

# Workshops

## **Friday, June 26: 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm**

### **Ending the Blockade: Advocating Maternal Health and Human Rights in Cuba - (Curie)**

The Cuban Revolution's healthcare model has advanced women's human rights through universal access, equity, culturally appropriate healthcare, research and development. But the cruel US government blockade is destroying Cuba's public health system, increasing maternal and infant mortality, embargoing medical supplies and equipment, and burdening women's childbearing decisions. Join US speakers working in solidarity with the diversity of Cuban women and peoples to learn how we can take action in a campaign against infant and maternal mortality. *Presented by: Leni Villagomez Reeves, M.D., Kathryn Hall-Trujillo, Bob Schwartz, Cindy Domingo, and Jan Strout*

Sponsor: US Women and Cuba Collaboration

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### **NOW's 2026 Legislative Agenda - (Banneker)**

This presentation about NOW's Congressional legislative agenda will highlight bills that have been introduced in the current session as well as those that NOW members should watch for at the state level. Panelists will discuss what has changed in the executive and judicial branches that affect our legislative agenda. We will also explore options for moving forward to protect women's rights and to mobilize in support of gender justice and equality. *Presented by: Shelby Von Hofe & Portia Reddick White*

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### **Planned Parenthood: Learning About the Reproductive Healthcare Movement – (Whitney)**

This session will inform, engage, and activate NOW members by educating them on the historical fight for reproductive rights, health, and justice, and to connect this history directly to the current effort to block the Planned Parenthood defund provision, plus hold anti-health and sexual rights lawmakers accountable. This workshop will prepare participants to act as informed advocates, fostering a development opportunity into advocacy leadership. *Presented by: Angela Cobian & Diamond Delancy*

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### **How Misogynist Culture Weaponizes the Language of Femininity Against Women, Join the Discussion of the 2026 Version of Sexism – (Hopkins)**

Presenters will give a historical overview of the harm that restrictive sex stereotypes have caused women and girls. In small groups, participants will discuss the negative impacts of their lives and, with the help of presenters, develop action plans to fight back. Resources will be provided. *Presented by: Mary Mosely & Peggy Patty*

## **Growing NOW Chapters** *(Wright)*

This workshop will offer tips and techniques on how to grow your NOW chapter. We will review how to make a chapter development plan for your state, map current members in your state, reach out to new members, and build networks of activists. Learn how to target areas that can sustain new chapters. *Presented by: Barbara Hays & Crystal Lopez Peters*

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## **The Equal Rights Amendment: Driving the Vote for Equality in 2026 to Recognition in 2027** *(Bell)*

Panelists will share ideas about implementing strategies for an ERA Joint Resolution in Congress and ways NOW members can be involved in Driving the Vote for Equality 2006, Mayors for ERA, and getting 1 million signatures by the mid-term elections for the national ERA petition, SIGN-4ERA.org, along with how the petition drive can help build chapter membership.

*Presented by: Eleanor Smeal, Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Camerina Davidson, Rose Brunache, and Mary Ann Gorman*

## **Saturday, June 27 - Workshops 11:45 pm – 12:45 pm**

### **Legacies of Power: How Male Entitlement, Misogyny, and History Fuel Sex Trafficking— And How We Stop It** *(Bell)*

This discussion will highlight findings from Rights4Girls' new report, Buyers Unmasked: Exposing the Men Who Buy Sex and Solutions to End Exploitation, using buyers' own words to show how predominantly male purchasers view those they solicit for sex. It also traces U.S. sex trade roots to colonization and slavery, links incel culture and male entitlement, and outlines promising deterrence and trafficking prevention strategies. The discussion will also feature survivor leaders from the LGBTQ + community. *Presented by: Yasmin Vafa, Cristian Edwardo, Carolina Bazan, and Melanie Thompson*

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### **From Joy to Justice: Creating a Super Troupers Drill Team in Your NOW Chapter** *(Banneker)*

This breakout session introduces participants to the concept of creating a Super Troupers-style Umbrella team within their NOW chapter at low cost. This is an inclusive movement-based organizing tool that builds community, increases visibility, and energizes members of all ages and abilities. *Presented by: Sandy Trefarthen and Jenny Bolkom*

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**Feminism in the Age of AI: Fighting Deepfakes, Disinformation, and Digital Harm**  
(*Banneker*)

