

ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE CONSTITUTIONAL EQUALITY

WHEREAS, now is the time to put women's equality in the United States (U.S.) Constitution for us, our daughters, our nieces, our granddaughters and to honor our mothers, our grandmothers and all people who have been discriminated against on the basis of sex, and we are so close to the U.S. Senate passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) time-limit removal already passed in the U.S. House; and

WHEREAS, involvement of hundreds of thousands in a massive publicity campaign for ERA must happen now, and ERA must be made a major election issue before the 2022 elections because after almost one hundred years of effort, we cannot start over; and

WHEREAS, the ERA was ratified by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the states on January 27, 2020, as required by Article 5 of the U.S. Constitution, and should have been published by the U.S. Archivist and recognized as the U.S. 28th Amendment and is currently in the courts; and

WHEREAS, the ERA time limit was listed in the preamble to the amendment and was not voted on by the states, meaning that it has no binding impact, and time limits are not mentioned in U.S. Constitution Article 5; and

WHEREAS, the U.S is 1 of 4 nations of 193 that has not ratified nor acceded to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the National Organization for Women (NOW) has already joined together its global feminism CEDAW efforts and ERA efforts under "Ratify Women"; and

WHEREAS, NOW's goals are to achieve U.S. constitutional equality, ERA ratification and state constitutional equality in all 50 states and ratification of CEDAW;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW national, state and local chapters work together and in coalitions with other allied groups on a 2021-2022 National Action Program (NAP) to include:

- Mounting anew a massive public relations campaign on all media fronts with events and lobby days about the ERA as a critical human rights issue of equality—to be included as people, as in "we the people," or a person, as in "any person"—thereby giving women, and all people, equal legal standing under the law; highlighting the impact of equality not being included in the U.S. Constitution versus other countries' constitutions; and educating the public on the ERA's origin, path to achievement (1923 to 1972 to 1979 to 1982 to 1992 to 2017 to 2020) and current status and actions; and
- Pressuring U.S. Senators to lead and find other senators to join to eliminate the filibuster and remove the ERA time limit by passage of Senate Joint Resolution 1 (S.J.Res1); and
- Pressuring U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris to make the ERA a top public priority; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW national, state and local chapters work together and in coalitions with other allied groups to support U.S. court cases on ERA, including individuals suing on and after January 27, 2022, as on that date the requirement that "This Amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification" will have been met.

Submitted to Issue Hearing: Constitutional Equality by Katherine "Kobby" Hoffman, Charlottesville NOW, 434-295-2566 and NOWCommittee@aol.com.