring to the public's attention his refusal to talk with us about RU486.

UTAH BOYCOTT

4/91

WHEREAS, the Utah legislature passed and the Governor signed into law Senate Bill 23, the most restrictive anti-abortion legislation in the United States, with blatant disregard for the lives of Utah women and all other women; and

WHEREAS, the Utah legislature, in its haste to pass this anti-abortion bill (sponsored by Right-to-Life), ignored the fact that women who seek illegal abortions are by 1983 state law guilty of homicide, the penalty for which may be life imprisonment or death; and

WHEREAS, Governor Norm Bangerter co-sponsored the 1983 law while he was Speaker of the House and after signing Senate Bill 23 in January 1991, declared his benevolence by saying that he would not put troops at the state lines to prevent women from going to other states to obtain legal abortions; and

WHEREAS, Utah NOW has called for a boycott of the state of Utah, and the awarding of the 1998 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City until Senate Bill 23 is repealed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National NOW Board join with the NOW State

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Presidents/Coordinators Caucus, the NOW 1991 Young Feminist Conference, Oregon NOW, Wisconsin NOW, Iowa NOW, California NOW and numerous NOW chapters, in supporting the boycott of Utah, **AND FURTHER** that the national NOW officers will take the lead in informing and persuading other feminist and progressive organizations, both domestic and international, to support the boycott.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that national NOW focus media and other resources on the abortion law situation in Utah and, in concert with Utah NOW, work to achieve the immediate repeal of Senate Bill 23.

Moved that NOW sign onto the coalition letter in support of the Utah boycott, but substitute the following language if possible in the coalition letter, and use this language in our organizing: "This issue is so incendiary because the public views this as an issue where women's very lives are at stake. We know that women and men from across the country have already begun discussion of the necessity for mass demonstrations at the Winter Olympics should they be held in the back alley abortion state of Utah."

PROJECT STAND UP FOR WOMEN

11/90

Moved that NOW's Project Stand Up for Women be expanded to include a campaign to combat the decline in availability of abortion services to the point that 93% of rural communities and 51% of urban communities have no abortion providers and the decrease in physicians performing procedures to the point that while 84% of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) think that abortion should be legal and available, 2/3rd of that 84% do not perform abortions; and that this campaign include closer work with providers to improve the image of providers and targeting ACOG, medical schools and hospitals regarding the training of medical students and availability of hospital abortions, and targeting of insurance companies to pressure them to cover all reproductive health services including birth control and elective abortion services, and that we work with the American Medical Women's Association and the American Medical Students Association on these issues.

RU486

11/90

Moved that NOW expand its campaign for RU486 (1) to target the Federal Drug Administration with the goal of eliminating the current exclusion of RU486 from the general rule allowing individuals to bring into the country for their personal use pharmaceutical which do not yet have FDA approval; (2) to target Hoechst's board of directors with the goal of convincing the company to make RU486 available to women in the United States and worldwide; and (3) to coordinate with German, French and other European feminists for education and visibility on RU486 in Europe.

CARAVAN FOR WOMEN'S LIVES: EMPOWERING YOUNG AMERICA

1990

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in Hodgson v. Minnesota and Ohio v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health are a tragedy for the young women of this nation and clearly demonstrate a cynical, callous disregard for their rights and dignity as citizens; and

WHEREAS, state legislatures exacerbate this disastrous policy by passing legislation that make parental involvement mandatory for a minor to obtain a legal abortion; and

WHEREAS, young women in America already are experiencing the tragic results of restrictions on their right to choice, being compelled to travel to other states for legal abortions, to seek out illegal abortions in their home states or to attempt self-induced abortions; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 Becky Bell, a 17 year-old Indiana girl, died from a massive infection that resulted from an illegal abortion because she couldn't bear to "hurt" her parents by telling them of her unintended pregnancy which state law required for a legal abortion; and

WHEREAS, the young women of this nation have the greatest stake in keeping abortion safe, legal and accessible as this right is paramount for their future and essential to a decent quality of life; and

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

WHEREAS, the state of Idaho almost took away basic reproductive rights from women, and the students of Boise's North Junior High responded by leaving school, marching to the state capitol, and occupying the governor's office, which helped build pressure on Governor Cecil Andrus to veto HB625.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOW re-direct its Freedom Caravan for Women's Lives to organize youth in key states to fight rollbacks of their reproductive rights by: contacting young activists who helped organize the April 9 and November 12 abortion rights demonstrations in Washington D.C., which drew participation from over 500 high schools, colleges and universities; conducting Action Team Training for young leaders to organize their peers and organize younger people in high schools, the community and the workplace, as well as organizing the poor and disenfranchised youth; providing youth organizers with an updated training manual, a new brochure on young women's rights to abortion, and a new video produced by the Feminist Majority on the causes and effects of parental involvement laws; and extending Freedom Summer, which identified young activists willing to work for abortion rights candidates and training ever increasing numbers of youth to work in the presidential elections of 1992.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW will mobilize and dedicate resources to strike down existing laws and to prevent the passage of additional laws limiting young women's right to abortion, including parental notice/consent and judicial bypass legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will mobilize young women to march and/or rally for their right to abortion in crucial states, and hold a "Young Feminist Conference" in Washington D.C. in 1990/91.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NOW Conference 1990 recognizes this courageous student contribution in Idaho and encourages young people throughout the country to rise up and demand reproductive rights and defend those rights against any government intrusion.

RU 486: THE MORAL PROPERTY OF WOMEN

1990

WHEREAS, it is intolerable that RU 486, hailed by physicians as the most significant breakthrough in reproductive medicine since the invention of the birth control pill, is not available to women and girls in this nation and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, RU 486 has been tested as an abortifacient for nearly a decade in France with the result that approximately one in three abortions in that country are now performed using RU 486 with an effectiveness rate of 96% and no lasting harmful side effects; and

WHEREAS, RU 486 promises a future in which unwanted pregnancies can be terminated in their earliest stages and in the privacy of the home, without interference from the government or from religious zealots; and

WHEREAS, a 1988 Louis Harris poll found that 59% of adults believe that RU 486 should be made available in the U.S., and 37% of women polled said they would use it if it were available; and

WHEREAS, it is unconscionable that threats of a boycott from a small group of anti-abortion extremists are being allowed to thwart distribution of RU 486 which has also shown promise as a treatment for other serious medical conditions such as breast cancer, endometriosis, meningioma, and caesarean births; and

WHEREAS, Roussel-Uclaf, the developer and manufacturer of RU 486, and its parent company, Hoechst AG, have more to fear from boycott from the overwhelming majority of Americans who want abortion legal, safe, and accessible and who want access to important medical advances than the company has to fear from any boycott of the anti-science, anti-birth control opponents of abortion; and

WHEREAS, NOW has identified a number of companies in the medical field who are ready to distribute RU 486 and have informed Roussel-Uclaf of the willingness, and are thwarted only by Roussel-Uclaf's reluctance to license an American distributor; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive, national strategy of direct action aimed at making RU 486 not just the "moral property" of French women, but the moral property of all women, needs to be developed to convince Roussel-Uclaf to allow the distribution of RU 486 in the United States and around the world, or to sell or relinquish its rights to the drug to an entity that is willing to do so;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women call a "Summit on RU 486" to be held, involving women's health and rights organizations, scientific and medical communities, feminist

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

pharmacists, in a forum to discuss strategies for bringing RU 486 to the U.S., to influence U.S. foreign policy on behalf of other nations that desperately need the use of RU 486 and to expose the opponents of abortion as anti-science, anti-birth control and anti-women.

AFL-CIO RESOLUTION

1990

WHEREAS, the AFL-CIO has taken positions defending various social issues, and was mandated by its last national convention to adopt a position on women's reproductive rights; and

WHEREAS, the National Right-to-Life Committee has organized an aggressive letter writing campaign urging that no position be adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) is currently carrying out a campaign to gather union members' signatures on a "Petition to the AFL-CIO Ad Hoc Committee Considering Resolutions on Reproductive Choice;" and

WHEREAS, the petition states: "We, the undersigned women and men of the labor movement, urge the AFL-CIO to support the right of all women to make decisions about their reproductive health in private, without government interference;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women support this effort to gain wider labor support for a pro-choice position regarding abortion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women encourage its members to help circulate these petitions, and urge NOW members who are unionists to sign these petitions.

IDAHO BOYCOTT

4/90

Moved to commend the National Organization for Women, the work of Idaho NOW, the grassroots abortion rights supporters, and the officers of NOW for taking direct action forcefully and effectively in developing an Idaho Potato boycott, if the Idaho governor signed the punitive, unconstitutional and repressive anti-women restrictive abortion law, and to recognize the power of the economic boycott for defending women's rights.

GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC FAMILY PLANNING

4/90

Motion adopted that NOW lobby for a package of bills to restore the U.S. commitment to global and domestic family planning and research in new methods of contraception, which includes the Reproductive Health Equity Act (S1946/HR857) and Title X Reauthorization (S110/HR930) previously endorsed by NOW, as well as the Atkins-Snow Bill Family Protection Act (HR720), the Schneider-Kostmayer bill, the International Family Planning Assistance Acts of 1990 (HR4075) and the Schroeder-Snow bill, the birth Control and Infertility Research Centers Act of 1990 (HR2956) which NOW hereby endorses.

PROJECT STAND UP FOR WOMEN CONFERENCE

4/90

Motion adopted that NOW's Project Stand Up for Women coordinate a national meeting on Operation Rescue in the fall of 1990 to bring together NOW activists and other local and national activities working to shut down Operation Rescue.

SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES RESOLUTION

4/90

Motion adopted that NOW organize a campaign to support the abortion rights resolution passed in February by the American Bar Association House of Delegates; that NOW include information on the campaign in a leadership mailing and in the National NOW Times; and that the campaign include, among other things;

- (1) a letter-writing drive in support of the pro-choice resolution to the ABA Journal, 750 N. Lake

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- Shore Drive, IL 60611, with a copy to ABA President Chauvin at the same address;
- (2) an outreach campaign to feminist, women's and progressive bar associations urging them to alert their members and take action to support the resolution;
 - (3) an outreach campaign to individual lawyers urging them to join the ABA and note as the reason the ABA's abortion rights resolution (or to note this as their reason for renewing, if they are already members); and
 - (4) a drive to urge abortion rights supporters in the ABA to register for the annual meeting in Chicago and to stay through Monday, August 6, in order to vote in the Assembly against a rescission motion and in favor of the pro-choice resolution.

NOW'S POSITION

1/90

Moved that the NOW National Board reaffirm the original and consistent position of NOW represented in numerous conference resolutions that a woman's right to have an abortion is an absolute right, without restrictions.

INCREASING ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL

1989

WHEREAS, fifteen percent of American women live below the poverty line; and

WHEREAS, the average annual income for women in the United States is about \$16,000; and

WHEREAS, the cost of birth control devices and pills often limits access of low-income women and girls to contraceptives; and

WHEREAS, access to fertility control methods is critical to women's health, women's lives, and the nation's public health; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women support an expansion of TITLE X to include not only information on family planning, but also to provide birth control devices and pills to low-income women and girls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW encourage state and local NOW chapters to develop and support legislation within the states to provide birth control devices and pills free of charge to low-income women and girls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW support the establishment of school-based health clinics, including the provision of birth control devices and pills.

PROJECT STAND UP FOR WOMEN

1989

WHEREAS, the attacks by the right wing on reproductive rights are dangerous to the lives of women as seen in the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Webster v. Reproductive Health Services and the anticipated rulings in the next term of the Court, refusal of the Reagan/Bush Administration to address or condemn terrorist attacks on women's health centers and the stepped up legislative attacks on abortion and birth control rights; and

WHEREAS, the protection of access to abortion and birth control for women largely depends on the organized presence of pro-choice activists at these health centers; and

WHEREAS, "Operation Oppress-you" is composed of a small, extreme minority; and

WHEREAS, their strategy is to create the illusion in the press of a grassroots, growing movement when in reality it is a small group who rove from state to state to harass women and clinic staff; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women's Project Stand Up For Women be expanded to defend women's rights against anti-abortion bullies at women's health clinics by organizing abortion rights supporters to keep clinics open all across the country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this project continue to convey the critical message of the March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives that abortion rights supporters are a majority, that we will not be intimidated

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

by terrorist tactics, and that we will fight against all efforts to deny women their rights to birth control, abortion and reproductive services at every health care facility in the country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as NOW opposes all restrictions that limit women's access to abortion and birth control, our message must be, explicitly and consistently, that "Abortion must be safe, legal, funded, and accessible."

FREEDOM CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN'S LIVES

1989

WHEREAS, from July 3, 1989, the women of America no longer can entrust their fundamental constitutional right to abortion to the U.S. Supreme Court, and

WHEREAS, the executive branch of the federal government, under President George Bush, has demonstrated unequivocally its hostility to abortion rights and has called for both the overturn of Roe v. Wade and the enactment of a "Human Life Amendment" which would give a fertilized egg superior rights to a living woman or girl, and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has regularly abdicated its responsibility to protect women's right to abortion, led by an anti-abortion majority in the House of Representatives, by adopting amendments injurious to women, such as the anti-abortion amendment on the 1988 Civil Rights Restoration Act and an amendment that barred the District of Columbia from using its locally-raised revenues to fund abortions for poor women, and

WHEREAS, Congress has the responsibility to enforce and protect the constitutional rights of all Americans and will be considering legislation to reverse the impact of the Webster decision this fall, and

WHEREAS, the reality of the composition of state legislatures is that only a handful of legislatures can be counted upon to protect abortion rights in 1989, and

WHEREAS, public opinion polls, the 1989 March for Women's Lives, and continuing expressions of outrage by the abortion rights majority in America clearly demonstrate that people support, and are willing to fight for, the fundamental right to abortion for women and girls,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women launch the Freedom Campaign for Women's Lives by going directly to the people in a mass organizing effort with a multi-faceted strategy:

1. to bring hundreds of thousands of Americans to the nation's capital on November 12, 1989 to demonstrate their outrage at the erosion of abortion rights by the Supreme Court and to demand Congressional protection of those rights;
2. to pass federal legislation that will restore the fundamental right to abortion for women and girls throughout our nation;
3. to analyze and target key states for ballot initiatives that will protect the fundamental right to abortion;
4. to formulate strategies and legislation to stop anti-abortion rights in the states;
5. to initiate or join litigation efforts to protect abortion rights in states with right to privacy provisions in their constitutions;
6. to pressure pharmaceutical companies and the Food and Drug Administration to allow research on, and testing of, RU-486, the abortion pill, in our nation;
7. to research, examine, analyze and build support for a constitutional amendment that would protect abortion rights for women and girls for all time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Freedom Caravan for Women's Lives be used as the major organizing vehicle at the state level to activate and train the "political army" mobilized by the April 9, 1989 March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives, the November 12, 1989, mass demonstration, and the overwhelming public reaction to the Webster decision.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that National NOW assist in coordinating actions in the states to mark the anniversary of Roe v. Wade in 1990.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

RU486

1989

WHEREAS, RU 486 is an antiprogesterone which in research and testing since 1980 has been proven to be an effective, safe agent for fertility control, especially for the medical termination of early pregnancy and as a menses inducer; which is a potential treatment for breast cancer (which affects one of every ten American women), endometriosis (which is one of the major causes of infertility in women), glaucoma, prostate cancer and other medical conditions, and a proven treatment for Cushing's Syndrome, and which may be effective in inducing labor in a difficult delivery, thereby reducing the number of Caesarian sections and the risk to women and their babies; and

WHEREAS, anti-abortionists, through a campaign of "medical McCarthyism" have blocked distribution of RU 486 in the United States and throughout the world, while conservatively estimated 200,000 women a year--one woman every three minutes--die from illegal and botched abortions, and hundred of thousands more are injured and maimed; and

WHEREAS, if RU 486 is not distributed legally, and under medical supervision, RU 486 or its equivalent will be produced in clandestine laboratories, with no assurance of quality, and distributed illegally, in a way that will put women at risk; and

WHEREAS, RU 486 can help provide the means for women, worldwide, to gain the feminist goal of women to control our own fertility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that as part of the Freedom Campaign for Women's Lives, the National Organization for Women undertake an RU 486 Action Campaign with goals achieving:

- legal distribution of RU 486 in the United States and throughout the world; and
- continued research to improve RU 486 as an abortifacient and for the treatment of Cushing syndrome as well as for its other potential medical uses in the treatment of breast cancer, endometriosis, glaucoma, brain tumors, and other diseases and conditions; and
- additional research and development of safe, effective medical contraception and abortifacients; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RU 486 Action Campaign be designed to educate, organize and mobilize in the United States; in France, home of RU 486 patent owner Roussel-Uclaf; in Germany, home of the Roussel-Uclaf parent company Hoechst; and in other countries around the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RU 486 Action Campaign be extended to feminist, abortion rights, family planning and environmental groups and also to physicians, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, and their professional associations; medical and other student associations; and organizations fighting the diseases and conditions for which RU 486 is a proven or potential treatment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as part of the RU 486 Action Campaign, NOW expand its investigation into the decline of research on and development of contraceptives and abortifacients; and that NOW put together the resources for research, development and distribution by feminists of better methods of fertility control, if necessary to achieve the goal of safe, accessible birth control and abortion for all women.

DOMINO'S PIZZA

12/89

Moved that NOW inform all of its subunits (and various coalitions involved with publicizing the funding of anti-abortion activities by Domino's Pizza owner Tom Monaghan) that the following is NOW's position on a boycott of Domino's Pizza:

NOW currently is engaging in an information campaign 1) to inform the public of Monaghan's financial support of anti-abortion activities designed to deny women access to legal abortion and 2) to ask members of the public to consider, in light of this information, whether they want to do business with Domino's, knowing that their money will be put to work against abortion rights. Depending on the response of the company, its owner and franchisees to the information campaign, NOW will determine whether to go forward with organizing a national boycott campaign as previously authorized by the National Board.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

PROJECT STAND UP FOR WOMEN

12/89

Moved that in order to further the goals of Project Stand Up for Women to assure women's access to abortion and to shut down Operation Rescue, NOW shall continue its multi-faceted approach and shall add to the existing Project a political organizing campaign to force government to assure women's access to clinics that provide abortion and to provide the resources necessary to do so, even if that includes bringing in state troopers or National Guard, if necessary, to back up local police forces.

POLITICAL POSITION

12/89

Moved that NOW and its subunits will count members of Congress as pro-choice or "for" abortion rights only if they are co-sponsors of RHEA (Reproductive Health Equity Act), FCA (Freedom of Choice Act of 1989), as well as teenagers access to abortion without parental consent or notification.

Moved that the National Organization for Women and NOW subunits will count public officeholders and candidates for public office as pro-choice or pro-abortion rights only if they are supporters of Roe v. Wade, Medicaid funding, and teenagers' access to abortion without parental notification or consent.

NATIONAL SUMMIT

12/89

Moved that the National Organization for Women call a national summit of leaders of women's rights organizations for some time the week of January 22, 1990 to underscore the significance of the threat to abortion rights in the area of the rights of teenagers, the rights of women in poverty and the rights of women in states dominated by anti-abortion legislators and to map out a plan of action to secure abortion rights for all women in the United States.

ROE V. WADE

12/89

Moved that in light of the need for continuing negotiation on the wording of S. 1912 (Freedom of Choice Act), NOW affirms its commitment to support no erosion of the protection of women's right to choose abortion already present in Roe v. Wade.

LANGUAGE

9/89

Moved that NOW subunits be encouraged to use the terms "abortion rights" and "birth control" instead of "choice" alone and further that a rationale for this request be given.

MARYVILLE, TN CASE

9/89

Moved that NOW work with LDEF to study the Maryville TN case where a trial judge declared that "life begins at conception" and awarded "custody" of several fertilized embryos to the wife in a divorce proceeding and advise the Executive Committee how NOW should best proceed.

