INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ADVOCACY NOTES

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**Some Key Messages from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68)**

Major theme was to address poverty and strengthen institutions and financing with a gender perspective

Zonta International Statement to CSW

 Estimate that 8% of world’s female population will live in extreme poverty by 2030

 To address this poverty, global community must

 Ensure women and girls’ equal access to quality education at all levels

 Expand women and girls’ access to information and communications technology

 Address the unique and disproportionate impacts on climate change on women and girls

Statements of Sima Bahous, Exec. Director of UN Women (<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/speech/2024/03/speech-we-are-not-deterred-let-us-push-forward-together-for-gender-equality> )

“We, collectively, know that the backlash against gender equality is on the rise. Long established, universal human rights and women’s rights frameworks are being challenged. Hard-won gender equality gains are at risk and already being reversed. YET, WE ARE NOT DETERRED.”

Statement of Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General (<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/speech/2024/03/speech-the-patriarchy-may-be-pushing-back-but-so-are-we> )

“Gender Equality is a question of power. And I see two worrying trends in power relations. First, the patriarchy is fighting a strong rearguard action. After decades of progress, women’s rights are being undermined and reversed…The women of my generation did not win the fight for their rights, only to see their daughters and granddaughters fight the same battles………As I said in the beginning, essentially, the question of Gender Equity is a question of power. In my experience, especially as a politician for a long period, POWER IS NEVER GIVEN, POWER HAS TO BE TAKEN.”

WE MUST PUSH BACK AGAINST THE PUSH BACK AGAINST WOMEN’S EQUALITY.

**Strategies to Enshrine the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. Constitution**

H.J. Res. 25 Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment

Discharge Petition <https://clerk.house.gov/DischargePetition/2023071806?CongressNum=118>

 As of April 10th, there were 211 signatures

MOTION TO DISCHARGE A COMMITTEE FROM THE CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION

Under house rules, if a discharge petition to compel a vote on a particular piece of legislation is signed by 218 members of the House, it must immediately be brought before the full chamber for a vote, regardless of any objections or attempts by leadership to block the legislation from being considered. The petition will remain open for members of Congress to sign until it garners the necessary 218 signatures.

H.J. Res. 82

Expressing the sense of Congress that the article of amendment commonly known as the “Equal Rights Amendment” has been validly ratified and is enforceable as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and the Archivist of the United States must certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment without delay

Sign / Circulate a Petition <https://www.sign4era.org/> expressing support for the Equal Rights Amendment

The purpose of Sign4ERA is to build massive nationwide pressure on Members of Congress, candidates for Congress, the Presidency and, in fact elected officials at all levels of government to cease treating women as second-class citizens by granting them equality in the U.S. Constitution.

 As of 4/11/24 there were 95,422 signatures. Colorado = 2,364 WY = 122 MT=340 SD= 10

**Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work**

International Labour Organization C190 – Violence and Harassment (adopted 2019)

<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/violence-harassment/lang--en/index.htm>

…Acknowledgement that gender-based violence and harassment disproportionately affects women and girls, and recognizing that an inclusive, integrated and gender-responsive approach, which tackles underlying causes and risk factors, including gender stereotypes, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and unequal gender-based power relations, is essential to ending violence in the world of work…

…the term “violence and harassment” in the world of work refers to a range of unacceptable behaviours and practices, or threats thereof, whether a single occurrence or repeated, that aim at, result in, or are likely to result in physical, psychological, sexual or economic harm, and includes gender-based violence and harassment….

U S Department of Labor, International Labour Organization Announce Partnership to Curb Gender-Based Violence, Harassment in World of Work (May, 2023)

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20230525>

Under the agreement, the Women’s Bureau and the ILO will host a series of national and regional meetings where stakeholders will collaborate on strategies to help eliminate gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work.

Dept of Labor, Women’s Bureau, Gender-Based Violence and Harassment in the World of Work

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/GBVH>

Select Task Force on the Study of Harassment in the Workplace (EEOC, June 2016)

<https://www.eeoc.gov/select-task-force-study-harassment-workplace#_Toc453686298>

U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence; Strategies for Action (May, 2023)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/National-Plan-to-End-GBV.pdf>



**Advocacy Resources**

Zonta International – Our Causes – Zonta Says NO – Take Action – Advocacy Tools (or PR Tools)

 Walk through on how to do Advocacy

 Template for Advocacy Action Plan

Zonta USA Caucus <https://zontausa.org/about-zonta/usa-caucus/>