

NEWS BRIEFS NOW-NJ

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER
National Organization for Women
New Jersey Chapter
AUTUMN 2009



Why Women Should Support Single Payer Health Care Insurance

By *Maretta J. Short*

Have you ever wondered why women need a National Health Care System? Retrospectively, the concept of a National Universal Single Payer Health Care System grew out of the second wave "Women's Liberation Movement" during the 1960's in Gainesville Florida. A Women's Liberation Class was held, and the idea of National Health Care was adopted by Gainesville Florida NOW, and Campus NOW. These activist students and women decided that every woman should have single payer health care because of the discrimination women are faced with in the health care industry. They summated that without health care insurance women could not be free and have full equality with men. They wanted women to have health care insurance that would not discriminate against them regardless of their marital status, employment status, or age.

It's rather ironic, that women and students began the idea of health care reform during the women's movement, and that during this time when the issue of health care reform is politically prevalent on a national level, they have been kept out of the debate. Women constitute 51% of the voting population but the Single payer health care bill and reproductive health care is being swept under the rug by our political representatives and the insurance industry.

First of all, 44.8 million United States citizens are uninsured. Both women and men need health insurance no matter how healthy they might be. The consequences of not having it has proven to be deadly. According to Urban Institute findings based on Institute of Medicine methodology, 137,000 people died in the U.S. from 2000 to 2006 from a lack of health insurance. To put this in perspective, that is over 28 times the number of U.S. soldiers who've died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and 23,702 more than the number of U.S. residents murdered during those same six years.

The reason NOW-NJ believes single payer health care insurance is best for women is because the present insurance system in the United States discriminates against them and there is no other proposed bill that will reduce the disparities in health care for women, people of color, and our young adults. There are too many women and their families without access to health care, particularly women

of color. According to the National Council for Research on Women, among all women, Latinas are most likely to be uninsured (38 percent) followed by black women (17 percent) compared with 13 percent of white women. 50 percent of uninsured women have dependent children and half of them (54 percent) are employed.

In 2007, more than three of five adult women under age 65 reported a problem paying medical bills and lack of access to health care because of the cost. If things were that bad for us back then we can imagine what it must be like today with the current economic crisis. Women earn 76 cents to every one dollar a man earns. But their insurance is more costly because of their biological ability to reproduce. Under our health care system today the insurance companies refuse insurance to women or increase their premiums because of pre-existing conditions such as domestic violence, breast cancer, and c-section births. New Jersey hospitals have been ranked with the largest rate of c-section births in the nation.

Most individual health insurance markets don't cover maternity care. The Kaiser Family Foundation reports that only 14 states have a requirement for such coverage; and the number of plans without maternity coverage continues to rise. About 40 percent of all women are employed full-time, whereas more than half, or about 60 percent of men, are employed full-time. Additionally, many of those women working full-time are employed by small companies that do not provide health insurance.

Feminist have spent decades trying to get men to share house work, universal child care, for equal pay, and today all women should put single payer health care insurance high on their agenda too. Women perform most of the care giving work for their parents, their husbands' parents, and their children. They work part time hours and are dependant on their husbands for healthcare insurance. Recently, I spoke with a woman who said that her husband wanted a divorce but she could not give it to him because she did not have medical insurance. She had recently fallen down a flight of stairs, and broken her leg.

It's important for our young college students to be involved in the Health Care Reform debate. Women and young college students helped balance the scale for our newly elected President, Barack Obama during

the presidential elections, but they do not have a seat at the table during health care reform debates. Young women especially have a claim in this because they are of child bearing age. President Obama recently declared that the public option component of his bill will not pay for abortion for American and immigrant women because of former President George Bush's Hyde Amendment.

The 2008 Democratic platform affirmed that the party strongly and unequivocally supports Roe v. Wade and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion regardless of ability to pay and we oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine the right." Healthcare reform should extend to one of the most common surgical procedures and should cover the women who need it most.