OPERATION LIFE CLINIC

9/89

Moved that the NOW Executive Committee and National Board work with Harriet Trudell and Ruby Duncan to publicize situation of the defunding of Operation Life Clinic and towards remedies and refunding. Operation Life, run by board member Ruby Duncan in Nevada has been defunded; a similar facility has been constructed down the street by the administration.

NOW'S POSITION

9/89

Moved that NOW's position on referenda and initiative campaigns shall not compromise the unlimited right of all women and girls to abortion. An ad-hoc committee shall be appointed to construct language for a model referendum and talking points, to be presented for consideration by the Board in December and then supplied to all NOW states.

MOBILIZATION FOR WOMEN'S LIVES

9/89

Moved that the [Nov. 12, 1989] Mobilization for Women's Lives focus through banners, posters, program or other appropriate means on the tragedies of Becky B. and Rosie Jimenez as two poignant examples of a young woman and a poor woman who lost their lives as a result of restrictions on abortion rights.

PROPOSED CONTRACT BIRTH MOTHERING AND
PLANNED RELINQUISHMENT OF CHILDREN:

3/89

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women supports the right of women to make their own reproductive decisions and opposes legislation limiting access to alternative means of reproduction. The birth mother should retain all rights regarding her pregnancy, the fetus and the later child until the expiration of some reasonable grace period after the birth of the child similar to the adoption statutes.

FURTHERMORE, since the issues surrounding these questions are complex and emotionally volatile, NOW shall coordinate organization-wide discussions of this issue for the purpose of enabling NOW to formulate a comprehensive policy at the 1990 NOW Conference.

The following issues should, at minimum, be considered:

- (1) Contract parenting? Voluntary? or Paid?
- (2) Should relationships between birth mothers and parents who raise the child be encouraged?
Open/cooperative adoption?
- (3) Guidelines for brokers.
- (4) Should legal representation be available to all parties?
- (5) What are the rights of all "parents" involved?
- (6) What is appropriate terminology?
- (7) Concern about the balancing of paternal rights at the expense of maternal rights.
- (8) Class and race implications.
- (9) Cultural and economic considerations.
- (10) Consumer issues.
- (11) Relationship of contracts, people involved and children born with disabilities.
- (12) Connection to issues surrounding AID (anonymous insemination donors) and the implications for lesbian parents.
- (13) Access/insurance issues.
- (14) Should there be a "grace" period? If answered yes, are there implications for our struggle to avoid 24-hour waiting periods for abortions?
- (15) What are the implications of the A.C. case? (A pregnant cancer patient forced against her will to undergo a C-section).
- (16) How to resolve custody issues.
- (17) Is our contract birth mother policy consistent with our policies on lesbian rights, prostitution and abortion?
- (18) How should payment be structured?
- (19) What are the minimal issues that must be included in a contract? For example: custody,

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

support, consideration/pay, grace period contingencies (custody support and visitation), medical decisions, children born with disabilities, etc.

- (20) Tendency of courts seemingly to define parental rights as paternal rights.
- (21) Should there be counseling for the child? If so, how much of for how long?
- (22) Who takes liability for the long-term health consequences to the birth mother?
- (23) Who takes liability for the health of the child?
- (24) Should the birth mother have counseling? If so, for how long? Who is financially responsible?
- (25) Should children born through alternate reproduction have access to the identity of their genetic and/or birth parents?

PROPOSED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES RESOLUTION

3/89

WHEREAS, RU-486 ("the abortion pill") will be available to women in at least six other countries by the end of 1988, and

WHEREAS, a contraceptive vaccine has tested safe and is being tested for effectiveness in human trials abroad, and

WHEREAS, contraceptive implants, IUD's and new male contraceptives are in use or being developed in Europe, Africa and Asia, and

WHEREAS, we have the highest rate of unintended pregnancies in the western developed world, and

WHEREAS, the Reagan Administration and the anti-abortion, anti-birth control forces have succeeded in restricting access to modern contraceptive research and technology for women in the United States, and

WHEREAS, funding for contraceptive research has decreased by 25% in real dollars since the mid 1970s, and

WHEREAS, very few young scientists are currently entering the field of reproductive biology, and

WHEREAS, the insurance industry is restricting liability coverage for contraceptives as a way to force legislative changes to tort law, and

WHEREAS, Congress, state legislatures, medical groups and pharmaceutical companies have failed to wage the necessary fight and organize the public to bring modern scientific contraceptives to American women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women lead the fight to overturn the governmental policy restricting research and development of new contraceptive technologies by demanding:

- (1) increased funding for safe and effective contraceptive research and development;
- (2) increased educational incentives for scientists entering the field of reproductive biology;
- (3) removal of the exception created for contraceptives and abortifacients by HR 1115, and
- (4) Creation of a contraceptive compensation fund for those inadvertently injured (similar to the federal vaccine compensation fund).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW shall create a national network to ensure American women access to contraceptive methods proven safe and effective and available in other countries

PROJECT STAND UP FOR WOMEN

1/89

Moved that NOW publicly launch Project "Stand up for Women" by researching the logistics to determine the clinics most likely to be Operation Rescue targets, determining how many activists it takes to surround clinics arm-in-arm, and establish the pilot clinics to test this project.

"JUST SAY NO"

1/89

Moved that we include in our strategy the option to "take back the clinics" and launch a nationwide "just say no" campaign encouraging all women to stand up for their reproductive rights by pledging not to have sex with anyone who does not support full reproductive choice for women.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

RU 486

1/89

Moved that NOW launch a campaign to pressure the drug companies to seek permission to begin trials of RU486 and other pharmaceutical abortifacients, and that we pressure the FDA to speed up the approval process.

PREGNANT WOMEN'S RIGHTS

4/88

Moved that the following motion be pre-circulated for consideration in the issues hearings, with the support of the National Board's endorsement;

WHEREAS, it appears that fetal viability is being defined medically and judicially as occurring earlier in the second trimester of pregnancy, and hundreds of women are being subjected to forced cesarean sections and other medical interventions, as well as incarceration during the latest states of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the potential of fetal life is being given priority over the life of the pregnant women in some circumstances (i.e. the case of In Re A.C., 533 A.2d 611, (DC App 1987) where the life of a terminally ill woman was cut short by the forced cesarean delivery of a 25 week old fetus that died within hours of delivery); and

WHEREAS, NOW is being asked to grapple with other issues of surrogacy, the criminal prosecution of pregnant women for child abuse of child neglect for allegedly failing to follow medical advice, and the incarceration of pregnant women who refuse to follow medical advice.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW asserts that women's rights to bodily integrity prevail over any state interest or fetal right claims at all stages of pregnancy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as NOW adopts policies with respect to surrogacy and other reproductive issues, that it do so in accordance with this principle.

CONTRACT BIRTH AND PLANNED RELINQUISHMENT

4/88

The National Organization for Women supports the right of women to make their own reproductive decisions and opposes legislation prohibiting people from voluntarily entering into birth mother contract, whether or not money is involved, provided that the birth mother retain all rights regarding her pregnancy, the fetus, and the later child until the expiration of some reasonable cooling off period after the birth of the child similar to adoption statutes.

NOW further supports the right of children born through contract arrangement to have access to the identity of their genetic and/or birth parent(s) not later than the age of 18.

Furthermore, since the issues surrounding these questions are complex and emotionally volatile, NOW shall coordinate organization wide discussion of this issue for the purpose of enabling NOW to formulate a comprehensive policy at the 1989 National NOW Conference.

TITLE IX

1/88

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women opposes the Danforth Amendment and any other anti-abortion amendments to Title IX; and

WHEREAS, NOW censures the Republican and Democratic Senators who required that young women trade off their reproductive rights in order to gain educational opportunity; and

WHEREAS, supporters of the Amendment have demonstrated their insensitivity to the needs and inequities facing young women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW will continue to work for a clean Title IX bill in the House. While we disagree with the strategy of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights we will not stand in its way

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

in pursuing its strategy, but we will not work for a bill that has an anti-abortion amendment.

FAKE ABORTION CLINICS

1987

WHEREAS, access to abortion is essential to the ability of women to control their reproduction; and

WHEREAS, fake clinics and harassment at abortion clinics are activities which significantly restrict women's access to abortion; and

WHEREAS, clients entering family planning/abortion clinics continue to be harassed and intimidated by anti-choice protesters through means of verbal abuse, displays of gruesome pictures, obstructing entrances, and taking photographs of clients; and

WHEREAS, clients' rights to privacy and confidentiality are violated because of the interference of anti-choice protesters, and this constant harassment sets the climate for acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, reproductive freedom has been an issue of the highest priority for NOW since its founding; and

WHEREAS, clinics are utilized by women in accordance with their constitutional right to seek an abortion; and

WHEREAS, fake abortion clinics attempt to prevent women from exercising their constitutional rights by utilizing deceptive advertising, medical misinformation and coercive tactics,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW publicly condemn the tactics and activities of fake abortion clinics, prepare an action kit outlining chapter actions which have proven successful in shutting down fake abortion clinics, serve as a clearinghouse to regularly circulate pertinent information on fake abortion clinics, and pursue national legislative strategies based on truth in advertising and consumer protection statutes in order to move toward the outlawing of deceptive practices by fake abortion clinics.

MICHIGAN/COLORADO REFERENDUM

1987

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women stands firm in its commitment to reproductive rights, including the right to safe and legal abortion; and

WHEREAS, the erosion of access to abortion oppresses women, especially poor women denied access with the elimination of public funding; and

WHEREAS, poor women in the states of Colorado and Michigan have recently lost access to publicly-funded abortion,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference Implementation Committee (CIC) include representatives from Colorado and Michigan, as well as people from other states who have worked against the anti-abortion forces on ballot issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW develop a plan of action for national's involvement in the Michigan referendum and Colorado repeal campaigns, both scheduled for the 1988 election. This plan of action shall include fund-raising and the allocation of funds from NOW/Equality/ PAC in a timely manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this 1987 NOW National Conference recommends to the NOW National Board that a person from National NOW be assigned to work with Michigan and Colorado as liaison.

NATIONAL PRO-CHOICE PLATFORMS WITHIN ALL PARTIES

1987

WHEREAS, there appears to be a move within the Democratic party to remove from the platform the planks supporting a woman's right to abortion and Medicaid funding for abortion; and

WHEREAS, there are no supporting planks for pro-choice positions or for funding in the Republican Party platform; and

WHEREAS, there has been a move to support anti-choice legislation by elected officials; and

WHEREAS, NOW members are constantly being solicited for money and time by the Parties and by candidates;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW members will be urged to consistently refuse to give money

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

or time to any political party, candidate, or political action committee that does not have a consistently strong pro-choice position on all legislation, and urge all NOW members to indicate on the contribution form why they are not contributing money, time or endorsements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all units of NOW be urged to demand that the Democratic and Republican and all other parties include a pro-choice plank in their platforms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all NOW members be notified of this resolution via the next every member mailing (NNT).

SURROGATE MOTHERHOOD

5/87

Surrogate mother statutes/regulations must ensure that the biological mother retain all rights regarding her pregnancy, the fetus and the later child until sometime after the birth of said child in line with adoption regulations of the state. An ad hoc committee on non-traditional reproduction was established to develop further proposed policy in their area. The following board members were appointed to the ad hoc committee: Janet Canterbury (FL), Jean Varble (KY), Carla Whittington (MN), Lois Reckitt (ME), Janet Cook (CA), Lib Jameson (TN), Rosemary Dempsey (NJ), Priscilla Alexander (CA).

ABORTION FUNDING

11/86

WHEREAS, a commitment to justice and full reproductive freedom for all women is a major concern of the National Organization for Women; and

WHEREAS, a fair and compassionate public policy does not exist that allows indigent women who have been sexually assaulted to obtain the medical services they need to make decisions about abortion; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Congress restricted poor women's access to abortions through the Hyde Amendment, and thus ended federal funding for abortions for poor women in the case of rape or incest; and

WHEREAS, abortions for poor women are unavailable in 31 states, thus further victimizing the victims of rape and incest; and

WHEREAS, the Justice Campaign, initiated by Protestant, Jewish and Catholic church leaders calls for a national campaign to restore public funding for abortion in cases of rape and incest; and

WHEREAS, 80% of the American public strongly supports the availability of abortion in cases of rape and incest,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women supports and endorses the Justice Campaign to restore abortion funding for victims of rape and incest.

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES

1986

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women organized massive marches and rallies of more than 155,000 people in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, CA in March, 1986 which dramatically demonstrated the overwhelming majority support in this nation for safe and legal abortion and birth control; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women has been in the forefront of the fight against harassment, intimidation and violence against women's health centers by providing patient escorts at clinics and by filing a major lawsuit that seeks an effective national remedy against the key perpetrators of such activities; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women intends to defeat the enemies of women's lives in every state that offers a serious referendum challenge to a woman's right to choose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women move to the next stage of its Campaign for Women's Lives:

1. Establish an aggressive litigation strategy that builds a litigation network across the country to pursue legal remedies to stop terrorist activities at women's health centers.
2. Develop a Manual of Litigation to aid state and local NOW chapters and women's health centers in the pursuit of legal remedies at the local level.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

3. Create a strike force to develop a clinic watch that will systematically track activities of anti-abortion extremists and bogus clinics all over the country with a system similar to Klan Watch.
4. Conduct effective state referenda campaigns to defeat anti-abortion measures through the NOW Equality PAC and/or NOW Inc., after all legal considerations, together with state organizations and local chapters and/or coalitions which include NOW (where applicable). The defeat of anti-abortion referenda will be a priority commitment of the NOW Equality PAC and/or NOW Inc., after all legal considerations, from this time through at least the November 4, 1986 election and, as appropriate, give priority funding to those projects.
5. Encourage all NOW units to continue organizing public speakouts, conferences and demonstrations to make visible the majority support for abortion rights.

TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

1986

WHEREAS, each year more than one million teenage pregnancies occur and 3 out of 4 of these pregnancies are unwanted; and

WHEREAS, nearly five million young women are sexually active, including two million 13 - 17 year old young women, and nearly seven million young men are sexually active, including 3.5 million 13 - 17 year old young men; and

WHEREAS, a complete knowledge of sexual and reproductive activities empower women's choices; and

WHEREAS, an emerging approach to improving adolescent health and addressing teenage pregnancy through school-based health clinics has reported dramatically positive results, including a dramatic reduction in the rate of teenage pregnancy where these school-based clinics exist; and

WHEREAS, the Right Wing in America has launched a campaign to force closure of existing school-based health clinics and to prevent the establishment of new clinics and has attacked the use of sex education materials in order to restrict education about sexuality to a single, repressive point of view;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOW will actively support the development and distribution of programs to prevent unwanted teenage pregnancy, including comprehensive sex education programs responsive to feminist values of gender equality and women's autonomy; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that NOW support research across the country regarding the establishment of school-based health clinics in an effort to discover what has been accomplished and how it was accomplished and to share this information with our state and local chapters; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NOW will oppose local efforts, including school board actions, which would restrict the availability (including open library access) of sex education materials.

CLINIC VIOLENCE

5/86

The Board affirms the Executive Committee's decision to file suit under RICO statutes on behalf of the Pensacola abortion clinic.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

2/86

The Tuesday before March 9 shall be declared a day of leafletting for the March on Women's Lives. Chapters are urged to do day-long leafletting at local colleges/universities and/or those institutions most identified with the Roman Catholic church in their area.

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES

7/85

The National Board adopts the "Campaign to Save Women's Lives: One Million Strong" 6-month long campaign.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS STRATEGIES

1985

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women:

1. Organize a massive march and rally in Washington, D.C. and the West Coast simultaneously, in 1986 of our supporters to show--dramatically--the overwhelming majority support for legal abortion and birth control;
2. Launch a campus campaign to organize the millions of women of childbearing age who have no memory of back-alley abortions, but have a major stake in the battle for women's lives;
3. Refocus the debate about abortion by:
 - a. Asking the touchy questions surrounding whether abortion and some birth control will remain legal or illegal--driving home the unenforceability and unpopularity of making abortion illegal;
 - b. Linking the anti-abortion movement (through their cut-back in international family planning and the failure of our anti-abortion national government to provide adequate funds to feed those who are starving) to death and starvation in the Third World, especially Africa; and
 - c. Organizing Vatican Embassy Days of Outrage to protest the Pope's continual interference in our political arena and the Catholic Church Hierarchy's work to outlaw abortions and birth control;
4. Develop a media campaign of radio, television and print ads and expand our public relations department so that we can use modern technology to reach and mobilize the pro-choice majority;
5. Restore the nationwide phone bank/message brigade system to once again provide instant action to protect abortion and birth control rights;
6. Continue the highly successful clinic escorts and clinic vigil actions as needed; and
7. Provide financial and technical assistance to the State NOW organizations with anti-abortion rights referenda in the 1986 elections.

CIVIL RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT

6/85

WHEREAS, efforts to secure passage of the Civil Rights Restoration act of 1985 has been jeopardized by the addition of an anti-choice amendment to the legislation; and

WHEREAS, all efforts at passing any type of progressive legislation are being held hostage to the abortion issue; and

WHEREAS, this amendment was offered on behalf of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, and is another attempt on their part to control women's lives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women go on record officially condemning this most recent effort by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church with a letter to Bishop James W. Malone, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, expressing our displeasure with the bishops' apparent opposition to the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985 and their efforts to control women's lives.

100 DAYS INITIATIVE TO SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES

6/85

Moved that the National Organization for Women sound the alarm about the imminent threat to women's right to choose abortion through the escalation of our "Campaign to Save Women's Lives," in view of the Supreme Court's recent decision to review restrictive anti-abortion laws from two states; increased anti-abortion activism on the part of the Catholic Church hierarchy; the growing determination of right wing, anti-woman forces in Congress to hold pro-woman legislation hostage to the abortion issue; and the continued anti-abortion campaign of violence and intimidation against women at clinics across the nation. If we do not take

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

extraordinary action now, we will wake up one day soon to find that our right to control our bodies and our lives is gone. We dare not be complacent. We dare not wait until women's pain finally moves us to act.

Moved further that the National Organization for Women launch a "100 Days Initiative to Save Women's Lives," which will include the following:

1. A nationally coordinated in-district lobbying campaign, to be kicked off during the July 4 recess, to declare to every Member of Congress that we will not tolerate their holding legislation hostage to abortion, and will focus on the Civil Rights Restoration Act as a primary example of this unconscionable tactic.
2. Highly visible actions on the first Sunday of October (the day prior to the opening of the Supreme Court's fall term) to make members of the Senate Judiciary Committee aware that we expect them to block Reagan's anti-abortion Court-packing strategy, and to demonstrate to the Supreme Court our determination to continue making our own reproductive decisions without government control.
3. Public relations saturation campaign to sound the alarm about the threat to abortion, to wake the sleeping public to the reality of that threat through newspaper ads, public forums, letters to the editor, and other media.
4. Organize clinic defense actions on Saturday, June 22 composed of human chains at clinic entrances, and at all cooperating clinics in the Washington metropolitan area to prevent clinic invasions. Following these actions, all participants will immediately go to the site of the National Right to Life Convention to directly confront Cardinal John O'Connor and protest his unrelenting and callous opposition to the ERA, Civil Rights Restoration Act, birth control and abortion rights for women. **(See Also Religion)**

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES

2/85

Moved "that as part of NOW's Campaign to Save Women's Lives, we will ask those willing to speak out to participate in NARAL's letter writing campaign if NARAL agrees that all participating groups will receive all the names and addresses collected."

