

## **POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY WITH USE OF FORCE**

**07/2018**

**WHEREAS**, in March 2018 in the state of California, a young African American male named Stephen Clark was added to the list of names of hundreds of people of color that were fatally shot without cause; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Organization for Women (NOW) recognizes that the United States of America has participated in criminal laws and enforcement of criminal laws that disproportionately profile persons of color due to discrimination and racial bias; and

**WHEREAS**, men and women of color have been subjected to harsher persecution and inhumane treatment in traffic stops by law enforcement for nonviolent crimes such as jaywalking, parking violations, and misdemeanor drug charges; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of excessive force has directly contributed to the deaths and injuries over 1,000 persons of color in 2017, which outweighs the number of soldiers killed in action and victims of mass shooters; and

**WHEREAS**, our country's racial bias has created unregulated avenues for local, regional, and national law enforcement departments to inflict excessive use of force and violence towards persons of color without consistent accountability for use of fatal or excessive force;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NOW supports a comprehensive analysis of law enforcement trainings and hiring requirements to assist in proper vetting of law enforcement candidates; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NOW supports increased police accountability in legislation and impartial oversight of law enforcement governing bodies to eradicate excessive and racially motivated use of force targeted towards women, men and youth of color; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOW will support organizations in solidarity by advocating for universal transparency and accountability practices in the vetting and hiring of law enforcement officers.