Previously, Obama dropped the ball on the Medicaid Family Planning portion of the \$800 billion stimulus package. He promised women that he would make up for it in his health care reform bill. Women and girls should expect for him to stand up for reproductive justice, because repealing reproductive rights for women will hurt young low income women of color the most, and we want to ensure a safe feminist future for all women and girls.

It's important for our women of child bearing age to have a seat at the table for health care reform and to advocate for single payer health care insurance. Most college aged young adults work part time, their jobs do not offer health insurance, and they rely on their parents health care insurance until they reach age limits of 19. Young adults aged 19 to 29 make up nearly one-third of the uninsured population and have the highest uninsured rate of any age group. Thirty percent of young adults do not have health insurance, compared with 17 percent of older adults (those aged 30-64).

The bottom line is that women must support a single payer health care system because they need guaranteed quality health care and not corporate insurance. One that will provide Doctor visits, hospitalization, and access to specialists; dental, vision, and



NOW-NJ President Maretta J. Short
addressing Single-Payer Regional Conference

mental health services; prescription drugs and medical supplies; quality nursing home and long-term care; and occupational health, preventative, and rehabilitative services.

Our sisters both old and young should advocate for a single payer health insurance plan that they will not loose because they loose their jobs, spouses, or because they are not married. We need a national health system that is much fairer to women and covers everyone. Everybody in, nobody out! We want a health care insurance plan that will stick with us from cradle to grave. We want H.R. 676 single payer health care insurance.

Most of our state and United States Congressional representatives continue to take for granted the support of women, people of color, the poor, and our young voters just to pander to the rich and the reactionary - we should not give up. Instead we should hold their feet to the fire by calling our state representatives and our United States Congressional representatives offices to let them know that we want them to support single payer health reform bill H.R. 676.

Women should support Single Payer National Healthcare. Without it they can not be free or gain full equality with men until they do. ###

NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE EFFECTIVENESS

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

**The Importance of
Healthcare for Women**

Single-Payer Conference

**Health Plan
Comparisons**

The Healthcare Dispute

Lost National Warriors

NOW-NJ Actions

**Pregnant
Woman Shackled**

High School Bullying

*

An Unsung Woman

**NOW-NJ PAC
Endorsements**



Congressman John Conyers
(D) Michigan

*Rep. Conyers was the
guest speaker at the
Single-Payer Regional
Conference held in
Princeton, NJ*

What YOU Can Do * Take Action! *

Contact the Legislators representing the districts you live and work in. Call them. Send an Email. All of them have websites that allow you to correspond with them. *Write and Mail* a letter sharing your own medical and insurance dilemmas; or the experiences of others that you know of.

Educate yourself on the differences between Health Plans. Share your knowledge. Stay updated by checking the following websites for background and developments on the Single-Payer

Health Plan: (1) www.njoneplan.org;
(2) www.healthcare-now.org; and
(3) www.pnhp.org. These organizations lead the fight for Single-Payer recognition in the current health care debates.

Ask yourself and others if it's really such a horrible thing that every person - from the poorest to the richest - be acknowledged as worthy to have access to equitable medical services. (rh)



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Health Care Reform: A National Battleground

On the New Jersey Home Front for H.R. 676

During this past year the nation has been inundated with the economic and healthcare crises. Factually, poor and middle-class people have lived with these two issues for decades. They are inseparable components of one equation when considering solutions. The 'Single Payer' House of Representatives Bill - 676 was authored by doctors who founded the non-profit organization, **Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP)**. Their remedy for existing medical services and costs that our nation's families face was introduced to Congress and sponsored by Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-Michigan).

The **New Jersey: One Plan, One Nation Coalition** is the umbrella for over 25 non-profit activist, faith-based, community-based, political, professional, and labor-union organizations throughout the State to operate under. It was formed to foster awareness and support of H.R. 676 as the best plan for the nation's health care. **NOW-NJ** is a member of the Coalition and our president, Maretta Short, serves on its steering committee.