Moved "that NOW will implement the second phase of the National Vigil for Women's Lives with the NOW Campaign to Save Women's Lives. This will consist of the massive distribution of the NOW Campaign to Save Women's Lives sign-up cards to recruit thousands of individuals who are willing to speak publicly about their experiences with abortion. This will include women who have had both legal and illegal abortions and also people whose mothers, grandmothers, friends, and partners who have had experiences with abortion.

Moved that NOW will sponsor press conferences and speak-outs in many cities simultaneously the Thursday before Mother's Day. The NOW Campaign to Save Women's Lives will continue to sign up people in the following months and incorporate them into speakers bureaus by state. In order to maintain women's access to abortion, NOW chapters will meet the anti-abortion challenge at the clinics on Mother's Day weekend. Chapters will receive a list of possible actions."

Moved that NOW sponsor a rally at the Vatican Embassy on June 8th, with concurrent actions at the local offices of the dioceses around the country to protest the Catholic Church hierarchy's anti-woman opposition to birth control and abortion.

It was further **moved** that those chapters that cannot send delegations to the National action are encouraged to have concurrent local actions.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

ANTI-ABORTION TERRORISM

1984

WHEREAS, as a result of the decisive defeats suffered in June, 1984 by the anti-abortion minority of this country at the hands of the U.S. Senate and Supreme Court, a growing number of anti-abortion individuals and groups have turned to a campaign of terrorism against abortion clinics, staff and patients; and

WHEREAS, within the first five months of 1984 there were EIGHT arson attacks on health clinics providing abortion services across the country, in addition to numerous incidents of vandalism, trespass, physical assaults and other violence; and

WHEREAS, anti-abortion groups have also stepped up their campaign to inflict psychological abuse on women entering health clinics, with abusive "sidewalk" harassment, threats to these women and their families, taking pictures of the women and recording their license plates, and all manner of threats to prevent women from exercising their constitutional right to choose abortion and birth control; and

WHEREAS, the increasing violence of the rhetoric of the new right has encouraged such terrorism against women, such rhetoric including the attacks against women's lives by Ronald Reagan in his State of the Union address and his publication of the book Abortion and the Conscience of America; and

WHEREAS, the right-wing anti-abortion leadership has refused to act to stop these terrorist attacks, and the Reagan Administration has ignored all requests to investigate these violations of federal civil rights laws, and President Reagan, himself, has refused to uphold his oath of office and enforce the law and protect women's lives; and

WHEREAS, this situation is repugnant to the overwhelming majority of law-abiding Americans who support a woman's right to choose abortion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW conduct a comprehensive campaign against this anti-abortion terrorism and harassment, including:

1. a grass-roots chapter campaign to publicize this violence and end it through better law enforcement, clinic support including escort services for women entering clinics, community pressure against the terrorism and legislation where appropriate;
2. a campaign for Congressional hearings on the issue;
3. continued demands for federal action, especially a Justice Department investigation of the civil rights violations;
4. a continuation of our campaign to expose Ronald Reagan's anti-abortion, anti-family planning, and anti-civil rights record, especially his refusal to enforce the federal civil rights laws forbidding harassment of Americans exercising their constitutional rights, his promises to appoint anti-abortion justices to the Supreme Court, and his anti-abortion lobbying initiatives. NOW and the American public will hold Ronald Reagan accountable for his repeated defiance of the opinions of the majority of Americans.

COLORADO BALLOT INITIATIVE

5/84

WHEREAS, Colorado is a recognized pro-choice state, having passed the first progressive pro-choice legislation in 1967, and is one of the few remaining states using state funds to support choice with regard to abortion; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is not the only state facing this kind of anti-choice challenge and as a recognized leader in the pro-choice movement, loss of Medicaid funding would be a terrible precedent to the rest of the United States; and

WHEREAS, poor and minority women will be most affected by the loss of funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that National NOW expend \$2,000 to assist in the fight to defeat the Colorado Ballot Initiative to prohibit public funding of all abortions, and that National provide support to encourage other national organizations to take a stand on this issue and assist in the fight.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

ABORTION FUNDING

1983

WHEREAS, the recent defeat of the Hatch anti-choice constitutional amendment and the Supreme Court's ruling in the Akron ordinance case and in related cases reaffirmed and strengthened women's constitutional right to choose abortion; and

WHEREAS, anti-choice members of Congress and their supporters have therefore turned to advancing their attempts to deprive women of their reproductive rights by cutting off funding for abortion through Medicaid and other government funded programs; and

WHEREAS, those hurt by this are often the most disadvantaged women, those living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, these funding bans have the effect of denying a constitutional right to some women simply because they are poor;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in addition to fighting so-called Human Life Bills and anti-choice constitutional amendments such as the Hatch amendment, NOW will seek to have abortion funded as any other government supported health service would be.

NOW's goals shall include:

1. Full Medicaid funding for abortion;
2. Inclusion of coverage of abortion in federal and state employee insurance plans;
3. Defeat or repeal of laws requiring separate riders to private health insurance plans for abortion coverage; and
4. Inclusion of funding for abortion in other government programs in which federal or state funds pay for other health care services related to pregnancy.

COMMENDATION OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD (SQUEAL RULE)

4/82

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood Federation of America has publicly announced their opposition to the proposed HHS regulation requiring parental notification and aptly described it as a "squeal rule," and

WHEREAS, PPFA intends to challenge the constitutionality of the regulations and further stated that they would refuse to comply with the regulations if approved, and

WHEREAS, their refusal to comply could result in the loss of tens of millions of dollars of Title X funds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Board of NOW commends PPFA for their courageous stand to protect the reproductive freedom of all females, regardless of age.

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1982

WHEREAS, the right wing is attempting to repress the victories in reproductive rights of American women by foisting upon us their reactionary views of the place women should have in this society, and

WHEREAS, the time has come to take the offensive on behalf of women's lives

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women

1. Expand the aggressive national STOP HLA/HLB Campaign in the Congress to stop right wing attacks on birth control, amniocentesis, abortion and other reproductive rights
2. Call a summit meeting of state coordinators from intensive campaign areas, National NOW leaders and National NOW/PAC representatives to be held early in 1983 to begin to develop comprehensive action and electoral strategy to defeat the far right and other anti-woman legislators and their agenda in the 1984 elections
3. Continue to expose the role of the Catholic Church hierarchy in the anti-abortion/anti-birth control movement
4. Publicize the economic impact of unwanted pregnancy on females, particularly the very young and the very poor
5. Expose the corporate interests which profit from denying women reproductive freedom

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6. Organize a clearinghouse and strategy unit on state and local anti-abortion/anti-birth control legislation as well as strategy to eradicate the harassment tactics and clinic violence.

POLITICAL ACTION FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

1981

WHEREAS, the 1982 congressional elections afford us an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the strength of constituent support for abortion rights by supporting key Senators for re-election and actively opposing Congressmen who oppose abortion rights, and

WHEREAS, we must be actively demonstrating the strength of the women's movement to organize Americans in support of women's rights, and

WHEREAS, the right wing victories of 1980 were not based on the opposition of the majority of Americans to women's rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women encourage the NOW/PAC to undertake a systematic political action strategy for the 1982 congressional elections aimed at election victories for public officials who support abortion rights and election defeats for those who oppose abortion rights, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the election strategy be centered around involvement of NOW members in recruiting of candidates and the development of campaign support through training of campaign staff and volunteers, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women evaluate the congressional and senate races, specifically those of first term members of the House of Representatives, and develop a specific electoral strategy that will advance NOW's goals, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the national reproductive rights committee develop an action-selection packet for chapter use at the time of the 1982 anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision focused on legislative and political activity, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the July, 1982 counter-event at the National Right to Life Conference in Cherry Hill, New Jersey be fully supported by the National Organization for Women with technical, financial, and publicity assistance made available to the organizing committee.

HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENT RESOLUTION

1980

WHEREAS, the purpose of the proposed Human Life Amendment (HLA) is anti-contraceptive and would outlaw the most popular forms of birth control such as the IUD and the low estrogen birth control pill; and

WHEREAS, the HLA threatens the life of every woman of child bearing age, not only because it would ban virtually all abortions, but also because some versions of the HLA do not allow abortions even to prevent the death of the pregnant woman; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate impact of the HLA is to make the rights of a fertilized egg or fetus superior to a woman's right to her own life; and

WHEREAS, the Rabid Right and the new Christian Right have taken over the so-called Right-to-Life movement and intend to take over a majority of Congress by 1984; and

WHEREAS, the proponents of the HLA are using the tactic of passing Constitutional convention resolutions in states to force the Congress to consider and pass the proposed HLA by 1983;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women work to defeat the HLA by:

1. continuing efforts to develop and aggressively implement a national, comprehensive STOP HLA campaign for 1981 and 1982.
2. further developing and implementing legislative and political analyses for key states and the Congress.
3. developing and implementing a STOP HLA outreach program with sample resolutions and speeches.
4. continuing to develop and expand the organizational support list to enlist the help of unions and other groups in the campaign to STOP HLA.
5. forming STOP HLA truth squads to tell the nation the clear and present dangers that the proposed HLA poses to our right to birth control and a woman's right to her life.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1979

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women is resolved to lead and win the fight for reproductive rights including abortion rights for women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women declare reproductive rights including abortion rights are issues of life and death for women, not mere matters of choice; and

That, in order to win reproductive rights, the political climate in this country and elsewhere must be changed to eventually remove what should be a matter of private, individual decision, from the political arena, and That support and passage of comprehensive reproductive rights legislation must be a cornerstone in changing the political climate in this country beginning in 1980 and including:

- o an end to the cruel and deadly discrimination in the legislative treatment of abortion;
- o a major increase in funding of contraceptive research with monies targeted for barrier methods of contraception, male contraceptives, and reversible sterilization;
- o a major new allocation of funds for research in the diseases of pregnancy such as toxemia and eclampsia;
- o an end to the abusive and dangerous research and experimentation with contraceptives and other drugs that affect women's reproductive health;
- o an expansion of the authority and power of the Occupational and Health Safety Administration to eliminate reproductive health hazards at the worksite;
- o a ban on employment discrimination on the basis of reproductive capacity;
- o a mandate that reproductive health education be offered in all schools, all grades, receiving federal funds;
- o creation of a program of public, reproductive health education for adults, or persons not in schools;
- o an end to trade association bans on advertising of reproductive health services on radio and television;
- o expansion of prenatal health care services and publicity about such services;
- o criminal sanctions against sterilization abuse by medical personnel and institutions; and

That expansion of the constitutional guarantees of reproductive rights should be explored; and

That NOW, while not engaging in the political posturing of the enemies of reproductive rights by pronouncing political targets for the 1980 elections, does pledge to work for and preserve political friends of reproductive rights while expanding the national, political debate from its sole focus on abortion to include all reproductive rights; and

That NOW move to organize the unorganized for reproductive rights, the millions who have exercised those rights, used contraceptives, had abortions, chosen childbirth despite societal pressure, etc.; and

That NOW encourage and facilitate women to speak out about their reproductive lives, their problems with contraceptives, with health care, their abortions; so that the fight for reproductive rights may be seen in human terms -- the lives and fortunes of women; and

That NOW expose the anti-contraceptive intent and impact of the proposed anti-abortion amendments to the U.S. Constitution (Human Life Amendments sic) which would make intrauterine devices illegal and would outlaw all but high estrogen birth control pills (the ones most dangerous for women) subjecting millions of American women to criminal penalty for their use; and

That NOW enthusiastically join and support the Coalition for Reproductive Rights of Workers that seeks to eliminate reproductive health hazards on the worksite and end discrimination against employees, both women and men, based on their reproductive capacity; and

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

That NOW change the language in the fight for reproductive rights, to speak not in jargon, but in words that everyone can understand -- abortion, birth control, to have or not to have children, etc.

STERILIZATION ABUSE

1978

WHEREAS, the right to reproductive choice is a basic right for women and must be attained if women's status is to improve; and

WHEREAS, the women's movement must take the initiative to insure a woman's right to reproductive choice and an end to sterilization abuse through education, legal and legislative programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women actively endorse the concept of voluntary, informed consent including the use of the woman's native language in oral explanations, consent forms and physicians' statements; the use of voluntary consent forms for all sterilization procedures; and physicians' signed statement that she/he has used no duress or threat or coercion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW's national program include endorsement and education of voluntary, informed consent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women oppose the thirty day guidelines as proposed by HEW as paternalistic and a denial of women's right to reproductive choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women develop an active program to end sterilization abuse through the Reproductive Rights, Women and Health, Minority Women's and Women and Poverty Committees and the state and local task forces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the program to end sterilization abuse encompass the following points:

1. An education program to supplement and strengthen informed consent regulations; this program should be directed toward both physicians and clients;
2. A legislative program directed toward making sterilization abuse a criminal offense with stringent, enforced punishments for abusing physicians and institutions including the revoking of licenses of abusing physicians and institutions and cutting off of any Medicaid funds to those abusers;
3. A legislative program that increases research in reversible sterilization procedures and alternative methods of birth control with emphasis on male contraception;
4. A legal program directed toward education of complainants as to their legal rights with a goal of active leadership in litigation against abusers and effective monitoring of enforcement of criminal codes and guidelines;
5. A developmental education program directed toward public education of young persons regarding their reproductive rights;
6. A program to publicize the incidence of sterilization abuse and expose illegal practices of doctors and institutions who violate sterilization laws.

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1978

WHEREAS, the right of a pregnant woman to choose either childbirth or abortion is a fundamental right; and **WHEREAS**, this right is under a continually increasing attack on all fronts; and

WHEREAS, this threat has been exemplified in recent months by the cutoff of funds for Medicaid abortions in some of the few states still funding those abortions, and a continued failure to restore federal funds for Medicaid abortions; and

WHEREAS, this threat has been further exemplified by attempts, some successful, in many states to pass legislation placing totally unacceptable restrictions on a woman's right to choose, such as requirements for parental notification, instruction in the alleged "dangers" of abortion, stringent clinic licensing requirements, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the recent anti-abortion bill passed in Louisiana requires;

- (1) that abortions performed in the first three months of pregnancy be done in a hospital;

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- (2) that women under eighteen years of age must obtain parental consent prior to an abortion;
 - (3) that a pregnant woman must give her written consent to an abortion after being informed by a doctor that a fetus is "a human life from the moment of conception"; and
 - (4) after signing a consent form she must wait twenty-four hours before obtaining the abortion;
- and

WHEREAS, this Louisiana law is a national model of anti-choice legislation being used by the so-called Right-to-Life movement; and

WHEREAS, thirteen states have now passed resolutions calling for a convention to rewrite the Constitution to ban all abortions; and

WHEREAS, a vocal, anti-choice minority, fueled by these developments, has launched a nationwide campaign against the right to choose abortion, up to and including violent physical attacks on abortion clinics; and

WHEREAS, the opposition to women's reproductive freedom including the freedom to choose abortion, has grown in its virulence and use of violence over the past year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women reiterate its support for the 1977 NOW Conference Resolution on Reproductive Rights as much remains to be done in its implementation; and

That, NOW strengthen its efforts to retain for all women the right to control their bodies by obtaining an abortion if they so choose, as well as the right to have abortion considered a normal medical procedure; and

That, National NOW develop tools similar to those being used in the drive to ratify the ERA, including preparation of a film on the historical struggle of Margaret Sanger and her sisters for reproductive freedom, such film to be used in a caravan-style organizing drive around the issue of reproductive rights aimed at political success on the issue; and

That, these efforts should include in upcoming months a national mail campaign urging Congress to defeat all anti-choice legislation, together with coordinated local actions across the nation on the weekend of January 20 - 21, to be accompanied by a national press conference in support of the right to choose, and followed on January 22, by a day of lobbying Congress on the issue of abortion; and

That, National NOW prepare analysis of and target some major Congressional enemies of reproductive freedom for defeat in the 1980 elections; and

That, NOW target for passage during the 96th Congress (1979/90) currently pending legislation that would prohibit riders to federal appropriations bills such as the "Hyde" amendment to HEW/Labor Appropriations, and the "Dornan" amendments to DOD appropriations and to the Foreign Assistance Appropriations, etc.; and

That NOW become a plaintiff in the lawsuit against the I.R.S., the Secretary of the Treasury and the Roman Catholic Church because of their violation of the statutes granting the Church tax-exempt status, such lawsuit to be joined after review of NOW legal counsel and the NOW Executive Committee; and

That NOW undertake a major, national letter-writing campaign directed to the mass media, supporting the pro-choice position and in opposition to the flood of religious programs that organize politically over the media against reproductive freedom and which programs are not subject to federal equal time requirements; and

That NOW urge its members to monitor their school districts to keep out anti-abortion slide shows and graphics; and

That NOW develop a pro-choice presentation for the schools; and

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

That NOW expresses its concerns for our younger sisters and support the rights of minors to abortion without parental consent or notification, now before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Bellotti vs. Baird; and

That this NOW Conference officially oppose amendments to House Bill 12370, and that time be set aside in the plenary session to explain the danger to family planning and abortion rights; and

That NOW's efforts on behalf of the right to choose will not let up until that right is regained on behalf of all women, and until a threat to that right no longer exists.

POLICY STATEMENT

7/78

We, the National Organization for Women, support the right of every woman to control her own reproductive life. This includes her right to bear children; not to bear children; to elective sterilization procedures with no restrictions; to safe contraception.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

1977

WHEREAS, the right of women to control their reproductive lives is a primary goal of NOW;

But the availability of abortion, especially to the poor, has been limited in practice by hospitals and by state and federal regulation, as well as cost;

And sterilization has been denied to some by state and hospital regulations and doctors' prejudices and has been forced on some, most often the multiply-oppressed women;

And sex education, prenatal and childbirth care, and contraception are not equally available to all;

And the groups opposing abortion rights (most notably the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the political right wing) have also opposed sex education, contraception, and voluntary sterilization and are now endangering the rights of all by proposed "fetal life" amendments to the U.S. Constitution and proposals by state legislatures to convene a Constitutional Convention to consider "fetal life" amendments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW take the offensive for women's right to control their reproductive lives and establish a National Reproductive Rights Committee to:

1. Expose the anti-woman anti-contraceptive bias of the "fetal life" groups, particularly the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the political right wing;
2. Initiate and secure passage of sweeping federal legislation guaranteeing access of all to sex education, contraception, voluntary sterilization, abortion, and prenatal and childbirth care;
3. Increase the availability of sex education and contraceptive information and materials;
4. Change federal, state, and local regulations limiting reproductive freedom;
5. Stimulate and increase funding of research in contraception and reproduction which meets feminist requirements; and
6. Develop a total strategy to defeat the antiabortion, anti-contraception forces in the state legislatures and in the U.S. Congress.

The National Reproductive Rights Committee shall be composed of a chair and eight members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Board. Insofar as possible, the committee members shall represent the nine Regions.

The National Committee members shall be responsible for recruiting regional, state, and chapter committees;

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

identifying those that already exist; and developing a program for accomplishing its assigned tasks.

The National Committee shall be responsible for communicating by mail with all levels, and the regional members shall be responsible for conducting workshops at their respective Regional NOW Conferences and for recruiting and training workshop leaders for state NOW Conferences.

FEMINISTS' INSPECTION OF HOSPITAL

1977

For 25 years, childbirth groups in the United States have been seeking through education to provide women with some small measure of control. Childbirth used to be a woman-controlled experience, but now we are not even allowed to participate in our own experience of childbirth, let alone assist each other. Childbirth is a normal experience, not an illness. We have no choice about the conditions under which we labor and give birth. Women still give birth strapped, draped, shaven, drugged, and numbed.

