

Mothers' Rights Resolution

Whereas there has been, whether media driven or not, a division seen between women in the salaried workforce and women working as unpaid caregivers, a situation which has worked against feminism and its effectiveness;

And whereas NOW has a history of attempting to bring all populations of women together for the good of all;

And whereas the job of mothering in this country is demeaned, devalued, unpaid and largely unappreciated;

And whereas the mothers in this country, both straight and lesbian, put forth, through pregnancy, childbirth and the long years of rearing, the most important product the United States now produces, human capital;

And whereas the disparity in lifetime pay is greater between women with children and women without children than it is between women and men;

And whereas, for all the reverence and high esteem Americans supposedly give to motherhood, it remains the greatest risk factor for poverty in old age.

Be it resolved that NOW-NJ turn its focus to the largest female population in this state, women who are mothers, whether their work is confined to the home, supplemented by part-time or full-time wages and regardless of their age; that NOW-NJ make this effort one of its priority issues;

And therefore be it resolved that NOW-NJ will develop a Mothers' Economic Rights task force to do such work as encouraging NOW-NJ chapters to develop their own task forces for mothers' economic rights and lobbying the NJ State Legislature for such economic improvements for mothers as quality childcare at affordable fees, mandated flex time and paid family leave;

And therefore let it be resolved that NOW-NJ urge NOW to focus its attention on the economic rights of mothers; create a national task force in which at least two members of the National Board and at least one National Officer are members; and make the economic rights of mothers one of its priority issues.

(NOW-NJ Conference, passed 11/7/04)