The Coalition and **The Presbyterian Church (USA)** co-hosted a Single-Payer Healthcare Regional Conference that featured Rep. Conyers as guest speaker on May 31, 2009 at the Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. **NOW's** VP-Membership, Rosemary Hardison, served as project coordinator on the conference planning committee.

The event was packed by concerned citizens, community leaders, medical students, physicians, educators, union members, politicians, and more. Among the speakers of the day was Maretta Short, who sat on a panel from where both she and Larry Hamm, Chair - People's Organization for Progress (POP), gave motivation-to-

action speeches. Also from the panel came remarks of personal health crisis from citizen Linda Hardwick and Ravi Gupta, CEO-Peace in Our Hands.

Conyers travels nationally to address conferences and town hall meetings on H.R. 676. His comments here included a scenario of the underlying disputes on Capitol Hill between the people's interests and those of pharmaceutical and insurance industry capitalism. The Single-Payer plan has been routinely blocked during healthcare debates. Conyers assured the crowd that his and other supporters, as well as continued public actions, are the key to being heard. He shared that President Obama originally took a public stand for a single payer plan but has amended his actions on the grounds that such a plan could only be implemented if no health insurance currently existed at all. Conyers vows to continue leading the fight to reveal the truth of need and feasibility for the H.R. 676 Single-Payer Plan. He answered audience questions during his speech and also, took time to do so afterwards.

Speakers throughout the day provided information and statistics about the failings of our current system. Data that **Healthcare-NOW!** provided shows that with a National Single-Payer Healthcare Plan, NJ State would save: \$1.7 Billion on employee health benefits, \$0.8 Billion on charity care, \$30 Million on worker compensation costs -- totaling **\$2.5 Billion per year**; NJ's unfunded post-retirement health benefits obligation would disappear - creating **\$58 Billion Less Debt**. Example of NJ's local government's annual savings: Trenton -- \$18.2 Million, Camden -- \$17 Million, and Cape May County -- \$16.5 Million. # (RH)



Conference Constituent Panel (l to r): Linda Hardwick, Michael Paluszek, Ravi Gupta, Maretta Short, and Larry Hamm
 Photos Below shows the crowd that turned out.



Congressman John Conyers hears personal concerns of conference goers after his speech.

The "Public Option" Fails as Health Politics:

| | <u>Single Payer</u> | <u>"Public Option"</u> |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Number Insured | Sustainability | Millions remain uninsured or underinsured. |
| Coverage | Coverage for all medically necessary services. | Insurers continue to strip-down policies and increase patients' co-payments and deductibles. |
| Cost | Redirects \$350 billion in administrative waste to care; no net increase in health spending. | Increases health spending more than \$1 trillion over 10 years. |
| Savings | \$350 billion in administrative waste. Further systemic savings achieved through negotiated fee schedule with physicians, global budgeting of hospitals, bulk purchasing of pharmaceuticals, rational planning of capital expenditures, etc. | Adds further layers of administrative bloat to our health system through the introduction of a regulator / broker "exchange." |
| Sustainability | Large scale cost controls (global budgeting, Capital planning, etc.) ensure that benefits are sustainable over the long term. | Uncontrolled costs ensure that any gains in coverage are quickly erased as government is forced to hike |

HR 676 United States National Health Care Act Compared to Healthcare for America Now (HCAN)