Witnesseth therefore:

WHEREAS, on March 6, 1977, feminist health activists from all over the country conducted an unannounced inspection of the Obstetrical Unit at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (a public hospital). The women found the following maternity care practices of Tallahassee Memorial Hospital to be substandard, although typical of most hospitals:

1. Babies were crying in a soundproof nursery, separated from their mothers, who had been given sleeping pills, although they were told that rooming in was available.
2. Several containers of Phisohex, a cleansing chemical that has been found to cause brain damage in newborns, were found in the Obstetrical Unit.
3. Mothers were found in a prison-like atmosphere in which they were not allowed outside the post partum area of the hospital.
4. Internal fetal monitors are used routinely in Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. A small electrode is put in the head of the baby before birth.

WHEREAS, from this action, Carol Downer, Janice Cohen, Linda Curtis and Ginny Cassidy were arrested for criminal trespassing. We support the action of these women as being representative of our rights as women. Now, therefore, the National Organization for Women resolves that:

1. As women, we have the right to control our own bodies.
2. As consumers, we have the right to inspect our health care facilities.
3. We demand the immediate halting of dangerous medical practices, and further demand that we have control of our health care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there is no justification for arresting women for exercising our rights as consumers of health care. We demand the charges of trespassing against Carol Downer, Janice Cohen, Linda Curtis and Ginny Cassidy be dropped.

See Also: Health

CLARIFYING MOTIONS

4/76

Both revealing the child's paternity and assigning the right to child support to the state should be optional for the mother or the caretaker.

CLARIFYING MOTION

1/76

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the National Organization for Women, Inc., (NOW) finds it necessary to clarify uncertainties as to NOW Policy, it is resolved that;

- (1) NOW opposes those parts of any legislation, rule or regulation which denies a woman welfare assistance or services for refusal to identify the father of her child, and

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

- (2) NOW calls for the repeal of those provisions of P.L. 93-467 as amended (the child support law of 1975 which amends the Social Security Act) which forces a welfare mother or any caretaker of a dependent child to reveal the child's paternity and which assign the right to child support for a dependent child to the state,
- (3) the President as the appointer of Task Force chairs and the Legislative Vice-President as the person who implements legislative strategy confer within a week with the Task Force Coordinators involved in an effort to facilitate proper lobbying on this legislation.

ESTABLISHED AS PRIORITY

1974

WHEREAS, a woman's right to control her body is basic to controlling her life economically, socially and spiritually, and

WHEREAS, denial of a woman's right to abortion is a religious, philosophical, and, more importantly, a spiritual issue and not a political issue, and legislation, in the form of various "fetal amendments" to the U.S. Constitution is an infringement of a woman's right to privacy, freedom of conscience and freedom of choice, and

WHEREAS, Congress is presently considering amendments to deprive women of their fundamental Constitutional right to choose whether or not they will bear children, and since this is an abridgement, both of fundamental rights to control her own body, her future, and her own moral decisions, and

WHEREAS, determined opponents of women's rights such as the Ku Klux Klan, John Birch Society, Young Americans for Freedom, Right to Lifers are mounting an increasingly accelerating attack particularly on the National Organization for Women, and

WHEREAS, the women's right to choose has been national policy of NOW since 1967, and

WHEREAS, 14 state legislatures have "memorialized" the Congress, and

WHEREAS, a substantial number of Congresspeople have been subject to extreme pressure, and

WHEREAS, Justice Blackmun has received an overwhelming amount of political-hate mail regarding the Supreme Court decision of Roe vs. Wade, January 22, 1973

BE IT RESOLVED, that all members of NOW keep records, clippings, statements of speeches, pastoral letters, etc., that will be used as evidence to substantiate this overwhelming and substantial political and legislative activity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW adopt the opposition to these amendments as a national priority.

INVOLUNTARY STERILIZATION

1971

WHEREAS, NOW is on record advocating a woman's freedom to control her own reproductive life, and

WHEREAS, bills have been introduced in some states to force women to accept involuntary sterilization, and

WHEREAS, such bills are usually directed against poor white and minority women,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW actively work to oppose any such efforts to take away a woman's right to control her own reproductive life.

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1971

BE IT RESOLVED, that the policy statement of NOW which now reads:

-- NOW endorses the principle that it is a basic right of every woman to control her reproductive life, and therefore NOW supports the furthering of the sexual revolution of our century by pressing for widespread sex education, provision of birth control information and contraceptives, and the repeal of all laws penalizing abortion . . .

BE CHANGED TO READ:

-- NOW endorses the principle that it is a basic right of every woman to control her reproductive life, and therefore NOW supports the furthering of the sexual revolution of our

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

century by pressing for widespread sex education, provision of birth control information and contraceptives, and the repeal of all laws restricting abortion, contraception and sexual activity between consenting adults in private.

RIGHT TO PRIVACY

1971

WHEREAS, no woman should be denied the right to an adequate income, and

WHEREAS, NOW supports the right to privacy of all women,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW insist that no woman be denied public assistance or services for refusal to identify the father of her child.

HUMAN REPRODUCTION

1970

The basic right to limit one's own reproduction includes the right to all forms of birth control (contraception, including sterilization, and abortion), recognizing the dual responsibility of both sexes. We therefore oppose all legislation and practices that restrict access to any of these means of birth control, and advocate positive measures requiring;

- that all public hospitals offer contraception, sterilization and abortion to anyone requesting these services;
- that these services be made accessible to as many people as possible by the establishment of a network of local public clinics;
- that the availability of these services be widely and continuously publicized; and
- that public funds be allocated for research into new methods of contraception, sterilization and abortion which would increase their safety and availability.

Women should be guaranteed their civil right to an abortion performed by any qualified person in any suitable setting. We urge the convening of regional conferences to repeal of abortion laws.

NOW LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 1969

REPEAL OF ABORTION LAWS

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1967

NOW endorses the principle that it is a basic right of every woman to control her reproductive life, and therefore NOW supports the furthering of the sexual revolution of our century by pressing for widespread sex education, provision of birth control information and contraceptives, and urges that all laws penalizing abortion be repealed.

BREAST IMPLANT RESOLUTION

1996

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW) has a longstanding policy of supporting health care, true informed consent, and safe products for women; and

WHEREAS, breast implants contain toxic chemicals, known carcinogens, and heavy metals such as aluminum and platinum, which bleeds into the body for decades at levels exceeding OSHA maximum allowable levels in the *workplace air* by 1,500%; and

WHEREAS, cancer victims have been further injured by silicone implants, and early research suggests that some children may also have silicone-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, over one million American women, and thousands more worldwide, were told silicone breast implants were safe and would last a lifetime without any clinical trials, and even after 30 years of use, safety data is still inadequate; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of women have manifested a constellation of atypical illnesses, whose common link is breast implants, which are known to bleed silicone within 24 hours of insertion into the human body; and

WHEREAS, the use of breast implants continues today even though the rupture rate is reported as high as 71%; implant manufacturers have been found guilty of fraud with one charge upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court; and doctors and manufacturers continue to profit from women, while scientific data is still inadequate;

WHEREAS, the Breast Implant Accountability Act (H.R. 2796), was introduced in Congress to aid victims by making manufacturers responsible for the removal recall of their ruptured or defective products; to require further research on the physiological, neurological, and immunological effects of the toxicity of silicone and other chemicals in breast implants; and to ensure that no physician refuse to treat a woman because she has breast implants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NOW work to educate women and men about the details of the breast implant issue and to continue to empower people to accept their bodies as they are; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW support individuals affected by the breast implant issue by supporting legislative intervention and avenues of relief.

1971

GENERAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, we recognize that women's positive self-image is reinforced by the support of her sisters,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that local chapters encourage the development of programs which bring women together in situations of crises such as divorce, aging and the "empty nest syndrome."

OVERCOMING SELF-DENIGRATION

1970

We must develop a better means of reaching the many women who are victims of self-hatred. Our anger, so often directed at ourselves, must be focused where it belongs - on the discriminatory laws, policies and attitudes of our society. We can help women to become aware of the need for feminism by approaching the factors that divide and immobilize women:

1. Failure to recognize our sisterhood.
2. Overcoming stereotypes and labels which have socialized us in a male-chauvinist society.
3. Consciousness of the common oppression that affects all women regardless of age, economic status, race or religion.
4. Fear of the feminist movement because of the "sex object" image we have been socialized to believe.

WE RESOLVE THAT:

1. Every chapter and each member of NOW develop skills of communication to large and small groups and on an individual basis. Sensitivity groups could be used to develop support for one another.
2. Training programs be provided to educate women in public speaking, organizing, sensitivity and desexigration techniques.
3. We must trust ourselves and other women approaching new situations. United we stand and progress.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

1996

WHEREAS employers are increasingly using tactics to limit their own liability under federal and state laws and to limit access of their employees to civil rights laws and

WHEREAS employers including Saks Fifth Avenue and Purity Supreme have asserted that employees who are victims of rape and/or sexual assault in the workplace can only seek redress through workers compensation boards and not through the civil courts, and a recent decision from the highest court in Massachusetts has already interpreted state law to restrict employees' rights in this manner, and

WHEREAS the securities industry requirement that all employee disputes including allegations of sexual harassment and assault, must go before employer-selected arbitration panels and this has created a hostile work environment for women in the securities industry, and

WHEREAS mandatory arbitration, having been approved by the courts, is spreading to other industries through employee manuals, pre-employment contracts, court decisions, and legislation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women (NOW) educate its membership through the National NOW Times about the legislation, court decisions, and employer tactics to deny employees access to Title VII protection against discrimination, a hostile work environment, sexual harassment and assault; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Action Center develop a national press and legal strategy in opposition to these tactics.

See Also: Employment, Violence Against Women

A MOTHER'S DAY CALL TO ACTION

5/96

WHEREAS, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), as a result of its investigation of complaints of sexual and racial harassment at a Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing Corporation (Mitsubishi) plant in Normal, Illinois, has filed a massive federal lawsuit alleging pervasive sexual harassment at the plant; and

WHEREAS, Mitsubishi responded to the allegations by paying employees and providing transportation to a protest at a Chicago EEOC office, thereby encouraging further harassment of women at the plant; and

WHEREAS, many women who work or worked at the plant have detailed harrowing accounts of verbal harassment and physical violence at the hands of their male co-workers and supervisors without any action on the part of Mitsubishi to stop the abuses; and

WHEREAS African American employees at the plant have also filed complaints of racial harassment by their co-workers; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the federal suit, 28 women have filed a private civil suit against Mitsubishi in an effort to remedy the hostile work environment at the plant and to recover damages for the physical and emotional abuse they suffered;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women (NOW) formally calls upon Mitsubishi to take immediate action to stop harassment of women and people of color at its plants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW chapters across the country are urged to take part in a National Mother's Day of Action launching a campaign of informational pickets beginning on Mother's Day weekend, outside of car dealerships where Mitsubishi vehicles are sold; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW continue a national campaign to resolve the issue of abuses against women and people of color at Mitsubishi.

See Also: Employment

CAMPAIGN FOR FAIR FEDERAL WORKPLACES

2/94

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government's lack of response to the sexual harassment and job discrimination, suffered for years by women and people of color employed at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) clearly demonstrates the need for radical reform to remedy the hostile atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, evidenced by the abuse suffered by Anita Hill at the Equal Employment Opportunity

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Commission, Suzane Doucette at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and countless other women who have bravely spoken out against sexual harassment and discrimination within the federal government, the injustices perpetrated by NIH are endemic throughout the federal bureaucracy; and

WHEREAS, the very institutions and agencies charged with enforcing laws and serving the public are hostile workplaces for women and people of color; and

WHEREAS, we are forced, with our tax dollars, to fund these edifices of discrimination and sexual harassment;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) move forward with a national campaign to make federal workplaces fair workplaces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this campaign work to build the public awareness and pressure necessary to move the U.S. Government to take progressive action not only to remedy existing problems, but also to compensate those women and people of color who have suffered harassment and discrimination while employed by the government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a future leadership mailing include an action organizing packet which encourages NOW chapters and states to conduct zap actions at Post Offices and federal buildings around the nation as part of this campaign.

TAILHOOK INCIDENT

1992

WHEREAS at the Tailhook Association convention in September 1991, Navy aviators surrounded unsuspecting female guests, including 14 female Navy officers, and passed them down a gauntlet, grabbing at their breasts and buttocks, attempting to strip off their clothes, and jeering and taunting, and

WHEREAS the publicity surrounding the Tailhook Association incident reveals an attitude of contempt toward women held by many military men and tolerated by much of the military leadership, and

WHEREAS this practice has occurred since 1986 with the knowledge of senior military leaders, and

WHEREAS military leaders did not take the women's reports of the incident seriously and the perpetrators and others aware of the incident obstructed the investigation, and

WHEREAS high-ranking officers have long been aware of the pervasive nature of sexual harassment of military women as evidenced by a Department of Defense report showing that in a single year 64% of all military women had experienced some form of sexual harassment, but yet these leaders have given little more than lip service toward addressing the problem, and

WHEREAS a primary purpose of sexual harassment in the military, as elsewhere, is to ensure that men will not have to compete on fair terms with women, and

WHEREAS the combat exclusion policies, by precluding women from the core functions of the military, define women as marginal service members, thereby fostering sexual harassment and denying women their right to full citizenship,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women denounce the Tailhook incident and the subsequent handling of the investigation as contemptible, and demand a thorough and objective investigation, together with full enforcement of DoD policies against sexual harassment and the appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW again call on Congress, the President, and DoD to repeal the combat exclusion law and all combat exclusion policies and immediately begin full integration of women into all positions in the Armed Forces, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW commend Lt. Paula Coughlin and others like her for their remarkable courage in speaking out about the victimization of women in the Tailhook incident.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

1979

WHEREAS, nine out of ten women employed outside of the home have experienced some form of undesired sexual attention on the job, including verbal harassment or abuse, subtle pressure for sexual activity, rape and

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

attempted rape; and

WHEREAS, the threat of losing out on promotions, raises, benefits, and jobs are the only options women face when they reject sexual advances from bosses, clients, co-workers, and subordinates; and

WHEREAS, contradictory legal precedents limit the remedies for individuals with sexual harassment complaints under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women and the NOW Employment Committee take the following steps towards eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace:

1. Provide legal analysis and support for a test case to go to the high Court, if necessary, to establish a clear cut precedent that sexual harassment is indeed sex discrimination and prohibited under Title VII;
2. Evaluate the feasibility of introducing legislation into the U.S. Congress defining Title VII jurisdiction in sexual harassment cases; and
3. Develop specific projects which can be carried out by local NOW groups interested in taking action to publicize the issue, and victims, and eliminate the problem of sexual harassment.

ELIMINATION OF GENDER APARTHEID IN SPORTS

1996

WHEREAS, women are systematically discriminated against and barred from all forms of participation in sports activities in Islamic countries where there is no separation between church and state; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of women athletes, who were absent from thirty-five (35) national delegations to the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, is just the tip of the iceberg representing discrimination against women and the determination to close them off from participation; and

WHEREAS, the Olympic Charter stipulates that "Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on the grounds of race, religion, politics, sex, or otherwise, is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic movement;" and

WHEREAS, South Africa was excluded from participation in the Olympics because of apartheid; and

WHEREAS, the ATLANTA+ Committee was created in 1992 following the Barcelona Olympic Games to demand exclusion from the Atlanta Games of any delegations that bar women athletes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOW join the ATLANTA+ Committee in demanding the exclusion from future Olympic events countries that systematically practice gender apartheid by prohibiting women from participating in athletic activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW members and supporters be encouraged to write their U.S. Representative and Senators, asking Congress to join the governing European coalition in calling on the International Olympic Committee to bar from future Olympic events countries that do not allow women athletes to participate in these games; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NOW endorse the demonstration at the opening ceremonies in Atlanta demanding an end to "gender apartheid in sports," and encourage participation in this event by NOW members and supporters.

1996 SUMMER OLYMPIC RESOLUTION

1995

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW) fought for the passage of Title IX in 1972 and has continued to pressure the courts to enforce Title IX since 1978; and

WHEREAS, today over twice as many males as females participate in athletics sponsored by educational institutions despite increased opportunities in the last 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of women in leadership positions in athletics has decreased since 1972; and

WHEREAS, only 28% of the 1992 Summer Olympic athletes were women and only 36% of the events were open to women; and

WHEREAS, members of Congress and the College Football Association are currently working to dismantle Title IX by changing compliance guidelines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that National NOW and Atlanta NOW shall hold a celebration event during the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta to salute the achievements of women athletes and to recognize the individuals who worked to pass Title IX in 1972 and those individuals working to maintain opportunities for girls and women in sport in the future; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW shall utilize the 1996 Summer Olympic Celebration to raise awareness of the gross gender inequities in athletics and to mobilize activists in the current federal legislative fight to maintain Title IX regulations.

TITLE IX -- SEX DISCRIMINATION IN SPORTS

1993

WHEREAS, over 20 years ago the U.S. Congress passed Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments which made it illegal for schools, colleges and universities to discriminate against women if the schools received federal tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, Title IX was one of the most important pieces of legislation ever passed for women and girls and opened up graduate education for women; and

SPORTS

WHEREAS, despite the passage of Title IX, educational institutions continue to discriminate against women, giving twice as much funding to men's sports as to women's sports, and violating Title IX in the area of athletic recruiting and operating budgets; and

WHEREAS, in order to begin to enforce Title IX Representative Cardiss Collins has introduced legislation, HR 921, mandating that school records of money spent for men's vs. women's sports be kept and made available to the public; and

WHEREAS, sports programs are important for the physical well-being, and self-esteem, and access to scholarships for women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women support HR 921 and work for its passage, doing everything possible to gain enforcement of Title IX; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW work with NOW LDEF, the Feminist Majority and other feminist and pro-feminist organizations to develop alternative methods to gain enforcement of Title IX (i.e. civil suits, informational pickets, demonstrations, etc...); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that local and state NOW chapters are encouraged to form gender equity committees to investigate Title IX compliance in their local areas.

12/89

Moved that NOW endorse the National Girls and Women in Sports Day on February 8, 1990.

1/89

Moved that NOW endorse Women's Sports Day on February 2 and that NOW state organizations be encouraged to support events in their states that recognize the importance of women in athletics.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE

1973

BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW opposes and actively works to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in recreation and sport, including school/college/community physical education and recreation athletic and recreation programs, amateur and professional athletics, and media coverage and employment, and that a Task Force be created to establish goals and actions to implement sports policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW actively support the efforts of women engaged in or seeking employment in professional athletics or a related occupation (such as media coverage of sport activities) to secure equal pay, prize money, status, self-determination, policy-making positions, promotional opportunities, and equal and unbiased media coverage of women's sports activities by both women and men and furthermore, that NOW actively work to change the currently existing negative image of women engaged in sports as created and perpetuated by the media and advertising fields.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

FAIRNESS IN COURTS DEALING WITH FAMILY MATTERS

1996

WHEREAS, an estimated 40% to 50% of men who frequently abuse their spouses also seriously abuse their children (Finkelhor, 1990; Gondolf and Fisher, 1991; Walker and Wolovick, 1994); and

WHEREAS, nearly three-fourths of all spousal assaults nationwide involve separated or divorced victims (House Hearing, Violence and the Law, 1987); and

WHEREAS, abusive fathers often ask for custody in order to gain control in divorce cases (American Psychological Association Study on Family Violence, 1996); and

WHEREAS, women seeking relief from domestic violence through divorce are often required to give primary or joint custody of their children to the abuser due to gender bias in the courts (Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Rosalie E. Wahl, 1993);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that state and local National Organization for Women (NOW) chapters are encouraged to take steps to make the justice system and the public aware of this trend by working with existing women's shelters and court advocates to establish court watches, document cases of court gender bias, document cases of abusers gaining custody and issue press releases;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that state and local NOW chapters be encouraged to take steps to change the justice system, protect women and children from domestic violence by calling for review of suspect judges, work to recall or defeat judges that do not treat domestic violence as a serious issue, and lobby for laws that require courts to take domestic violence into account when determining custody.

