

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AS NOW'S SEVENTH CORE ISSUE

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW) recognizes that women are disproportionately impacted by climate change and environmental destruction because

- their roles as primary caregivers and providers of food and fuel make them more vulnerable when flooding and drought or other disasters occur;
- studies show that women's bodies are more susceptible to the dangerous effects of toxic pollution, and increasing evidence is demonstrating the many ways in which women, as carriers of life, are being impacted by, and passing along, severe environmental health issues to the next generations;
- during and after climate-related disasters, levels of sexual and gendered violence often increase; and

WHEREAS, people of color (POC) endure environmental racism and resource colonization: racial discrimination often creates lower property values in communities of color, which in turn attracts industrial polluters to build facilities near these neighborhoods. Fighting for racial justice is already an issue of critical interest for NOW, and fighting for environmental justice is elemental in that fight; and

WHEREAS, NOW recognizes the urgent need to move from extractive economies to resilient and regenerative communities, from dirty energy to renewable sources, from funding highways to expanding public transit, from relying on incinerators and landfills to generating zero waste, from industrial food systems to food independence, and from destructive development to ecosystem restoration; and

WHEREAS, women are leading the fight against climate change and environmental destruction effectively. Studies show that worldwide, when women are empowered, there are immense benefits to entire communities and societies overall; and

WHEREAS, we believe that fighting for a healthy environment in which women, children, families, and all people can thrive must be a NOW priority;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW adopts Environmental Justice as its seventh issue of critical interest.