| | <u>Single-Payer HR 676</u> | <u>HCAN</u> |
|----------------------|--|--|
| General | No private insurance option for basic health care. Government funded public health insurance with health services performed by private, non-profit providers who will remain independent from the government. | Private, for profit insurance, hospitals and medical services remain. Public health insurance is an option. |
| Affordability | 95% of American families will pay less than they pay now with no co-pays or deductibles. No corporate profit from basic health care saving 30% now spent on profit administration and marketing (\$400 Billion). | Affordable coverage based on a family's "ability to pay." For profit insurance and medical services still exist. |
| Accessibility | Guaranteed comprehensive coverage for every U.S. resident, cradle to grave. | Many will be without adequate coverage because "affordable" may mean very limited coverage. |
| Cost Controls | Government control on costs via contracts with private, non-profit providers and hospital budget review. All private providers will negotiate rates with same single public agency. | Depends on government's ability to regulate private insurance. |
| Quality | Only doctor and patient determine Treatment. No interference by an HMO insurance company or the government. Coverage for all necessary care. | Insurance companies still involved in approving treatment. |
| Equality | Same comprehensive coverage for Everyone regardless of age, income, health status employment, or race. | Most comprehensive coverage to those with ability to pay |
| Feasibility | No more "infeasible" than the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, or the Civil Rights Act of 1964 were in their time. Polls show that 60% of Americans and 59% of physicians prefer a program similar to Medicare that covers everyone. | Powerful insurance companies will use their influence to stay |

Sorting Out the Health Care Reform Dispute

By Rosemary Hardison

"Universal Health Care", "Public Option", "HCAN", "Single-Payer Bills - S703 and H.R. 676" are names of the battlegrounds where Health Care Reform is fought. Undoubtedly, our legislators, as well as the corporations that profit from medical care, know full well the differences between each; the potential financial impact upon the profiteers; and how each will or will not serve the people. The American public, on the other hand, is living in ever-elevating anxiety over the matter -- largely because of a lack of full knowledge of how each proposed plan affects them and their families.

The comparison chart shown on page 2 is by Nick Scala for PNHP. The chart above is from Healthcare-NOW! [Study them.](#) Both show that the single-payer model is most beneficial. Polling research indicates that two-thirds of the nation prefer "single-payer" universal health coverage. It appears that President Obama, acting in the 'good faith' of bi-partisanship, compromised his vision (a vision that matched the grassroots majority's single-payer choice) for the "public option" model. Medical care profiteers have stood ready from

the outset with a testicular-vise-grip -- not only for President Obama but also for legislators and any of the general public opposing their interests.

Clearly, Republican Party members never intended bi-partisan consideration of the needs and rights of the people in this matter. Recent testimonies of corporate health insurance executives in Congressional hearings revealed, in much the same way that Wall Street executives were exposed, that their salaries and bonuses outweigh the services that are supposed to be provided to the public. People suffer and, indeed, die needlessly in the face of inequitable healthcare policies as a result of the greedy, corrupt practices of an elite few who stand on their right to capitalistic ventures. Predatory venturers within the industries of pharmaceuticals, finance, and now insurance, can be added to the same list that contains the prison complex industry as shameful purveyors who target human beings as commodities for the stock exchange.

The 'Conservative Right' makes much of morality. Our current health care industry illustrates immoral negligence and the outright hypocrisy of

their stand on the value of human life. One key to sorting out the health care reform dispute is a true understanding of word meanings. Dictionaries define Conservatism as (1) reluctance to accept change; unwillingness or slowness to accept change or new ideas (2) right-wing political viewpoint: a right-of-center political philosophy based on a tendency to support gradual rather than abrupt change and to preserve the status quo; and (3) desire to preserve current societal structure: an ideology that views the existing form of society as worthy of preservation.

Probably, the understanding of 'political' conservatism is confused with another meaning: *conventional in appearance; conventional or restrained in style and avoiding showiness; 'a conservative suit.'*

Embracing the 'platform for change' flies fast and hard into the face of political conservatism. That they undermine universal, equitable healthcare as "socialism" is an ignorant residual ploy from the presidential campaign -- planted with the intent to incite fear and to block inevitable exposure and comeuppance for those who've profited most from unregulated capitalism. Ultimately, the call of equitable healthcare aspires to true democracy. **Single-payer is of, by and for the people. Take a stand for it. #**

Remembering Lost Warriors on the National Front

NOW-NJ extends heartfelt condolences on behalf of its' membership to **Healthcare-NOW!** and **Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP)**. Each faced the loss of a vital staff member in August 2009. Our hearts also extend to the families of these two selflessly, diligent warriors. We acknowledge with the greatest respect their dedication and huge accomplishments in 'working for the common good.' The lights of these shining stars, through their individual but concerted influences, remain as guideposts for anyone asking, "Why am I here?"