See Also: Judges/Law

VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

1996

WHEREAS employers are increasingly using tactics to limit their own liability under federal and state laws and to limit access of their employees to civil rights laws and

WHEREAS employers including Saks Fifth Avenue and Purity Supreme have asserted that employees who are victims of rape and/or sexual assault in the workplace can only seek redress through workers compensation boards and not through the civil courts, and a recent decision from the highest court in Massachusetts has already interpreted state law to restrict employees' rights in this manner, and

WHEREAS the securities industry requirement that all employee disputes including allegations of sexual harassment and assault, must go before employer-selected arbitration panels and this has created a hostile work environment for women in the securities industry, and

WHEREAS mandatory arbitration, having been approved by the courts, is spreading to other industries through employee manuals, pre-employment contracts, court decisions, and legislation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women (NOW) educate its membership through the National NOW Times about the legislation, court decisions, and employer tactics to deny employees access to Title VII protection against discrimination, a hostile work environment, sexual harassment and assault; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Action Center develop a national press and legal strategy in opposition to these tactics.

See Also: Sexual Harassment

VAWA ELECTORAL STRATEGY RESOLUTION

1995

WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) passed in the last Congress (421-0 in the House and 94-6 in the Senate) and was signed on September 13, 1994 as part of the Crime Bill; and

WHEREAS, 1.62 billion dollars was allocated to VAWA over six years as part of the Crime Victims Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, this Trust Fund is in reserve to be used for education and prevention programs as well as community direct services for victims of battery and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, both Democrats and Republicans vowed to preserve VAWA funds even as they were cutting

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

other Crime Bill programs; and

WHEREAS, both Democrats and Republicans campaigned for re-election heralding their support for the VAWA and their opposition to violence against women; and

WHEREAS, efforts are mounting in Congress to cut VAWA funding and reduce the monies that will be appropriated to fight violence against women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) will recommend that NOW/PAC use the issue of violence against women in its criteria for endorsement or denying endorsement to any member of Congress or candidate for Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will recommend to NOW/PAC that they support members of Congress who meet our criteria for electoral support on other issues, who support full VAWA funding and other aspects of the 1994 VAWA as it was authorized; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW work to educate the public on the voting record of Congress on VAWA and the decisions of the PAC.

See Also: Politics/Elections

RALLY AT 1995 CONFERENCE

5/95

WHEREAS, NOW has successfully completed a historic rally on Violence Against Women, where critical links were made between all types of violence against women; and

WHEREAS, NOW has continued to fight serious attacks on basic civil rights at the national, state, and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes region is an active region with much potential for hosting a successful action;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW host a rally at the 1995 National Conference in Ohio, working in conjunction with local activists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conference rally be centered on the wide range of attacks on women that were highlighted in the 1995 Rally for Women's Lives, such as physical violence, economic violence, anti-abortion violence, and all forms of hate crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that rally participants use a visual display to symbolize these four forms of discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that whenever possible, potential conference attendees be notified in advance of the pending action; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the local activists be consulted regarding planning for this action.

MODEL SPEECH

1/95

WHEREAS, Board Members and all NOW activists are working to build attendance at the Young Feminist Summit and the Rally on April 9, and

WHEREAS, it would be useful for activists to have a model speech convey the issues of violence against women and organizing for the rally.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Media Committee provide to the Action Center a model speech to be sent to the National Board by 2/15/95 and to the Leadership list in the next available mailing.

See Also: Media

CLINIC DEFENSE

1/95

WHEREAS, reproductive health clinics around the country have repeatedly come under attack from anti-choice zealots; and

WHEREAS, the anti-choice zealots have taken violent and drastic measures including the execution of doctors, clinic workers, and escorts; and

WHEREAS, the right to safe and legal abortion is meaningless if there are no providers able to perform the procedure due to the fear of violence from anti-choice zealots.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women firmly supports the security measures being taken by these clinics including the use of armed guards, as these clinics deem necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW continue to pressure Federal, local and state governments, especially the Justice Department and the U.S. Attorneys, to provide for public safety and fund security measures at these clinics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in clinic defense efforts which NOW organizes, or participates in the organization of, that they stress NOW's philosophy of non-violent response.

See Also: Reproductive Freedom

100 DAYS OF ACTION

12/94

WHEREAS, the 104th Congress led by Republicans Newt Gingrich and Robert Dole, have declared war on women issuing, among other things, their "Contract on America;" and

WHEREAS, the Republican leadership has proposed to erase funding for the violence prevention and human services programs associated with the Violence Against Women Act, to reinstate the "Gag Rule," to decimate the enforcement of Freedom of Access of Clinic Entrances Act to attack basic civil rights protections in the workplace, and to take a punitive approach to poverty in this country by implementing cruel welfare policies which scapegoat poor women; and

WHEREAS, the focus of the national press and mainstream politicians will be on the possible successes of the Republican agenda; and

WHEREAS, Gingrich intends to have the "Contract" read at the start of every day that Congress is in session; and

WHEREAS, the Republicans have pledged to bring every proposal in the "Contract" for a vote in the first 100 days; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local officials across the country are also attempting to implement many of the same proposed attacks on women's rights at the local level.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women engage in a 100 Day Action Campaign beginning on January 1 to expose the myths and dangers of this regressive agenda through actions both in Washington, and at the grassroots, with the National Office sending out a mailing with talking points and suggested actions such as: zap actions, regular briefings on the "Contract" myths, getting opinion pieces written to local, state and national media, and more; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these actions be directed not only at Congress, but also at building for NOW's national actions April 7-9, 1995 to call for an end to violence against women.

See Also: Politics

CONTRACT ON AMERICA

12/94

WHEREAS, NOW has called for a national mobilization against violence in April 1995, including a Young Feminist Summit, National Clothesline Display, and a mass action, and

WHEREAS, the November 1994 election has resulted in an attack on many critical women's rights issues; and

WHEREAS, feminist legislation and budget items such as the Violence Against Women Act and FACE are under attack, and state legislatures across the country are also attacking women's equality issues; and

WHEREAS, the NOW Board is committed to providing leadership in making this event a success;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women match the Republican's Contract on America with 100 days of action starting January 1, 1995, to recognize our legislative losses in November and culminating with our rally in Washington, DC on April 9, 1995. This should include a NOW action every day somewhere in the United States which will be publicized by the Action Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that chapters and states will receive an Organizing Kit to assist in mobilizing attendance at the spring activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that chapters and states encourage organizations to co-sponsor the rally and

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

urge them to mobilize activists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW board members make an effort to speak to groups about the mobilization and encourage State Coordinators/Presidents and chapters to do public speaking to promote the mobilization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW elected officers across the country make an effort to promote the mobilization and the issues we are addressing in the media; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW board members will contact the states in their region to facilitate contact with chapters so that activists across the country can mobilize their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW activists be encouraged to contact their elected officials to encourage them to become involved in the spring action as co-sponsors and to encourage the elected officials to help organize for the event; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW board members, state coordinators, and other activists be encouraged to remain in Washington, DC after the January board meeting for a Volunteer Action Day, and that activists be encouraged to volunteer at the Action Center when they can to mobilize for April; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW Board committees focus their committee work at the January 1995 board meeting on the spring action issues that relate to their committee; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW board members will report back at the January 1995 board meeting on the organizing activity in their region in support of the mobilization.

See Also: Politics

1994 SPRING ACTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

9/94

WHEREAS, NOW has called for a national mobilization against violence in April 1994 including a Young Feminist Summit, NH Clothesline Display, and a mass action; and

WHEREAS, the NOW Board is committed to providing leadership in making this event a success; and

WHEREAS, many states and chapters have already planned actions during the month of October;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Action Center will provide mobilization materials prior to October; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that National Board Members make a commitment to providing grassroots leadership by being Spring Action organizers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each region will assign each of its board members to work in coalition with state leadership to contact chapters and assist in organizing for the march; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each board member will make a contact with their assigned chapters as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Board Members use chapters to organize attendees in their area and do outreach to coalition partners so that attendance extends beyond NOW membership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the agenda for the December 1994 Board Meeting include a report form Board Members, organized by regions, on the feedback from chapters so that the Board can evaluate the level of response to the mobilization and facilitate future mobilization planning.

NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST ANTI-ABORTION VIOLENCE

9/94

WHEREAS, on July 29, 1994 Escambia NOW activists Jim and June Barrett and abortion provider Dr. Bayard Britton were brutally attacked as they approached the Ladies Center in Pensacola; and this attack resulted in the wounding of June Barrett and the deaths of Jim Barrett and Bayard Britton -- the first time NOW has lost one of its activists to anti-abortion terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Paul Hill, the fanatic who has been charged with the murder, has espoused the "justifiable homicide" theology since the murder of Dr. David Gunn in Pensacola only 16 months earlier; and David Trosch, an ordained Roman Catholic priest from Mobile, Alabama, said NOW members will be "terminated as vermin" only days before the murders; and

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WHEREAS, the most recent anti-abortion attacks are part of a decade-long legacy of violence organized, promoted and perpetrated by a national ring of domestic terrorists who seek to control women by denying us access to abortion and birth control; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pensacola has allowed this reign of terrorism to continue through its inaction and has allowed a climate of fear and intimidation to breed the anti-abortion violence.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW call to action feminist activists across the nation in response to the ongoing anti-abortion terrorism; that these activists be coordinated into geographic teams which are ready to respond to emergency situations like the events in Pensacola; and that National Board members contact the chapter and state leaders in their regions to identify activists who are ready, willing and able to assist during emergencies in their regions; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Board of Directors urge local actions in each region calling for an end to clinic violence and for true access to abortion services to be held in October, recognizing that October 3, 1994 marks the day that the FACE trial for the Pensacola murders begins and the anniversary of the death of Rosie Jimenez, the first known victim of the Hyde Amendment, who died of an illegal abortion because Medicaid funding was denied; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW's Pensacola Project -- similar to our successful Louisiana Project -- shall focus on changing the social and political climate which has allowed more than a decade of misogynist, racist and homophobic violence to continue and to thrive in Pensacola; and that this project shall implement a strategy of community education and feminist consciousness-raising, legislative initiatives and an electoral plan to identify, recruit and elect feminist candidates to city and county offices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National NOW Board of Directors endorses an economic project in Pensacola, which includes actions designed to inform civic, community and business leaders of the negative impact the climate of violence has had and continues to have on Pensacola's economy; and that the Board authorize as a last resort a full boycott of Pensacola, should the Executive Committee deem such action necessary to petition the government to guard against further violence or stem the continued erosion of women's rights there; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW call the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church to task for its inadequate and ineffective efforts to silence the violent messages of David Trosch and other ordained priests; and that NOW petition Pope John Paul II during his October visit to New York City by organizing a Rally Against Papal Hypocrisy, and by calling for the defrocking of any clergy who promotes or condones the "justifiable homicide" theology, or any act of violence committed to intimidate women or in an attempt to deny women our rights.

See Also: Reproductive Freedom

YOUNG FEMINISTS SUMMIT ON VIOLENCE

1994

WHEREAS, boys and men are taught that violence is a primary strategy for problem-solving, especially in their interactions with women, and are socialized to believe that the way to successfully achieve manhood is through the use of violence; and

WHEREAS, young women are disproportionately impacted by violence which is damaging to their mental and physical health; and

WHEREAS, women have been socialized to take passive roles when reacting to these forms of aggression; and

WHEREAS, young people in our society have been conditioned to accept violent messages and images as the norm; and

WHEREAS, in order to stop this violence, women, especially young women, must organize to discuss and implement solutions and strategies to end the violence through empowerment of themselves and others;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the NOW Young Feminists Conference Implementation Committee plan a Spring Offensive Against Violence in 1995, which will include the first national exhibition of the Clothesline Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the focal point of this Spring Offensive be a "Young Feminists Summit

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on Violence" and a direct national action which may include a rally, march, and/or concert.

SPRING OFFENSIVE AGAINST VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN MOBILIZATION

1994

WHEREAS, young feminists are the current and future leaders and organizers of the feminist movement; and
WHEREAS, many young feminists are economically disadvantaged; and
WHEREAS, it is vital that the National Organization for Women and all its subunits demonstrate their commitment to young feminists, who are the future of NOW, and their commitment to resolving the issues of violence which impact most of our lives; and

WHEREAS, violence against women is one of NOW's top priority issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women and the Young Feminists Conference Implementation Committee support organizing efforts for this Spring Offensive Against Violence by launching a nationwide mobilization campaign, which may include speaking tours, the development of brochures which specifically address the issues of violence and extensive coverage in NOW's membership newsletter, the National NOW Times; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW and the Young Feminists CIC develop and distribute to subunits an organizing and campaign mobilization packet, which will include sample phone scripts, fundraising concepts, talking points on issues of violence, event flyers, and other organizing materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW and the Young Feminists CIC ensure the diversity and success of this event by strongly encouraging all its subunits to actively organize, fundraise, and mobilize young feminists to take action against violence by participating in this 1995 Spring Offensive Against Violence Campaign.

4/94

Moved that NOW organize an action against violence in the spring of 1995 in Washington DC that includes a young feminist conference, rally, concert, and showing of the clothesline Project. That the NOW board encourages states and chapters to organize local actions this October during "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in order to build toward the spring action.

See also: Young Feminist

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACTION

2/94

WHEREAS, violence against women is one of NOW's priority issues; and

WHEREAS, NOW has intensively lobbied Congress for passage of a comprehensive Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which includes Title III civil rights remedies for survivors of gender-motivated violence, battered immigrant women protections, funding provision to implement the important and innovative programs, judicial and legal training on gender-based violence, and removal of involuntary HIV testing of defendants suspected of committing a crime; and

WHEREAS, the epidemic of violence against women has been escalating at an alarming rate increasing daily as VAWA sits stalled in Congress:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW take action and:

- Urge that House Judiciary Committee Chair Jack Brooks (D-TX) stand firm on keeping the House's battered immigrant women's provision and that he accept the Senate's funding level, \$1.8 billion, and Title III, the Civil Rights section.
- Urge Rep. Don Edwards (D-CA), chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights to include the civil rights provisions and accept the Senate's funding level.
- Urge Senators Joseph Biden (D-DE) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) to accept the battered immigrant women's provision from the House Bill, to continue to stand firm on keeping the funding and civil rights provisions of the Senate bill, and to work for a free-standing VAWA.
- Urge that Representative Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) who, along with Senator Biden, is a

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member of the conference committee that is resolving differences between the House and Senate versions, insure that Title III, battered immigrant women protections and funding provisions are included in the final language of the bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the National Board:

- Mail or fax this resolution to the state coordinators in their regions by March 7th, 1994;
- Follow up the mailing/faxing with phone calls urging the coordinators to activate their chapters to organize actions, conduct a media campaign, and immediately call and write the above members of Congress;
- Communicate directly with the above members of Congress and urge them to swiftly move the Violence Against Women Act to final passage with the above provisions intact.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW send a letter to each women Member of Congress by March 10, 1994, requesting that they communicate to their above colleagues and to all subsequent named VAWA conferees the urgency of passage of a comprehensive Violence Against Women Bill with the above provisions intact.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AND INTOLERANCE

1993

WHEREAS, a growing climate of violence and intolerance is present in the United States; and

WHEREAS, violence against women is on the rise and is a leading cause of women's death and women's imprisonment, and includes rape, incest, battering, and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, violence against women crosses all class, geographic, ethnic, racial, cultural, sexual orientation, and age lines; and

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic violence is on the rise, including the burning of Christopher Wilson in Tampa; and

WHEREAS, anti-abortion violence is on the rise, including the murder of Dr. David Gunn in Pensacola, Florida; and

WHEREAS, anti-lesbian, gay and bi-sexual violence is on the rise, including the murder of Alan Schindler and the arson against Darlena DeBerry; and

WHEREAS, other forms of violence, including harassment, threats, discrimination, stalking, poverty, denial of rights and access to resources, and other forms of terrorist social control are also on the rise.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women conduct a coordinated national campaign directed at stopping violence and intolerance throughout the country to be carried out by all units of NOW; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the campaign include speedy passage of the Violence Against Women Act, the Brady Bill, marches, including the Tampa "March for Our Lives," protests, demonstrations, legislation and other actions facilitated by NOW's Action Center in conjunction with the CIC, and state and local activists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the campaign include a coordinated effort to monitor police response to violence and hate crimes, to educate the media regarding appropriate coverage of violence and hate crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the campaign include coordinated actions with allied groups, including lesbian activists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW co-sponsor the regional March For Our Lives to be held in Tampa, Florida, October 24, 1993.

TAILHOOK INCIDENT

1992

WHEREAS at the Tailhook Association convention in September 1991, Navy aviators surrounded unsuspecting female guests, including 14 female Navy officers, and passed them down a gauntlet, grabbing at their breasts and buttocks, attempting to strip off their clothes, and jeering and taunting, and

WHEREAS the publicity surrounding the Tailhook Association incident reveals an attitude of contempt

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toward women held by many military men and tolerated by much of the military leadership, and

WHEREAS this practice has occurred since 1986 with the knowledge of senior military leaders, and

WHEREAS military leaders did not take the women's reports of the incident seriously and the perpetrators and others aware of the incident obstructed the investigation, and

WHEREAS high-ranking officers have long been aware of the pervasive nature of sexual harassment of military women as evidenced by a Department of Defense report showing that in a single year 64% of all military women had experienced some form of sexual harassment, but yet these leaders have given little more than lip service toward addressing the problem, and

WHEREAS a primary purpose of sexual harassment in the military, as elsewhere, is to ensure that men will not have to compete on fair terms with women, and

WHEREAS the combat exclusion policies, by precluding women from the core functions of the military, define women as marginal service members, thereby fostering sexual harassment and denying women their right to full citizenship,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women denounce the Tailhook incident and the subsequent handling of the investigation as contemptible, and demand a thorough and objective investigation, together with full enforcement of DoD policies against sexual harassment and the appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW again call on Congress, the President, and DoD to repeal the combat exclusion law and all combat exclusion policies and immediately begin full integration of women into all positions in the Armed Forces, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW commend Lt. Paula Coughlin and others like her for their remarkable courage in speaking out about the victimization of women in the Tailhook INCIDENT.

See Also: Military, Sexual Harassment

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1992

WHEREAS violence against women nationwide has been escalating at an alarming rate for two decades, far exceeding the general rise in violent crime, and the rate will continue to increase without national action to expose and combat it, and

WHEREAS the rate of violence against women is so high that it is regarded as a cultural norm by society at large, the victims are blamed and the perpetrators are treated leniently by the law, by law enforcement, and the courts, and

WHEREAS the National Organization for Women has long recognized that in a sexist society violence against women serves as a means of dominating and controlling not only the individual victims, but all women, and

WHEREAS political backlash against the gains of the women's movement has resulted in the loss of federal funding for domestic violence and rape crisis programs, and

WHEREAS NOW has been at the forefront in working for strong federal legislation, and many NOW chapters and state organizations have been fighting for justice in the legislatures and in the streets,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ending violence against women be designated a top priority of the National Organization for Women, along with other NOW priority issues: the ERA, Reproductive Rights, Lesbian and Gay Rights, and Combating Racism, and that henceforth these **five** top priority issues be specified in future publications and press statements wherever priority issues are indicated, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW staff and resources be committed to a degree appropriate to a top priority issue and that a Conference Implementation Committee (CIC) on Ending Violence Against Women be appointed to implement this resolution by recommending strategies and an action plan on the issue, and those strategies shall include, but not be limited to:

1. The building of networks at both the national and local chapter levels,
2. Encouraging local chapters to initiate actions expressing appropriate outrage whenever cases of violence against women are treated with bias or disregard,
3. Lobbying and educating local and national legislators on the impact and severity of violence against

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women immediately, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appropriate educational materials and lobbying kits be prepared by the National office and made available to chapter and state organizations.

