

NOW COALITION GUIDELINES (Adopted 5/79)

NOW, as the largest feminist organization in the world, should not underestimate its strength and effectiveness as an independent action organization. However, in a few limited circumstances, it may be in the best interest of the National Organization or its sub-units to join into a coalition or an alliance.

A distinction between a coalition and an alliance should be made clear. An alliance is a loose-knit, non-structured relationship with other groups and can be an effective means of increasing or reinforcing community communications. A coalition is a structured, policy-making, action-oriented organization composed of several member groups. A coalition should be used only when the coalition can achieve some desired result that NOW, working independently, could not achieve.

NOW discourages involvement by itself and its sub-units in coalitions. However, the following criteria should be adhered to when determining whether to join or continue involvement in a coalition:

1. A coalition should be on a well-defined single issue.
2. Commitment for involvement should be for a limited time.
3. NOW should not participate in a coalition in which NOW has one vote among many, but in which NOW actually contributes a major portion of the coalition's financial and/or human resources.
4. NOW shall not be bound by coalition decisions which violate NOW policy.
5. NOW shall not be bound by coalition decisions which violate NOW strategy decisions.
6. The coalition must be made up of only genuine or actual structured organizations.
7. The coalition must have a written statement of purpose with a clearly stated goal agreed to by all member organizations.
8. Basic guidelines for operational procedures of coalition activities must be written and agreed to by all members at the beginning.
9. Each member organization must retain the right to independent action even non the issue at hand.

10. Each member organization should be represented by delegates or alternates which are officially designated by each organization.
11. All materials printed or published by the coalition must contain the organization names of all members, unless the organization itself does not wish to be included.
12. The appropriate NOW sub-unit must authorize its participation in and select its representative to the coalition.

This page is an internal document for NOW chapters.