Marylyn Clement

The founder and National coordinator of **Healthcare-NOW!** passed away from cancer on August 3rd at age 74. She dedicated her life and work to social justice and healthcare reform. This humble Texas native and daughter of sharecroppers began her career of social activism in the 60's with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Atlanta. She proudly worked directly with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1968, she and her family moved to Queens, NY where she served as the Associate Director of The Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) from 1968-1975. Some of her life achievements are:

Executive Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) from 1976-1989; helped found the Anti-Klan Network; formed Healthcare: We Gotta Have It (1992-1994) which was the forerunner of Healthcare-NOW; headed the (U.S. section) Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF); helped organize the 1995 WILPF Peace Train to the IV International Women's Congress in Beijing; and until her death, worked closely with Congressman Conyers to build the national universal health care movement.

Nicholas Skala

This 27 year old third-year law student and researcher for **PNHP** passed away in his sleep of unknown causes on August 9th in his Chicago home. He'd worked in Washington, DC over the summer in the House Judiciary for John Conyers and was looking forward to working in the PNHP Chicago office before returning to classes. His youth may have disarmed others who witnessed



his broad knowledge of 'single-payer reform policy, economics, taxation, and other legal issues.' He helped write the Illinois single-payer legislation before he was 25 years old. He was passionate in his advocacy for single-payer national health insurance; for health care being a human right; and about personally making changes in the world for the better. His passion for humanity is the inspirational legacy he leaves for all of us.

#RH

H.R. 676 and Senate Bill S703

The "American Health Security Act", Bill S703, a comprehensive single-payer bill, was submitted to the Senate by Senator Sanders (VT). The organizations that NOW-NJ works with, PNHP and Healthcare-NOW say it's close enough to HR676 to support it. Both are publicly funded.

Some Features of Senate Bill 703

It is federally funded but State Administered.

Eliminates insurance company overhead and profit.

Saves \$400 Billion annually to afford care for all.

Provides fully funded community health centers.

Provides resources to train 24,000 health professionals.

Visit the website www.PNHP.org to view a full comparison chart, updates, and complete details of the two bills that benefit us most.

Now's The Time!
GET INVOLVED



JOIN NOW
www.nownj.org

NOW-NJ TAKES ACTION

2008 NOW-NJ State Conference



Pictured center is Guest Speaker Fran Luck, WBAI-FM Radio Host left & right are Presenters who brought valuable information to Financial & Investment Planning Workshops

The 2008 NOW-NJ Annual State Conference was held at the New Brunswick Campus of Rutgers University on November 8th. The conference theme was “*Strategizing for Economic Justice.*” The 2009-2011 slate of state officers was elected.

Due to the current national economic climate, we regret that No State Conference will be held in 2009.

April 27, 2009 Family Court Protest



NOW-NJ, Stop Family Violence and Voices of Women joined with others in front of the Essex County Family Courthouse on Washington Street in Newark, NJ to protest **Judge James B. Convery** and his treatment of a mother who was trying to protect her children. Susan Miller, the mother of two girls in this case, said that Convery ‘demonstrated bias and discrimination against her and her children when he ruled to, not only -- eliminate all evidence of child sexual abuse and domestic violence -- but, even declared they had not occurred. 6 child abuse experts in the case had concluded the children were abused. Another expert found the mother was a victim of domestic violence. Despite expert consensus that

Miller is a ‘good loving parent; the primary attachment figure for her daughters and did not engage in any coaching or fabrication of the allegations, the judge contended that she was trying to “alienate” the children from their father

This protest targeted one judge who has a documented history of ethics violations. It was also meant to bring attention to an alarming pattern of bias in family courts that places women and children in further danger of more hurt - or death.

In the photo below, NOW-NJ president, **Maretta Short** speaks on behalf of several mothers who were present but in fear of retaliation in their own child custody cases if they spoke out.