ST. JOHN'S STUDENT

1991

On March 1, 1990, a New York woman who shall be called the St. John's woman student for the purposes of anonymity, was lured into a house and sexually attacked and sodomized by a group of St. John's students. Knowing the hell her life would become, she decided to bring charges against the group of men. She has endured repeated and frequently inept questioning and investigation procedure. She has endured a less-than-inspired prosecutor. She has endured attacks by killer sharks disguised as defense attorneys. Therefore, as an expression of sisterhood and appreciation of her attempts to make sure that these students will not again subject any other women to such abuses, we propose the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that this woman be commended and thanked for her courage in bringing to trial her abusers. The 1991 Conference of the National Organization for Women recognizes how difficult it is for any woman to bring such charges because of the ordeal that women must endure. We applaud you and thank you for your efforts on behalf of all women.

HATE CRIMES REPORTING ACT AND STATE HATE CRIME BILLS

1991

WHEREAS, violence against women in general and lesbians in particular is increasing in epidemic proportions, and such violence is manifested in crimes of sexual violence, and

WHEREAS, rape, as a crime of sexual violence, is presumptively motivated by gender animus, and,

WHEREAS, the National Hate Crimes Reporting Act specifically excludes gender as a protected class, and,

WHEREAS, States are attempting to pass legislation that specifically excludes rape as a conduct result (e.g. New York),

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women, urges the U.S. Congress to amend the National Hate Crimes Bill to include gender as a protected class, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State legislatures pass bias bills which incorporate rape as a conduct predicate as well as include gender and sexual orientation as protected classes.

YOUNG FEMINISTS FIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1991

WHEREAS, violence against women pervades society in the forms of date rape, assault by strangers, sexual harassment, lesbian bashing, violent images in popular culture, murder, domestic violence, incest, and others, and

WHEREAS, the problem of violence against women cannot be solved without an acknowledgment of its existence by the institutions and those who perpetuate it, who benefit from it, and who are harmed by it, and

WHEREAS, this awareness depends on the realization that violence against women in all forms and the attitudes that allow its persistence are connected as different manifestations of institutionalized devaluing of women, and

WHEREAS, violence against women must be a priority of the younger heirs of the feminist movement, who will be counted on to use what they have learned from feminist leaders before them to fight for women's rights and lives,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW's Young Feminists, in coordination with National NOW, shall take the lead on organizing a nationwide effort to:

1. Heighten awareness among young people of the problem of violence against women in all its forms;
2. Mobilize street action to actively build an anti-violence movement among young people;
3. Provide opportunities for people to draw connections among all manifestations of violence

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- against women;
4. Encourage personal growth, commitment, and empowerment in new and young feminist anti-violence activists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Young Feminists in their NOW chapters and communities across the country organize a week of local direct action, with a major nationally coordinated action as its centerpiece, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW chapters across the country, led by their official or unofficial young feminist memberships, coordinate these actions in their communities, encouraging in particular the participation of new, young activists from local campuses, workplaces, the unemployed, unions, and community groups.

ACQUAINTANCE RAPE

1991

WHEREAS, women between the ages of 14 and 25 are most frequently victimized by sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 4 women are survivors of rape or attempted rape by the time they graduate from college; and

WHEREAS, 84% of these rapes are committed by an acquaintance of the survivor; and

WHEREAS, education that:

- a) clearly defines rape,
- b) offers preventative strategies,
- c) provides resources for treatment services has been proven effective in reducing the incidence and decreasing the trauma of sexual violence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National NOW Conference urges state NOW leadership to ascertain information on existing services within school districts, universities, and colleges that address acquaintance rape and violence against women and children, and where no services exist or existing services are found to be inadequate, state NOW leadership should encourage their development and implementation.

AMERICAN PSYCHO

4/91

WHEREAS, we understand that it was at the instigation of the women at Simon & Schuster that the company determined not to publish American Psycho, and

WHEREAS, we understand that Vintage/Knopf made its publishing decision in internal secrecy, and

WHEREAS, Sonny Mehta of Vintage/Knopf refused to meet with NOW leaders even to discuss the question, and

WHEREAS, we know that the inclusion of women in positions of power in all of the powerful institutions of our society, including the publishing industry, makes a difference in the institution's decision making;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW investigate the employment practices of Vintage/Knopf and the hiring, promotion and placement of women in that company.

AMERICAN PSYCHO

1/91

WHEREAS, there have long been efforts on the grassroots level in the National Organization for Women to combat violence against women -- including participation in and initiation of Take Back the Night marches, picketing of "snuff" films, helping to create and generate public support for battered women's shelters and rape crisis centers, combating the violence and terrorism of Operation Rescue and lobbying at the state and national level for the inclusion of women in hate crimes legislation; and

WHEREAS, today rape and other forms of violence against women are a primary concern of women; and

WHEREAS, in many areas of the country, violence against women is on the rise and is likely to be exacerbated by current economic trends;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW declares its intention to increase its activism on all levels to stop violence against women. Our program will be spearheaded on the national level led by our Committee on

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Violence Against Women. This group, together with the Vice President Action, is charged with developing a comprehensive campaign to stop the war against women being waged in the homes and on the streets of this nation.

In the last two months, the Los Angeles Chapter of NOW has taken the initiative to bring to the attention of the public the proposed publication of American Psycho. Los Angeles NOW's action strongly encourages women and men of conscience to protest the massive and unrelenting violence against women depicted in this book.

We hereby instruct a delegation of NOW leaders to meet with Sonny Mehta of Knopf to voice our conviction that the publication of American Psycho is socially irresponsible and legitimizes inhuman and savage violence masquerading as sexuality. This is totally unacceptable.

We therefore call upon Knopf to reconsider their publication decision and reject the manuscript in its entirety. The delegation to Knopf shall report to the NOW leadership their recommendations for future action.

1/91

Moved that NOW establish a national committee on Violence Against Women.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON DAWN ROGALSKI

12/89

WHEREAS, Dawn Marie Rogalski, then age 17, was confronted by a man entering her bedroom window on May 30, 1988. The man, John Knoth, was known to Dawn for four years. He refused to leave and was verbally and physically abusive to her. In the conflict, Knoth was stabbed once and bled to death; and

WHEREAS, Dawn Rogalski's case was treated with bias by the courts in their setting of bond and admission of evidence; and

WHEREAS, the prosecutor stated that as Knoth had been a guest in the home on the previous evening, he had a "right" to be there. Also, the prosecutor secured the conviction with a theory not based in fact, that played on prejudices against unwed mothers and sexually active youths; and

WHEREAS, Dawn Rogalski was convicted of second degree murder and is now serving a 25 to 40 year sentence. This sentence is far in excess of Michigan sentencing guidelines, and was based on false information, such as a nonexistent juvenile record; and

WHEREAS, this case, if upheld on appeal, will set a precedent that a man, once invited into our home, has a right to return at any time and remain at his pleasure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the National Organization for Women support Dawn Rogalski's right to defend her person and her home.
2. That NOW affirm that consent to a man's presence in your home does not give him a right to return at will.
3. That National NOW write a letter to Governor James Blanchard and Attorney General Frank Kelly of the state of Michigan expressing our outrage, demanding a review of the proceedings in this case, and requesting Dawn Rogalski be released.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON RED CARPET INN

12/89

WHEREAS, on June 8, 1989 at the Red Carpet Inn in Greensboro, North Carolina, the room of two young women was broken into and both women were repeatedly raped by three armed assailants; and

WHEREAS, when one of the victims escaped from the room and ran to the locked door of the motel office where she pleaded for assistance from the manager and another motel employee; and

WHEREAS, the manager refused her admittance to the office, refused to give her any assistance and did not call the police; and

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WHEREAS, the victim was forced to run four blocks, completely nude, to another motel to get help; and
WHEREAS, the owners of Red Carpet Inn's have not apologized to the victims or disciplined the manager of the Greensboro Red Carpet Inn;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women condemns the actions of the manager of the Greensboro Red Carpet Inn and the actions of the owners of the national chain of Red Carpet Inns; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that we advise all NOW members of this resolution so they can take appropriate action.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that National NOW send a letter to the top management of Red Carpet Inn demanding that they apologize and fire the manager, and institute a safety policy for their customers.

HATE CRIMES STATISTICS BILL

1/89

Moved that NOW continue its effort to have gender added to the Hate Crime Statistics Bill and that a staff member be assigned to lobby at all levels, with guidance from the Action Vice President.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1988

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a threat to the physical and emotional safety of millions of women and children; and

WHEREAS, all women and children have the right to physical and emotional security; and

WHEREAS, many public employees and direct service providers including police officers, emergency room personnel, and school officials are misinformed about domestic violence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW call for legislation requiring mandatory arrests of the primary aggressor when probable cause is found or the survivor states that she or he fears imminent battering in incidences of domestic violence and/or sexual assault;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW members work to create legislation that requires education by battered women's advocates for law enforcement and court officials, educators, and health care providers about domestic violence.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

1984

WHEREAS, during the Reagan Administration, the crime of rape has escalated by as much as 15% in many states; and

WHEREAS, the Reagan Administration's budget cuts to social programs have decreased funding and in some states totally eliminated federal funds for rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters; and

WHEREAS, it is still legal in 30 states to rape your spouse, whether the spouses are living together or apart, and 1,000,000 women are raped by their husbands each year, and 2,000,000 women experience violence in intimate relationships each year; and

WHEREAS, many women are incarcerated who have defended themselves against violent men in their lives; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of child sexual abuse, including incest, has increased;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women develop a Violence Against Women and Children Kit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW continue to research and examine the state laws in regard to violence against women and children and recommend strategies for legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW take an active role in the development of federal rape legislation that is now being proposed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW encourage the passage of Domestic Violence Prevention Act, HR 1904, S 2430 which appropriates \$65 million over 3 years to domestic violence shelters; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW support campaigns of action and education in defense of women who are victims of violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that future National NOW Conferences and Conventions list Violence Against Women and Children as a separate issue hearing.

WOMEN AND VIOLENCE

1983

WHEREAS, violence against women and children is the most fundamental violation of our basic rights and deprives us of our right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, violence against women is part of the aggressive social order which allows men to dominate and control women, and further, is accepted as a cultural norm and often treated with routine indifference by the law enforcement, legal and judicial systems as well as by society at large; and

WHEREAS, violence against women keeps women struggling for daily survival and prohibits us from utilizing the victories and freedoms we have already gained; and

WHEREAS, spouse abuse, rape and child sexual abuse and incest are serious crimes which need to be addressed through political processes to end sexism in our nation as a whole;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women educate our own members to the facts that one million women are raped by their husbands each year, and that legal marital rape in 34 states deprives women of the right to control their own bodies. NOW urges that chapters and state organizations initiate legislation to make marital rape a crime, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW urges the chapters to demand that state laws concerning spouse abuse, rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, and incest be used to protect women rather than further oppress them and urge passage of laws where none exist; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW, as the largest feminist organization in the world, take an active role in ending violence against women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW take a firm stance in support of the right of women to defend themselves against violence, or the threat of violence, to themselves or their children.

SELF DEFENSE

1980

WHEREAS, all citizens have a right to physical safety, as evidenced by the Constitutional guarantee of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness";

WHEREAS, sexism all too often takes the form of extreme physical violence against women;

WHEREAS, because of many factors but especially societal conditioning which denigrates the physical capabilities of women, women who are frequently unable to defend themselves against assault by any means except the use of a deadly weapon;

WHEREAS, this year in Washington state alone, three women have faced or are facing legal proceedings because they killed men who were in the act of attacking them and/or their loved ones;

WHEREAS, minority women are forced into positions of using self-defense because of the extreme racism and sexism in our society, and they are more likely to be prosecuted for doing so;

WHEREAS, National NOW does not have an official policy on a woman's right to self defense;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that National NOW Board will undertake a study of the legal problems faced by women who kill or otherwise injure in self-defense; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National NOW Board will adopt an official policy on this issue.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE ON BATTERED WOMEN

1975

BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW establish a Task Force on Battered Women to raise consciousness about the problem, do research into the incidence and prevalence of battered women, exert pressure and join in coalition with other community groups to establish hot lines, family crisis counseling centers, and emergency housing

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for battered wives and their children, and that the Task Force examine ways in which the criminal justice and social service system can handle these cases in order to push for remedial legislation.

COMPREHENSIVE RESOLUTION ON RAPE

1974

WHEREAS, rape is an act of subjugation, humiliation and violation of the victim; and

WHEREAS, rape is now classified as the most rapidly increasing crime of personal violence, yet continues to have the lowest conviction rate of all crimes of violence; and

WHEREAS, current law enforcement procedures, hospital treatment practices, courtroom procedures, the use of cautionary instructions to juries, and the admissibility of evidence for the purpose of impugning the prosecutrix, often contribute to the victim's humiliation, stress and powerlessness; and

WHEREAS, the present rape laws, their interpretation and enforcement too often spring from a concern for a spouse's "right" of sexual exclusiveness and a concern for unwanted pregnancies not induced by a husband, but should spring from a concern about any individual's right to personal bodily privacy and safety; and

WHEREAS, the practice of plea bargaining, whereby a charge of rape may be dropped or reduced, particularly if it is committed in connection with a felony such as robbery or kidnapping and the absence of meaningful rehabilitation contributes to the high incidence of recidivism among convicted sex offenders; and

WHEREAS, rape victims and many women's organizations have advocated a number of reforms to afford victims sufficient protection under the law, as well as recommended changes in the manner in which rape cases are handled, a general revision of rape laws, including a legal redefinition of rape; and a revision of courtroom procedures; and

WHEREAS, many law enforcement officials, civil rights groups, and members of the legal community agree that rape laws are in need of revision, and

WHEREAS, all citizens should be able to live and work in their communities without fear of violent assault;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Organization for Women, as follows:

- A. Review of the existing rape laws have found these laws to deter rather than facilitate convictions of rapists by:
 1. Protecting the rights of the accused more than they seek to protect the physical integrity and freedom of movement of victims themselves.
 2. Being overly solicitous of the accused, and overly suspicious of the complainant.
 3. Containing overly stringent rules of evidence which impede convictions, by:
 - a. containing "consent" standards which define rape in terms of the victim's frame of mind;
 - b. regarding the non-marital sexual activity of the accused as being irrelevant, yet allowing the impugning of the victim's credibility based on such activity.
 4. Imposing penalties not in keeping with the particular acts of the crime, thus deterring judges and juries from convicting.
 5. Placing a web of formal and informal restraints upon police and prosecutors in pursuing and obtaining the prosecution and conviction of rapists.
- B. Reevaluation and restructuring the rape laws being undisputedly necessary, we propose the following model legislative and procedural changes:

REVISION OF THE RAPE LAWS

GOAL: To revise the present laws which overwhelmingly favor the defendant, impede convictions, allow victims, as witnesses, to be treated in a manner which is both humiliating and damaging to their emotional health, and which further discourages victims from reporting the crime to the officials.

1. To revise the present rules of evidence which places the victim in the position of being on trial, instead of the accused.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

2. To eliminate the life imprisonment penalty except in cases where the victim met with death, permanent bodily injury, permanent mental impairment, and in cases of conviction for the third offense, and
 - a. To attain a general lowering of penalties, except in gang rapes, to fit the severity of the crime, thus making convictions more possible. Degrees of sexual assault shall be defined in relation to the seriousness of a given offense, dependent upon the presence or absence of a deadly weapon, whether the victim suffers serious injury, and whether there is sexual penetration as opposed to sexual contact.
 - b. To require that parole be granted only after the serving of one year for the first offense and five years for the second offense, with intensive rehabilitative counseling, a term of not less than four years must be served prior to the granting of parole.
3. To redefine "rape" to include oral and anal sodomy and penetration by instrument or device, thereby protecting women from any form of sexual humiliation and extending equal protection under the rape laws to men as well as women.
4. To broaden the law to permit the prosecution for rape by a spouse in the case of non-consent of a spouse to sexual intercourse, when the couple are living separate and apart, and one has filed for a divorce or separate maintenance.

METHOD:

1. Organize a coalition between all NOW chapters and/or rape task forces within a State to strengthen the NOW position and expedite State actions.
2. Form a coalition between groups with similar goals and expertise to press for legal revisions.
3. Write letters and visit with State assembly persons and State senators, stating your feelings and the NOW position about the present situation.
4. Gather testimony, both written and verbal, from victims, police, prosecutors and judges, attesting to the results of the present laws.
5. Press for hearings sponsored by the State Legislature to gather evidence of the reality and enormity of the problems.
6. Appoint a special publicity committee to make contacts with local press and broadcast media, with the goal of publicizing the problems and locating more people to testify.
7. Conduct panel discussions and meetings open to the public to discuss the legal problems and advocate action.
8. Speak to community and State groups to educate them to the issues and solicit their support for the desired revisions.
9. The National Rape Task Force, in conjunction with chapter rape task forces, will monitor States for those holding hearings or planning any action on legal reforms.

RAPE DEFINED

Rape is an act of sexual intercourse, however slight, including vaginal penetration, oral sodomy, anal sodomy, and penetration by instrument or device, accomplished by coerced bodily contact between any two persons of either sex.

1. Where the person is compelled to submit or participate by such force that overcomes her or his resistance as might reasonably be expected under the circumstances;
2. Where the person is unconscious or under physical constraints and is therefore physically powerless to resist;
3. Where the person is incapable, through mental defectiveness or other unsoundness of mind, whether temporary or permanent, which renders that person incapable of appraising their conduct or giving legal consent;
4. Where the person is compelled to submit or participate by any threat to themselves or others that would prevent resistance by a person of ordinary resolve; or where the person's power to appraise or control his or her conduct has been impaired by the administering of any

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

substance.

Sexual penetration does not require emission.

ASSAULT WITH THE INTENT TO COMMIT RAPE

The elements necessary to provide assault with intent to commit rape should consist of:

1. That the defendant made an assault upon the complainant.
2. That this assault was carried out against the will of the complainant.
3. That the defendant intended to have sexual intercourse in some manner with complainant and that there was a commission of some direct act toward its consummation, falling short of execution of the ultimate intent.

STATUTORY RAPE

Statutory rape shall be defined when the victim is under the age of twelve (12) years.

I. PRE-TRIAL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF THE VICTIM

- A. A complainant of rape shall have the right to have a person of their own choosing with them at all stages of police interrogation, medical examination and trial. The victim shall also have the right to exclude from the hospital examining room any person, provided someone is present who is a competent witness and will appear in court.
- B. All rape victims shall have the right to receive prompt and free preventive venereal disease treatment and preventive pregnancy treatment and abortion, if desired, and if necessary, and must be advised of their rights to these services.
- C. Counseling referrals to a local mental health department, or crises center, shall be an automatic part of treatment, if no counselor is available through the hospital.
- D. The cost of the medical examination for purposes of gathering State's evidence shall be borne by the State.
- E. Every scientific method currently available shall be utilized by the examining physician to gain evidence from both the victim and the accused.
- F. Both adult and juvenile rape victims shall receive medical treatment, upon request, at hospital emergency rooms, without police notification if victim so desires.
- G. Rape victims who are minors shall not be denied medical treatment at hospital emergency rooms due to lack of parental knowledge and consent.
- H. If the rape victim is a female, she will be questioned only by a policewoman, if she so desires.
- I. Justice for the victim and potential victim shall be recognized as being fully as important as justice for the suspected rapist. Therefore, the complainant shall have the right to be represented in court by counsel of her or his own choosing to fully protect her or his rights in any subsequent civil proceedings which the complainant may choose to instigate.
- J. The plaintiff, as well as the defendant, shall have the right to a speedy trial. No continuances, except in the most pressing circumstances, such as severe illness of either victim or defendant, shall be granted in rape cases.

II. BAIL

- A. There shall be a minimum bail of \$25,000 set, in light of the threat of imminent danger to other potential rape victims.
- B. A peace bond shall be levied against the accused in their exists a prior acquaintance between the accused and the complainant.

