

RECOGNIZE NOW'S LGBTQIA+ CONTRIBUTIONS

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW) has been an outspoken leader and has significant history in the fight for LGBTQIA rights for over five decades; and

WHEREAS, NOW first committed to making the fight for lesbian rights a core issue in 1971, and as early as 1995 NOW declared that marriage was a fundamental right that must not be denied to same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, early in the struggle for marriage equality, in 2004, the NOW PAC felt so strongly about its importance that support for marriage equality became a NOW PAC endorsement criterion. And in that same year NOW passed a resolution elevating our work on marriage equality to a National Action Campaign with a focus on education – education of ourselves; candidates & elected officials; and the public; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 NOW declared support for the Respect for Marriage Act, which would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and worked on getting sponsors and support for it; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 NOW passed a resolution focusing on working on state marriage equality legislation and ballot initiatives where NOW activists around the country contributed to numerous victories; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the Marriage Equality National Action Campaign developed and implemented state specific strategies for passing state legislation and increasing public support until celebrating the national legalization of marriage equality in 2015 with the Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Obergefell v. Hodges*;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that National NOW press releases, social media, and other communications will take opportunities, as appropriate, to convey NOW's history, leadership, and continual work on LGBTQIA+ issues and include actions to continue to advance LGBTQIA+ rights and acceptance. As an organization, NOW will also continue to advocate to keep same- sex marriage legal and protected at the national level and not be sent back to the states.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that National NOW would do this work not just during Pride Month in June, but all year round, in part as a way to promote it being the first national organization to elevate LGBTQIA+ rights in the United States.