In August, Susan lost custody of her two girls. She was utterly horrified and devastated. Also, it was frightening and discouraging to other mothers who attended the rally to protect their children. Short was quoted in the *Star Ledger* as saying, “A mother’s basic instinct is to protect her children. They should not be punished for doing so.”

Susan has filed an appeal to

May 12, 2009 Governor’s Conference for Women



regain custody of her children.

NOW-NJ was once again one of the many exhibitors at the annual Governor’s Conference for Women. **VP Stacey Gregg, VP Rosemary Hardison, and President Maretta Short** anchored the exhibit. Gregg and Short briefed the steady stream who stopped at our table on some of the issues that our state and local chapters act on; sold NOW paraphernalia; and signed up over 30 new members. Hardison diffused information on single-payer healthcare; why it should be supported; and took signatures pledging action for that movement. Notably, a number of college students and women from other organizations purchased NOW Rounds. One even bought a worn sign at a discount when it was the only one of its’ kind left. *Kudos to Stacey for the excellent design of the NOW Exhibit!*

The highlight of the day for everyone was the afternoon

luncheon with **Keynote Speaker Maya Angelou**. She proudly announced she’d be turning age 82 this year and then embraced all of us with her presentation as if we were her own daughters, granddaughters, and girlfriends ‘kicking back at lunch.’

Dr. Angelou illustrated through her comments the importance of women not “whining” about life but rather, standing up for ourselves. She spoke of not making ourselves targets for abuse; why and how we must uplift each other as women; and that if and when our spirits are down, sometimes a simple “hello” or a “girl, you look good today” goes a long way in boosting another of us to ‘keep-on keeping-on’.

Coincidentally to Angelou’s goading to “stop whining”, the NOW table had a “**No Whining**” pin that promptly

Supporting Immigrant Children’s Rights September 15, 2009



Source: the Morristown Daily Record

sold-out after lunch! **#RH Susan Waldman, VP Fundraising of Morris County NOW** was front and center for us when she learned that **New Jersey Advocates for Immigrant and Detainee Rights** made Morristown’s, St. Margaret’s Church one of the 10 statewide sites holding a vigil on September 15th. The action was in support of children whose parents may face deportation after immigration raids or when reaching out for emergency services; and of the “**Child Citizen Protection Act**” a.k.a. **H.R. 182**, which if passed would allow a judge in a deportation case to consider what harm separation from the parents could cause a child ‘citizen-by-birth’ because of the parents’ immigrant status. **#RH**

July 30, 2009 Washington, DC Medicare’s 44th Birthday



Above left, NOW-NJ, Newark students, and POP members rest after rallying in 90° weather. Above right, young activists-in-training - a student from West Side High School (Newark) with **Kyle Gregg**, Morris County. Below left **Rosemary Lontka**, Morris County NOW marches up Capitol Hill with students to meet with Senator Lautenberg’s aid about single-payer health care (on right).



Incarcerated Pregnant Woman Shackled

By Lynn M. Paltrow, Executive Director, National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW)

On Friday, October 2, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit issued the long-awaited decision in the Arkansas case of *Nelson v. Norris*. In this case, Shawanna Nelson argued that being forced to go through the final stages of labor with both legs shackled to her hospital bed was cruel and unusual punishment, in violation of the 8th Amendment to the Constitution. She argued that she should be allowed to sue the director of the prison and the guard who repeatedly re-shackled her legs to the bed. Ms. Nelson, an African-American woman, was incarcerated for non-violent offenses of credit card fraud and "hot checks."

In this historic federal court decision, the Court held that the guard was not immune from suit because it has been clearly established by the decisions of the Supreme Court and the lower federal courts that shackling pregnant women in labor violates that 8th Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. The Court suggested that the corrections officers should have known that the medical risks of shackling were "obvious" and that "the shackles interfered with Nelson's medical care, could be an obstacle in the event of a medical emergency, and caused unnecessary suffering at a time when Nelson would have likely been physically unable to flee because of the pain she was undergoing and the powerful contractions she was experiencing as her body worked to give birth."