III. PLEA-BARGAINING

Plea-bargaining, in the form of reducing the charge, or in the form of dismissing some of multiple charges, shall not be permitted in rape cases.

IV. DISMISSAL OF CHARGES

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The charge of rape or attempted rape shall not be dismissed by a state's attorney without the consent of the complainant. If the defendant is not bound over at the preliminary hearing, the victim shall have the right to request the state's attorney to present evidence to the grand jury.

V. EXPERT WITNESSES

A rape victim may have the physician of their choice testify at the trial concerning interpretation of any medical data.

VI. JURY SELECTION

The state's attorney shall make all efforts to eliminate from juries those jurors who demonstrate prejudice or distrust of rape victims, or special prejudices toward the crime of rape.

VII. CLOSED COURTROOM

The courtroom shall be closed to spectators during the presentation of the victim's testimony, if the victim so desires.

VIII. EVIDENCE

A. **CORROBORATION.** Special corroboration of the complainant's testimony is not absolutely essential for conviction. The victim's testimony alone should be sufficient to sustain a conviction if it is credible and the guilt of the accused is believed by the jury beyond a reasonable doubt.

B. **CONSENT.** Previous want of "chastity" of the victim shall be irrelevant in determining consent at the time of the alleged assault. Consent shall be determined solely from the victim's testimony as to her or his conduct at the time of the assault. The victim's past sexual activity with persons other than the accused is irrelevant. The relevance of the past sexual conduct with the accused shall be determined in chambers by the Judge.

Where a rape complainant is filed, and the complainant has been the victim of another, concurrently committed, crime by the offender, the law shall deem that the victim's consent was absent.

C. **CREDIBILITY.** Determination of the credibility of the witness shall not be based upon the sexual activity of the witness. Nor shall it be based upon the witnesses' general reputation at tending to show promiscuity, non-chastity, or sexual mores considered to be adverse to community standards. Such past conduct is irrelevant to show credibility and shall not be admissible in evidence.

D. The accused's history of sex offenses shall be admitted as relevant, as a matter of law, to at least one of the following:

i. Motive.

ii. Existence of non-consent.

iii. Characteristic method, plan or scheme in the commission of criminal acts similar to the method, plan or scheme used in commission of the offense in the case at trial.

iv. To support the credibility of the complaining witness.

E. Testimony of previous victims of the accused, whose cases were not prosecuted to conviction, shall be admissible to support the credibility of the complaining witness.

IX. INSTRUCTIONS TO JURY

No instruction shall be given cautioning the jury to view the victim's testimony in any other way than that in which all witnesses' testimony is viewed.

X. SENTENCING AND PENALTIES

A. If accused of rape by more than one individual the defendant shall stand trial on each charge separately, and shall receive a separate sentence for each charge for which convicted.

B. If the defendant is convicted of two or more counts of rape, sentences shall be served consecutively.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- C. Maximum penalties shall be reduced to fit the individual acts of the crime, in light of their detrimental effort on jury conviction, except in cases where the assault is committed by more than one offender. The penalty in such cases shall be higher than that for the single offender.
- D. Life sentencing should apply to only the most severe assaults which result in death or extreme or permanent bodily injury, or crippling, or permanent mental impairment.

XI. REHABILITATION AND PAROLE

- A. An intensive study of the convicted rapist shall be made by a psychiatric team of experts within 60 days of conviction. The team shall consist of one-half female experts and shall study the nature of the personality of the rapist and the causes of the offense and possible rehabilitation of the rapist.
- B. The convicted rapist shall participate in an individualized rehabilitation program during incarceration and it shall continue as long as he or she is on parole as part of the conditions of being granted parole.

NOTE:

At the August 3-4, 1974 National Board Meeting, Resolution No. 20 on Rape was referred to the Civil Liberties and Legal Committees of the NOW Board of Directors for purposes of examining its civil liberties ramifications.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE ON RAPE

1973

As a result of the Sixth Annual Conference of NOW's Workshop on Women and Justice: Rape and Prostitution the participants unanimously recommend that NOW creates a national task force to investigate and make recommendations resulting there from on rape and related crimes.

The following recommendations, passed unanimously by this workshop, shall serve as original guidelines for the Task Force:

1. To define the crime of rape
2. To research existing laws covering rape and related crimes against women and children
3. To propose a model guide to be recommended to state legislatures for adoption into their criminal code
4. To research and recommend follow-up procedures, i.e., psychological effects and assistance, to help the victim
5. To explore effective forms of resistance
6. To explore possibilities of a coalition with existing rape groups for exchange of resources and support.

GENERAL RESOLUTION -- RAPE

1971

WHEREAS, rape victims meet with disbelief and/or derision when attempting to report a rape to police,
WHEREAS, the conventional method of investigation is to pry into the private life of the rape victim in order to excuse the act committed, and

WHEREAS, when the case is brought to court, the victim's personal life style is on trial with attendant publicity, and

WHEREAS, the crime of rape as legally defined treats women as a separate class,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW take a strong position that the crime of rape be redefined as felonious assault,

FURTHER, that we work against humiliating treatment of rape victims by police officers, judges, District Attorneys, probation officers and other legal personnel as well as, by society generally, and

FURTHER, we recommend that the investigation of these cases be done by women.

VOLUNTEERISM

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1973

WHEREAS, the drive for volunteerism through the government sponsored National Center for Voluntary Action aims to substitute volunteer labor for previously funded social service programs through the process of Revenue Sharing, and

WHEREAS, this service-oriented volunteerism is being used by the government to give illusion of participatory democracy and citizen participation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOW send a letter to President Nixon, the Center for Voluntary Action and selected service-oriented volunteer organizations stating its viewpoint which is in opposition to the previously cited actions.

VOLUNTEERISM STRIKE DAY

1973

In furtherance of NOW's policies on volunteerism,

BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW proclaim and organize a national strike day for volunteers engaged in service-oriented volunteering, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW encourage local chapters to do a census of volunteer organizations to see if these organizations offer opportunities for women and men consonant with NOW's statement on volunteerism, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW supports efforts to educate counselors of volunteer programs as to feminism, so that women can make distinctions as to service-oriented and political-oriented volunteerism, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW organize a national conference on volunteerism to which traditional volunteer organizations are invited in order to raise their consciousness.

GENERAL RESOLUTION

1971

BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW distinguish between (1) voluntary activities which serve to maintain women's dependent and secondary status on the one hand, and (2) change-directed activities which lead to more active participation in the decision making process, and

FURTHER, that NOW seek to raise the consciousness of women engaged in these activities so that they use their "volunteer power" in an effort to change policies detrimental to the interests of women, and

FURTHER, that the NOW task force on Women and Volunteerism circulate the position paper prepared by the Berkeley Chapter to all members of NOW as the basis for further discussion in developing policy on volunteerism in the United States.

VOTING RIGHTS/DC STATEHOOD

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

1993

WHEREAS, 1995 will be the 75th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution that guaranteed women the right to vote, and

WHEREAS, 1995 will also be the 150th birthday of Rochester, NY's own Susan B. Anthony, the woman who fought so long and hard to achieve women's suffrage, and

WHEREAS, a year-long celebration, The 95/75 Celebration, will be conducted in 1995 by a range of supportive organizations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the National Organization for Women endorse and promote the 95/75 Celebration, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the National Organization for Women, along with the Greater Rochester (NY) Chapter, sponsor one major event in Rochester, NY during The 95/75 Celebration.

WASHINGTON DC STATEHOOD

11/92

WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia shoulder the full burden of U.S. citizenship without the benefit of congressional representation or self-determination; and

WHEREAS, D.C. consistently elects local officials who are generally supportive of feminist issues; and

WHEREAS, the two senators and one representative elected by D.C. would almost certainly be African Americans and at least one would be female; and

WHEREAS, two progressive votes in the Senate could have made a real impact on many close votes -- such as the Thomas confirmation and the Civil Rights Restoration Act; and

WHEREAS, if D.C. were to become a state today, its population would be greater than that of four states and on par with that of three others; and

WHEREAS, District residents already raise revenues to pay 83% of the cost of running the city and thus will have no problem being an economically viable 51st state; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the District have repeatedly mandated publicly funded abortions for poor women which have been overruled by Congress; and

WHEREAS, the voters of D.C. have passed model domestic partnership legislation, only to have it blocked by Congress;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) reaffirm its commitment to statehood for Washington, D.C.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW ELEVATE THE ISSUE OF D.C. statehood to that of great importance with the goal of achieving statehood during this 103rd Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will embark upon an all-out grassroots education campaign by:

- Producing an Educational Brochure About Statehood

- Organizing a Petition Drive for Statehood

- Organizing a Lobby Day for Statehood

- Providing High Visibility for the Issue of Statehood at the 1993 National Conference Including but Not Limited to a Workshop

- Working in Coalition with the D.C. Statehood Party, the Rainbow Coalition and Other Supportive Groups

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that articles supporting D.C. Statehood be published regularly in the National NOW Times until the people of D.C. are free.

D.C. STATEHOOD

6/85

WHEREAS, the right to legislative representation is fundamental in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, feminists have always recognized and fought for universal suffrage as a basic human right; and

VOTING RIGHTS/DC STATEHOOD

WHEREAS, the nearly one million persons who reside in the District of Columbia have been denied this basic right; and

WHEREAS, the amendment to the U.S. Constitution providing for voting rights for residents of the District of Columbia has failed to be ratified by the necessary three-fifths of the states; and

WHEREAS, a bill has been introduced into the U.S. Congress mandating statehood for the District of Columbia (to be called New Columbia); and

WHEREAS, the proposed Constitution of New Columbia contains provisions for equal protection of all people regardless of sex, sexual orientation, race or other status;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women supports statehood for the District of Columbia and encourages all NOW members and sub-units to lobby their representatives in the U.S. Congress to vote for statehood so that citizens of the District of Columbia will have the full rights of all U.S. citizens.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1978

WHEREAS, the right to legislative representation is fundamental in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, feminists have always recognized and fought for universal suffrage as a basic human right; and

WHEREAS, the nearly one million persons who reside in the District of Columbia have been denied this basic right on issues before the U.S. Congress which affect their welfare and the welfare of every American; and

WHEREAS, a Constitutional amendment has been proposed by the U.S. Congress for ratification by the states to correct this gross injustice; and

WHEREAS, NOW members today, as well as feminists throughout this nation's history, have a particular, dedicated experience in lobbying for the ratification of Constitutional amendments dealing with human rights issues; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this commitment and lifelong obligation on the part of feminists to the unending struggle for human rights, the Mid-Atlantic Region of NOW at its April, 1978 Conference passed a resolution calling upon states in that region (which includes the District of Columbia) to lobby their legislatures for ratification of a D.C. Voting Rights Amendment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this National Conference of the National Organization for Women urge all NOW members and sub-units to lobby the legislatures in each of their respective states to ratify the proposed Constitutional amendment to give Congressional voting representation to the citizens of the District of Columbia.

WAR/PEACE/DISARMAMENT

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER AU SU

4/93

WHEREAS, Nobel Peace Prize Winner Au Su of Myanmar (formerly Burma) has been under military house arrest in her country, without cause, for more than three years,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- 1) the editors of the National NOW Times prepare an article on Au Su to appear in the next issue and
- 2) that we call upon our membership to write letters, using the Amnesty International model, to the military authorities in Myanmar demanding Au Su's release.

U.S. TROOPS IN PERSIAN GULF

4/91

WHEREAS the National Organization for Women has expressed strong opposition to the military intervention in the Persian Gulf, and

WHEREAS U.S. troops were deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to enforce a U.N. resolution created to protect U.S. interests, diverting the attention of the people of the U.S. away from domestic problems to an international crisis, and

WHEREAS similar U.N. resolutions denouncing military interventions and calling for the withdrawal of troops from countries such as Lebanon, Panama and Jordan have not been enforced, and

WHEREAS this action by the U.S. and its allies has resulted not in a victory, but in a dangerous political destabilization of the region, and massive homelessness, disease and starvation, and

WHEREAS the so-called "surgical strike bombings" by the United States and its allies have resulted in the maiming and death of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, the physical destruction of their homelands, the degradation of the world's environment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOW call for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. troops from the region; and demand that

1. The suppression of the heroic women who fought to preserve the Kuwaiti homeland and are now demonstrating for food and sanitation stop immediately and that the Kuwaiti government be assisted to develop programs for the women ravaged by the war;
2. The U.S. government speak out immediately to stop the harassment of the brave Saudi women who drove cars in violation of longstanding prohibitions against women driving, which they did in order to press for basic civil rights and opportunities for women;
3. The United States give aid for the purpose of rebuilding these countries based on need, not political loyalties; such aid **must** focus on the crying needs of the Kuwaiti people, instead of such insulting trivialities as the use of U.S. government personnel to reinstall gold plumbing in the Kuwaiti Emir's palace;
4. The U.S. government must demand democratic reforms of the Kuwaiti and Saudi governments, extending the right to vote and other human rights consistent with full citizenship to women as a condition of our continued support;
5. The U.S. government focus on domestic issues in this country with the same zeal and financial commitment recently used in the Persian Gulf Conflict.

PERSIAN GULF WAR

1/91

The National Organization for Women deplores the action taken by Congress to authorize George Bush's use of military force in the Persian Gulf.

We note that the vote today, in both the Senate and House, indicates a nation sharply divided. This vote was taken with over half the population -- women -- effectively unrepresented by a 95% male Congress. The women of the United States have said, in poll after poll, that they do not approve of the use of violence to settle

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disputes.

We express our grave concern for our sisters and brothers, daughters and sons, mothers and fathers, who are risking their lives in the Middle East.

We express our solidarity with the civilian populations of the world who will be the victims of this conflict through death, injury, poverty, and the destruction of the environment.

If women cannot be heard in Congress, we will be heard in the streets.

Today, we announce our Five-Point Agenda for Peace:

- 1) We urge individual women and men all across this country to organize street demonstrations in their communities to speak out for peace;
- 2) We urge women to join us in forming women's delegations at the national marches called for January 19th and 26th in Washington, D.C., and at demonstrations throughout the nation;
- 3) We call for an international Summit for Peace, inviting the leaders of all women's organizations in the United States and around the globe to join us in organizing for peace worldwide;
- 4) We urge concerned citizens to participate in the hearings being held by the Commission for Responsive Democracy on a new political party; testimony should expose the Bush administration and the Congress in this move toward war, and explore the need for a new party dedicated to peace, equality and justice;
- 5) We ask all concerned citizens of the world to wear yellow and white ribbons to express resistance to this war movement; we wear yellow until our troops are returned home safely and we wear white until these disputes are resolved peacefully.

Today Congress and George Bush have effectively declared war on behalf of the people of the United States.

Today the National Organization for Women joins our sisters and brothers around the world to demand peace; we will settle for nothing less.

BUILD UP IN THE MIDDLE EAST

11/90

WHEREAS, it is clear that President Bush's arms and troop build-up in the gulf is designed to protect U.S. oil interests and seeks to deflect the attention of the people of the U.S. from our domestic economic crisis and the Savings and Loan scandal; and

WHEREAS, both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait subjugate and systematically oppress women, denying basic human rights of self-determination, freedom of speech, association, transportation and the right to vote; and Saudi Arabia further denies women by isolating them in purdah, denying them employment opportunities and education; and

WHEREAS, the billions spent for this military mobilization mean further cutbacks in social services and mean economic shortfalls which fall heaviest and disproportionately on the backs of women, the poor and people of color; and

WHEREAS, the deadly nature of today's weapons, both conventional and biological, will have a catastrophic effect not only on the people, but also on the environment of the Middle East and worldwide; and

WHEREAS, both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are despotic, clan-run monarchies created by Britain earlier in this century in order to retain control of oil fields, which deny their citizens basic democratic rights, including the right to vote;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NOW National Board of Directors goes on record as opposing

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this U.S. military involvement in the Middle East; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NOW National Board of Directors send a letter to Congressmembers and Senators;

- (1) stating that although NOW does not support the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, we are appalled at the possibility that lives should be lost defending the oppressive regimes of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia;
- (2) urging an environmentally-sound national policy that would reduce our reliance on oil and reduce the influence of oil politics on our international policy-making;
- (3) questioning the lack of a Congressional review and authorization process for the expenditure of these billions during a time of supposed fiscal constraint; and
- (4) urging Congress to act assertively to withdraw American military units and urge the United Nations Secretariat under the supervision of the General Assembly to mediate diplomatic resolution of the conflict.

4/88

Moved to endorse the Women's Peace Platform.

CENTRAL AMERICA DEATH SQUAD

1/88

Moved that NOW urges Don Edwards to hold hearings on Central American Death Squad threats and violence occurring in the United States, and that an article be published in the NNT about Death Squad attacks and threats on Salvadorians in this country.

BAN ON NUCLEAR TESTING

1/87

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons testing is an act detrimental to the peace and health of all the world's people; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union has had an 18-month moratorium on nuclear testing; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union has said it will not resume testing unless the United States does; and

WHEREAS, the United States has scheduled a test for February 5 at the Nevada nuclear test site;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW abhors and condemns any resumption of nuclear weapons testing and urges the U.S. Congress to halt the February 5 test and future testing.

BENJAMIN LINDER PEACE TOUR

1987

WHEREAS, the Iran-Contra hearings have made public a vast, illegal network in the U.S. government to finance and train the Contra mercenaries in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, in 1985 the National Organization for Women took a strong stand against U.S. military intervention in Central America; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Linder, a young U.S. engineer working on a rural electrification project in Nicaragua, was brutally murdered by the U.S.-financed and -trained Contras on April 28, 1987; and

WHEREAS, the Ben Linder family members are touring the United States to honor Ben's life by telling the truth about his murder and the human toll of the Contra war which Washington is waging against the people of Nicaragua, and by raising funds to complete the project Ben was working on to bring electricity to the Nicaraguan people; and

WHEREAS, the National NOW Board voted unanimously at its July 16, 1987 meeting to become a sponsor of the Benjamin Linder Peace Tour and to disseminate information on the tour to NOW membership and chapters; and

WHEREAS, the NOW conference, as the supreme governing body of NOW, can add strength to and reinforce this decision of the National Board,

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NOW conference, meeting in Philadelphia July 17-19, 1987, go on record as a sponsor of the Benjamin Linder Peace Tour.

CONTRAGATE RESOLUTION

10/87

WHEREAS, the foremost opponent of the rights of women and the National Organization for Women is the right wing movement; and

WHEREAS, this right wing movement spreads disinformation about the feminist movement, rolls back our gains, erodes civil liberties; and prioritizes an overblown military budget; and

WHEREAS, the Christic Institute has filed a lawsuit against the "Secret Team" of the National Security State; and

WHEREAS, the National Security State, an important feature of the right wing movement, carries out foreign and domestic programs which are undemocratic, deceitful, and dangerous to the American people; and

WHEREAS, this "Secret Team" has been legally charged in the lawsuit with massive smuggling of heroin and cocaine into our country to fund their covert programs, which include overthrowing governments and political assassination programs; and

WHEREAS, these programs are covert precisely because the public will not support these activities and Congress has created laws expressly to prohibit them; and

WHEREAS, no major public interest efforts can achieve its goals until this apparatus is exposed, politically debated, and defeated; and

WHEREAS, the Select Committee charged with investigating the Iran/Contra scandal has failed to expose this deep problem in our body politic; and

WHEREAS, the Christic Institute is the only private, independent organization which is utilizing the subpoena power of the Federal Courts compelling documents and testimony, and is a long-time ally of the women's movement,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That National NOW will support the Christic Institute, and U.S. journalists Martha Honey and Tony Avirgan, in their lawsuit against this "Secret Team" of the National Security State apparatus in the following ways:

1. Endorse the Christic Institute lawsuit, the Contragate Project, and help educate the public and the Congress;
2. Disseminate information about the work of the Christic Institute through state and local chapters, newsletters, speaking engagements and other educational vehicles;
3. Encourage state and local chapters to lobby their congressional representatives for a deeper, more aggressive investigation into the Iran/Contra scandal;
4. Work for the impeachment of federal officials who defied Congress and violated the Constitution;
5. Work to insure that the 1988 Presidential and Congressional candidates are committed to resolving this constitutional crisis.