Artificial Intelligence is shaping our information ecosystem—and with it, the landscape of gender-based harm. Emerging technologies enable deepfake imagery, harassment, and disinformation targeting women and marginalized communities. This workshop explores impacts, expert insights, and feminist strategies to counter AI-driven abuse and protect democracy through accountability, policy reform, and collective action. *Presented by: Shelby Von Hofe, Generation Jones, Jenna Sherman, Allyson Kapin, Omny Miranda Martone, and Kim Sontag*

**Challenges Lesbians Face Today: A Need for Connection and Support Inside NOW** (*Curie*)

Lesbians have been in NOW leadership for 60 years. While strides were made, culturally, lesbians still report challenges of higher rates of violence, bullying as children, plus employment and housing discrimination. We'll discuss strategies for NOW to support lesbians and help build a much-needed lesbian community. *Presented by: Ann Lynd and Phyllis Lau*

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**Behind the Velvet Rope: VIP Access: (Where VIP = Valued, Invited, Partners)** (*Whitney*)

ADA compliance is the floor, not the ceiling. A ramp gets someone in the door. It doesn't give them a voice at the table. Led by feminists with disabilities, this interactive workshop will examine the barriers that still exclude disabled people from feminist spaces and explore what genuine inclusion looks like in practice --- for your chapter, your leadership, and your community. Wherever your chapter is on that journey, you will leave with actionable tools you can put to use right away. *Presented by: Julie Storebeck, Robin Jones, Alaina Humphreys, and Beth Corbin*

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**Women Power Behind the Moment-Grassroots Live Interview with Network NOVA**  
(*Whitney*)

Women Power starts with grassroots organizing hub run by the unstoppable, badass, and fearless women of Network NOVA, whose mission it is to inspire, inform and empower. Dig in for joyous interviews and action, with special guests. *Presented by: Katherine White, Finale Menyan, and Kobby Hoffman*

## **Saturday, June 27 - Workshops 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm**

### **Unboxing Activism: Archival Preservation, Politics, and Pedagogy in a Moment of Attempted Erasure -*(Wright)***

This workshop details efforts by Newcomb Archives to preserve the archival records of Planned Parenthood in Louisiana and the New Orleans LGBTQIA+ organization BREAKOUT, and to use the archives for education and community-building initiatives. We also provide advice for activists who want to preserve their own materials for the future. *Presented by: Meredith Kite and Aidan Smith*

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### **Why Women Must Fight Fascism NOW - *(Hopkins)***

Our democracy has never been more threatened. And women are the primary target of the Christian Nationalists who are determined to turn the country into a fascist theocracy. It is imperative that women who have the knowledge and tools to work in their communities to fight fascism. *Presented by: Sharon Lockhart, Sunsara Taylor, and Jay Becker*

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### **Iranian Women's Leadership: 60 Years of Resistance Against Dictatorship, War, and the Fight for Democracy - *(Curie)***

This workshop examines Iranian women's leadership in a decades-long resistance against monarchy, war, and religious dictatorship. Panelists will share lived experiences, highlight women's central role in pro-democracy movements, and explore how global solidarity can support their struggle for human rights, peace, and a secular democratic republic. *Presented by: Beth Dehghan, Roya Johnson, Jerilyn Stapleton, and Dr. Azadeh Sami*

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### **Voter ID & 2026 Elections - What You Need to Know & And What You Can Do - *(Whitney)***

Join Vote Riders for a workshop on our mission to eliminate ID barriers to the ballot box and expand equitable access to voting. Participants will learn about voter ID and documentary proof of citizenship laws at the national and state levels, the real world impact these policies have on communities, and how VoteRiders provides free education, assistance and in-the-ground resources to help voters navigate these barriers. Attendees will leave with practical tools, strategies and opportunities to support voter education and advocacy within their own chapters and communities. *Presented by: Shelby Von Hofe and Stephanie Demmons*

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**Activate, Educate, Elect: Engaging Youth Voters and Defending Their Right to Vote -**  
*(Banneker)*

Young voters are a powerful –and increasingly threatened—force in our democracy. This workshop gives NOW activists a crash course in mobilizing youth in their communities and on campuses, while exposing how SAVE America Act and state-level laws are systematically stripping college students of their right to vote. *Presented by: Gina Beller and Madelyn Amos*

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**I Am the Folding Chair at the Table, Undeterred to Fill My Plate (In loving memory of**  
**Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm) -** *(Bell)*

In 2026, the persistent issues of health equity, economic instability, and threats to political power, intersect and perpetuate a continuing civil rights crisis for women of color. It is imperative that we shine a light on the distinct challenges that Black women and women of color face in the absence of critical support structures to prioritize the need for urgent systemic reform. *Presented by: Rosa Colquitt, Katonya Hart, and Sharon J. Hill*