Ms. Nelson originally filed this case in 2004. As the case

progressed through the courts, she seemed to be losing. In 2008, three judges on the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that she had no right to sue. Recognizing the harm this decision would do, her counsel reached out to national advocacy groups for help in an effort to petition the court for rehearing. The ACLU Prison Project became counsel in the case, and NAPW was asked to write an amicus – friend of the court brief. Although NAPW does not specialize in prison issues, we are recognized for our commitment to pregnant women and our extraordinary ability to mobilize leading public health and advocacy groups. With allies at the Rebecca Project for Human Rights and the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI), we were able to identify more than 35 organizations that wanted to be represented as amicus in this case.* (Several additional groups wanted to join but were unable to respond in the very short time frame for filing.)

In a brief filed with the Kester Law Firm in Arkansas, amici articulated both constitutional and international human rights arguments in support of the re-hearing and against the degrading and cruel practice of keeping pregnant women in labor in shackles. We did all this in less than a week.

This effort succeeded, garnering a decision by the court to re-hear the case en banc (with full court review). In any year, fewer than 100 cases in the entire federal system are granted rehearing with en banc review. This was a strong initial

indication that our brief had made a difference. Not only that, but at oral argument one of the judges specifically referred to our brief, asking: "Based on the amicus submission filed in support of the petition for rehearing, wasn't Arkansas an outlier in the world's community in terms of treatment of pregnant prisoners?" Our answer is yes, and the Court of Appeals decision this Friday agreed.

That this decision is "historic," and that five of the eleven circuit court judges dissented, makes clear both how far we have come and how far we still have to go to ensure the civil and human rights of all pregnant women (the dissent in court's opinion saw no "clearly established" constitutional violations in shackling Ms. Nelson during labor.)

Congratulations to Ms. Nelson, her counsel, and all of the groups who sought reproductive justice and won in this case! This victory makes clear that with persistence we can win.

* NOW-NJ is one of the supporting organizations.

"During 2009 statewide hearings were held and chaired by Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman with other District Leaders on the conditions of New Jersey's Corrections Facilities.

I testified on behalf of incarcerated pregnant women who were being placed in shackles while in labor. Maybe this case will set a precedence to bring about change for incarcerated women in New Jersey." Mareta Short



WIN A \$1000 GIFT CARD TO SPEND ON A DREAM VACATION



Dear Now-NJ Member,

Please help us to continue the good work we've been doing in New Jersey.

Support Our Annual Raffle

- First Prize - \$1,000 VISA gift card.
- Second Prize: \$250 VISA gift card.

Raffle Drawing to be held on **March 30, 2010** at 2:00P.M. at the NOW-NJ State Office.

Use your VISA gift card for that dream vacation, that new appliance, a large screen TV, or whatever your heart desires. VISA gift cards can be used for retail purchases wherever VISA debit cards are accepted!

We've sent you a booklet of 10 tickets for \$2.00 each. We hope you'll purchase the entire booklet and send us a check for \$20.00 made out to NOW-NJ. Please send your raffle stubs & check payment in the envelope provided by **March 29, 2010**.

Proceeds from our fundraisers benefit our educational programs and allow us to be the voice of women in Trenton - our State Capital.

Best of Luck, and as always, Thank you for your continued support. It means a lot to us.

For Equality,
Mareta Short, President
Linda Fell-Peterson, Coordinator

Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of the State of NJ by calling 973-504-6215. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement.

Membership Application

National Organization for Women of New Jersey

Make Checks Payable to NOW-NJ

Mail To: 110 West State Street Trenton, NJ 08608

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____ Chapter Selection: _____

Membership Option: All charter members are invited to affiliate with a chapter. This means you will receive more information about local events, politics, actions and issues. A portion of your membership dues will be allocated to that local chapter for local organizing. You may also join without chapter affiliation and be designated with an At-Large Membership status.