Any questions or comments regarding this document should be directed to Kathy Spiller of California NOW or Sara Nelson of the Christic Institute.

INTERVENTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

10/87

The officers of the National Organization for Women will construct and make public NOW's concerns regarding governmental and corporate intervention in developing countries particularly as it impacts on women and children.

STOP STAR WARS RESOLUTION

10/87

WHEREAS, this is a crucial moment when an irreversible choice will be made on placing weapons in space or

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using space for peaceful and cooperative purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars) threatens our very survival, making accidental nuclear war likely and making meaningful arms control and disarmament impossible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women oppose the wasteful multi-billion dollar funding for the deadly Strategic Defense Initiative and support a ban on all space weapons testing.

BENJAMIN LINDER PEACE TOUR

7/87

NOW will co-sponsor the Benjamin Linder Peace Tour and will make information available to our chapters in areas where the tour will be going, so that they can publicize it to their members.

SOVIET PEACE MARCH

5/87

NOW will endorse a walker in the Soviet Peace March on behalf of all feminists.

MOBILIZATION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN NOVEMBER CENTRAL AMERICA AND AFRICA

11/86

WHEREAS, the U.S. government's policies in Central America and Southern Africa are morally wrong and violate our nation's democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, our government in Central America is escalating its terrorism and war against the people and government of Nicaragua through CIA-directed contra forces; and

WHEREAS, our government has rejected all opportunities to end the conflicts through peaceful negotiated settlements, thus implicating us all by using our tax dollars for the killing of innocent women, men, and children; and

WHEREAS, our government continues to support the South African government through a sanctions policy that contains major loopholes that allow U.S. companies to continue to profit from the suffering of Black South Africans; and

WHEREAS, our government persists in intelligence cooperation with South Africa's military and security forces even as those forces repress and torture people, including church, trade union, student, and women's movement leaders; and

WHEREAS, the South African government, with the assistance of the U.S. government, continues to invade its neighboring countries and imposes economic sanctions on other Southern African countries opposed to apartheid; and

WHEREAS, the South African government refuses to end its illegal occupation of Namibia and end its covert war against Angola and Mozambique;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women supports and endorses the "Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa" to be held Friday and Saturday, April 24-25, 1987 in Washington, DC. We join the call for action by the United Auto Workers, The Quixote Center, and the Rainbow Coalition in calling on all progressive women to join this mobilization.

END U.S. INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA

1985

WHEREAS, the feminist movement and the National Organization for Women are opposed to war; and

WHEREAS, the Reagan administration's increasing military intervention and threatened escalation in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and throughout Central America are developing into a regional war similar to Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, NOW opposed the war in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the increasing U.S. funded and directed conventional and chemical warfare and government

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repression have claimed 55,000 lives in El Salvador, with civilian women and children being the primary victims of massive bombings, rape, massacre and assassinations; and

WHEREAS, our tax dollars are financing this war--already costing over \$80 million to the "contras", and a million dollars every day to the Salvadoran government--through Reagan's drastic cuts in food stamps, child care, job training, housing subsidies, and other vital domestic programs which have forced millions of American women and children into poverty;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women go on record as opposing United States intervention in Central America.

REDUCTION OF DEFENSE SPENDING

1984

WHEREAS, the current policy of the Reagan Administration of inordinate and unprecedented defense build-ups of almost \$2 trillion has robbed our nation of its ability to invest in its most precious resource, human capital, and endangers our national security; and

WHEREAS, this policy deprives our nation of the resources needed to rebuild America especially our cities where tens of thousands are homeless and millions are without jobs; and

WHEREAS, this defense policy has aberrational effects on our economy and has created soaring deficits which distort financial markets and credit availability; and

WHEREAS, the continued build-up of arms telegraphs a message to the world and world leaders that our nation is not pursuing peace and disarmament, but fueling arms build-ups in preparation for a nuclear annihilation from which there will be no survivors; and

WHEREAS, as the current situation in which our nation is now spending \$150 billion a year defending Japan and Europe in peacetime necessitates that we work to reduce the military burdens, tensions and forces in those regions; and

WHEREAS, improved defense management, elimination of waste and fraud at the Pentagon, and efforts to make our military more combat-effective and our weapons more cost-effective will lead to substantial real reductions in military spending without cutting our defense; and

WHEREAS, our nation cannot afford four more years of increased military spending; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women at its October 1983 Convention passed a resolution against the deployment of the MX Missile, the Cruise Missile, and the Pershing II Missile as unnecessary military spending; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women urges the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the U.S. Congress and the Administration to eliminate wasteful procurement policies and unnecessary weapons systems, by cutting back our interventionary forces and by negotiating a nuclear freeze as a major way of gaining substantial real reductions in military spending.

PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

1983

BE IT RESOLVED that NOW be on record against deployment of the MX, Cruise and Pershing II missiles and for the mutual/verifiable nuclear freeze.

DEFUNDING REGISTRATION

2/83

MOVED that National NOW contact HUD Independent Agencies Subcommittees of Appropriations in House and Senate requesting their support of bills to rescind draft registration funding.

REAFFIRMATION OF OPPOSITION TO WAR

2/80

The National Board reaffirmed its opposition to war and war psychology as instruments of U.S. foreign policy and domestic policy. We oppose a war psychology that uses "get tough" gestures which exploit our young

WAR/PEACE/DISARMAMENT

people as pawns in foreign policy. Such policies are anti-woman, anti-man, anti-social and anti-humane.

OPPOSITION TO DRAFT AND REGISTRATION

1/80

BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW opposes the reinstatement of registration and draft for both men and women. NOW's primary focus on this issue is on opposition to registration and draft. However, if we cannot stop the return to registration and draft, we also cannot choose between our sisters and brothers. We oppose any registration or draft that excludes women as an unconstitutional denial of rights to both young men and women. And we continue to oppose all sex discrimination by the volunteer armed services.

VIETNAM WAR

1/73

WHEREAS, NOW has had a position on war, adopted at the 1971 National Conference which has not been translated into any form of action to date (and does not have a task force on this subject), although the Vietnam War has continued unabated; and whereas the recent acceleration of U.S. bombing and military activities deserves an immediate outcry of protests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW members wear and encourage others to wear arm bands bearing the NOW logo and imprinted with "Stop the Killing NOW, War is the Ultimate Violence of the Masculine Mystique," and be it further resolved that these paper armbands be distributed to the membership at the National Conference.

WAR/INDOCHINA

1971

WHEREAS, war is the expression of the masculine mystique that historically has used violence as a solution to problems--not only international and political ones, but those relating to personal and social relations as well, and

WHEREAS, war and violence are logical extensions of a system that sees the use of power, dominance and coercion as an accepted way of life, and

WHEREAS, for centuries women have been victimized by this tyranny, for centuries wars have taken the lives of men and women, for centuries human values of compassion, equality and cooperation have been sacrificed to the military system,

BE IT RESOLVED, that as feminists, we seek to bring a universal end to war, and to create a society in which feminist, humanist values will prevail, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW oppose the further pursuit of a military solution to the conflict in Indochina and call for an immediate end to all American military activity there.

WOMEN AND WAR

1971

WHEREAS, women are victims of the military in war, through rape and forced prostitution, and

WHEREAS, military training relies upon sexual slurs against women to inflame soldiers into aggression, and

WHEREAS, military decisions are exclusively made by male supremacists, and

WHEREAS, men themselves are subject to loss of life and personhood by being subject to compulsory military service from which women are exempt, and

WHEREAS, women in the military are restricted on the basis of sex in job training, education, area of service and are confined to low level, non-policy positions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW condemns the degradation of women by sexist practices within the military and the sexist basis for compulsory military service.

YOUNG FEMINISTS

SUPPORTING YOUNG FEMINISM WITHIN NOW

1996

WHEREAS, in order to have an effective third wave of feminism, the National Organization for Women (NOW) must address the needs of the people who are going to fuel it; and

WHEREAS, NOW has formally demonstrated its desire to incorporate young feminists as fully participating NOW members and activists; and

WHEREAS, young feminists have expressed the desire to organize themselves through and with NOW in order to be an active and visible feminist presence in their schools and communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NOW continue to actively involve and recruit young feminists through such efforts as continuing to organize actions around young feminist issues, electing young women to chapter, state, and national leadership positions, creating young feminist-oriented literature, and organizing at schools and community youth centers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW encourage intergenerational dialogue in order to maintain and develop stronger ties between activists of all ages by including a workshop addressing intergenerational issues at the 1997 National NOW Conference and continuing this dialogue at future conferences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW and the Young Feminist Conference Implementation Committee (CIC) renew their commitment to implementing previously passed resolutions such as those mandating a Young Feminist Resource Kit and the development of strategies and programs to assist young people in combating sexism in their school environments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW encourage the Young Feminist CIC in its efforts to create a NOW young feminist network by maintaining a full CIC membership of diverse, pro-active regional representatives interested in creating and maintaining such a network on a national level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW support young feminists' efforts to organize themselves by encouraging the establishment of official NOW entities such as task forces, chapters, grrrl clubs, and other subunits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW encourage young feminists' efforts to create their own forms of networking, such as adding an additional web page onto the existing NOW site for news, updates, and actions regarding young feminist issues, establishing an e-mail list for young feminists, and adding young feminist contacts to the existing World Wide Web contact list; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW continue unique approaches to reaching out such as offering young feminist sleep-overs, summits, and mentoring programs in NOW's continued effort to recognize that, although young feminist issues are as varied as the women who confront them, young feminists are unique in having grown up in an era where feminism is already prevalent; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all efforts on behalf of young feminist activism encourage young feminist independence and flexibility, yet ensure that NOW structure, administration, and goals stand firm.

YOUNG FEMINISTS AND NOW

1995

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW) supports a diverse membership and is committed to continuing the feminist movement; and

WHEREAS, the 1995 Young Feminist Summit showed that young feminists are a large constituency of NOW; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming number of activists on the mall at the April 9th Rally were young feminists; and

WHEREAS, young women are a necessary part of NOW, contributing time, energy, ideas, and dedication to the feminist movement; and

WHEREAS, young women have particular concerns; and

WHEREAS, young feminist activists need to increase communication in order to network, exchange information, and have a collective voice in NOW;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Now Times print no less than two articles, of any

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length, per issue by and/or about young feminists; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW actively seek out a young feminist membership and encourage young members to run for NOW leadership at local, state, and national levels.

EQUALITY OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION

1995

WHEREAS, publicly-funded educational institutions still spend twice as much money on sports programs for young men as on sports programs for young women; and

WHEREAS, conservatives in the U.S. Congress are attempting to eliminate or scale back enforcement of Title IX, the federal law that bans gender discrimination in federally-funded educational programs including athletics; and

WHEREAS, state-funded military academies in at least two states are attempting to bar young women from joining their ranks by setting up separate, unequal programs at other schools; and

WHEREAS, state governments are lending financial, legal and logistical support to these efforts to exclude women from an equal opportunity at military academies; and

WHEREAS, local school boards in several cities around the country are experimenting with single sex schools and classrooms as an inappropriate means to address the sexism young women and girls face in classrooms from male students and teachers who interrupt, ridicule or sexually harass them;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) continue its historic support for equal opportunities in education for women and girls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW step up its campaigns in support of Title IX, affirmative action and a long-term constitutional strategy to guarantee women's equality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW activists at all levels -- local chapters, state organizations and the National Action Center -- track these issues, hold local actions to draw attention to them and do electoral and political work with candidates who support equal educational opportunities for women and girls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW develop resources for educators to aid them in developing equitable educational skills; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW, in conjunction with the Young Feminist Conference Implementation Committee and staff designated to work with young feminists issues, develop strategies and programs to assist young people to combat sexism in their school environment.

See Also: Education

YOUNG FEMINIST CIC

4/94

Moved that the Young Feminist CIC along with at least one officer meet by conference call within the next two months to discuss what young feminists want as their focus at their conference.

EMPOWERING YOUNG FEMINISTS

1993

WHEREAS young feminist are vital to the survival and continuation of the women's movement and National Organization for Women; and

WHEREAS, today's youth offer unique perspectives and ideas to the organization, and have shown leadership capabilities; and

WHEREAS, NOW has shown its commitment to young feminist by sponsoring the first-ever National Young Feminist Conference and by establishing the Young Feminist Conference Implementation Committee (CIC); and

WHEREAS, NOW's Chapter and State Development Department has encouraged and assisted the development of young feminist chapters and action teams; and

WHEREAS, NOW works to increase diversity of participation at all levels of NOW; and

WHEREAS, National NOW previously has resolved to include young feminist as active and leading forces in

YOUNG FEMINISTS

this struggle,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women actively recruit and organize young feminists through the following actions:

- 1) The Chapter and State Development Department continue to provide resources and help states and/or chapters to actively encourage the formation of chapters by young feminists and young feminist action teams/task forces, that provisions continue to be made by state and/or chapters for any young feminist not able to afford membership fees through such mechanisms including, but not limited to, scholarship or work exchange, and that a session on young feminist organizing be included in the agenda for the State Presidents/Coordinators Caucus meeting in 1994; and
- 2) NOW, in coordination with the Young Feminist CIC, create and distribute brochures on young feminist issues and organizing, create a Young Feminist Resources Kit, which would include information on convening both chapters and action teams/task forces, and include young feminist issues on a priority basis in the National NOW Times; and
- 3) NOW implement representation of young feminists at all levels of the organization, including but not limited to, committee appointments, plenary speakers, speakers at marches and other actions, and in candidate recruitment for the Elect Women for a Change projects; and
- 4) Materials, event planning, and all other young feminist organizing include outreach to young women who are on campuses and to those who are not attending school; and
- 5) NOW create a Young Feminist Issues hearing for the 1994 National Conference and every National Conference thereafter, and that NOW sponsor another Young Feminist conference before the end of 1995; and
- 6) At a minimum, one of the current NOW Action Center's staff position job description specifically include young feminist issues and organizing.

YOUNG WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

2/93

WHEREAS, the issue of young women's right to abortion is important to NOW and our reproductive rights work, and

WHEREAS, the Freedom of Choice Act (S 25) includes parental restrictions, and

WHEREAS, we anticipate that these restrictive laws will continue to be placed as amendments on reproductive rights legislation, and

WHEREAS, such laws threaten the very lives of young women, pushing them back to back alley abortions, **THEREFORE**, the National Organization for Women demands that the issue of young women's right to abortion and reproductive rights be at the forefront of this struggle and be a major part of our lobbying efforts including the organization of a young women's lobby day at the US Capitol.

YOUNG FEMINIST PARTICIPATION IN THE JANUARY 1992 GLOBAL FEMINIST CONFERENCE

1991

WHEREAS, young women throughout the world are being victimized by governments that threaten our basic rights, and

WHEREAS, young women internationally are organizing and fighting discrimination in all its forms, and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women is planning to bring together feminists from many cultures and nations for a Global Feminist Conference in January of 1992, as part of NOW's Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration, and

WHEREAS, the participation of young feminists at this conference is crucial to the scope, depth and success of any international feminist agenda,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW solicit the international support and participation of young feminists in the January 1992 Global Feminist Conference.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that young feminists within NOW be charged with taking the lead on this important work.

YOUNG FEMINIST CIC

1991

WHEREAS, National NOW has shown through the 1991 Young Feminist conference leadership and a commitment to Young Feminist organizing; and

WHEREAS, The National Young Feminist Conference brought young feminists together each with invaluable expertise in activism and organizing; and

WHEREAS, the Young Feminists who gathered there left the conference having established a resource network amongst themselves; and

WHEREAS, the creation of such a network helps NOW's struggle toward feminist revolution, which must be comprised of both the old and the young; and

WHEREAS, all women NOW stand united, Young Feminists must still have space for leadership development and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, within the structure of NOW, Conference Implementation Committees are the organization's vehicle for exploring and reviewing issues of importance to the NOW membership;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Young Feminist conference urges National NOW to create a Young Feminist conference implementation committee specifically for the purpose of reviewing all current and future NOW policies from the perspective of young feminists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this newly created CIC will have all the financial and political responsibilities as other CICs, and will be charged with preparing draft materials to be used for organizing and educating young feminists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW encourages state and local chapters to create young feminist task forces to network on the state and local level.

RESOLUTION ON YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISM AGAINST PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LAWS

1991

WHEREAS, young women's lives are directly threatened by growing support for state laws requiring parental interference for abortions, and

WHEREAS, many such women are under the voting age and therefore wield little electoral power regarding this issue, and

WHEREAS, National NOW has already implemented a strong and far-reaching agenda actively opposing parental interference legislation, and

WHEREAS, National NOW is officially working with young feminists to take control over their lives and their bodies,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW include parental consent/notification as an issue on its young feminist action agenda, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that National NOW include young feminists as active and leading forces in this struggle.

See Also: Reproductive Rights

YOUNG FEMINISTS FIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1991

WHEREAS, violence against women pervades society in the forms of date rape, assault by strangers, sexual harassment, lesbian bashing, violent images in popular culture, murder, domestic violence, incest, and others, and

WHEREAS, the problem of violence against women cannot be solved without an acknowledgment of its existence by the institutions and those who perpetuate it, who benefit from it, and who are harmed by it, and

WHEREAS, this awareness depends on the realization that violence against women in all forms and the

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attitudes that allow its persistence are connected as different manifestations of institutionalized devaluing of women, and

WHEREAS, violence against women must be a priority of the younger heirs of the feminist movement, who will be counted on to use what they have learned from feminist leaders before them to fight for women's rights and lives,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW's Young Feminists, in coordination with National NOW, shall take the lead on organizing a nationwide effort to:

1. Heighten awareness among young people of the problem of violence against women in all its forms
2. Mobilize street action to actively build an anti-violence movement among young people
3. Provide opportunities for people to draw connections among all manifestations of violence against women
4. Encourage personal growth, commitment, and empowerment in new and young feminist anti-violence activists, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Young Feminists in their NOW chapters and communities across the country organize a week of local direct action, with a major nationally coordinated action as its centerpiece, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW chapters across the country, led by their official or unofficial young feminist memberships, coordinate these actions in their communities, encouraging in particular the participation of new, young activists from local campuses, workplaces, the unemployed, unions, and community groups.

See Also: Violence Against Women

CAMPUS MOBILIZATION CONFERENCE

1988

WHEREAS, the participation of women of all ages is critical to the future of feminism; and

WHEREAS, social, economic and political inequities are pervasive throughout the educational institutions of this country; and

WHEREAS, women's studies programs are central to the development of leadership, action and public policy for the movements of today and tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, the gender gap in voting behavior is greatest among younger voters; and

WHEREAS, the mobilization of campuses has been crucial to campaigns for the Equal Rights Amendment, the Feminization of Power, access to abortion and birth control, as well as other feminist initiatives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women seek funding to hold a Campus Mobilization Conference to bring together, train and organize and inspire women to take power in every aspect of their lives and of college campuses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conference workshops and discussions include issues of equality, personal security, racism, voter registration, homophobia, sexual harassment, faculty tenure and promotion, running for campus and political office, campus media, women's center and curriculum development, reproductive rights and dating violence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Campus Mobilization Campaign be brought to colleges and universities across the nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that now seek to recruit organizers of campus-based chapters of NOW at each campus it visits.

End of 1966-1996 Issue Policy Manual