NOW-NJ practices sensitivity in determining membership dues with a sliding scale from \$10 to \$35. Contact us for info.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Activist Donor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Standard Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Visionary Donor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$65 Two Year Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Sliding Scale/Other \$ _____ |

Payment Method: Check Money Order Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

To complete a membership application online and for more information about membership go to:
www.nownj.org

NOW-NJ is a 501c4 non-profit, tax exempt organization. Membership fees are not tax deductible because of our grassroots lobbying work.

SAY IT, SISTER!

NOW's Blog for Equality



National NOW Announces

New Action Oriented Blog

Say It, Sister! is a place where NOW leaders speak their minds, discuss feminist issues and call women to action. All posts and comments reflect the individual views of their authors, and should not be construed as positions taken by NOW. The new Blog is designed to inform, inspire and instigate feminist activism.

www.now.org/blog

(WIN-NJ)

Women's Information Network of New Jersey

WIN-NJ is an Alice Paul Institute (API) project made possible through a grant from the Women's Agenda of New Jersey to help promote and facilitate effective communication within the women's organizational community. WIN-NJ provides an online database of women's organizations that deal with issues of women's social, political, economic, educational, and legal advancement.

www.alicepaul.org

POLITICS

2009 NOW-NJ PAC
Endorsements

The NOW-NJ Political Action Committee (PAC) has interviewed and recommends the candidates shown here who are running for the **New Jersey State Assembly** in the November 3, 2009 elections.

John Burzichelli
District 3

Rebekah Conroy
District 25

Louis Greenwald
District 6

Wendy Wright
District 25

Pamela Lampitt
District 6

Douglas Herbert
District 26

Debbie Sarcone
District 8

Mila Jasey
District 27

Bonnie Watson-Coleman
District 15

Sheila Oliver
District 34

Reed Gusciora
District 15

Elease Evans
District 35

Roberta Karpinecz
District 16

Valerie Huttle
District 37

Linda Stender
District 22

Gordon Johnson
District 37

Gubernatorial Endorsement

Jon Corzine - Governor
Loretta Weinberg - Lieutenant Governor

Paid for by NOW-NJ Political Action Committee

through demonstration and mobilization of feminists from across the country, and I'm certain that rallies and awareness campaigns will continue to be a critical tool for NOW. However, I think it's equally important to have a place for women in the political arena. This way, as activists, we are not always trying to convince others to support our goals, but, as women, we are a critical part of the decision-making process ourselves.

Changing the Political Landscape with Women: What is the single best way to see more women in office? Get more women to run! Whether it is a result of self-doubt, fear of fundraising, or perceived lack of experience, women do not run for office nearly as frequently as men. And because fewer women run at the local level, there are fewer women in the so-called political pipeline. With fewer women mayors, there are fewer women state senators and fewer candidates for governor, and as such many fewer female candidates for President.

One way to secure a future for women in politics is to encourage more women to run at the local level and support our local women candidates.

The Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers' Eagleton Institute provides a wonderful program, "Ready to Run," which offers workshops and speakers to train women on the fundamentals of running a political campaign. It is an irreplaceable tool and forum for networking with other women leaders. I've attended twice and would recommend it to anyone who would either like to be elected or would like to see more women elected.

This year, I plan to do my part to see more women elected locally – by tirelessly campaigning for myself and by recruiting more of our Parsippany Young Democrats women to run, too. What will you do to help secure the place of women in government?

What do the following countries all have in common??

Finland, Indonesia, Ireland, Latvia, Panama, the Philippines, Sri Lanka; Bangladesh, Britain, Finland, New Zealand, Peru, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Gambia, Palau, Taiwan, the Bahamas, Canada, and New Zealand.

They've all elected a woman to national office. The United States is still missing from this list, even after 80 years since women fought to gain the right to vote.

For more information about the Center for American Women and Politics, visit www.cawp.rutgers.edu.

For more information about Catanzaro's campaign, visit

Florence Spearing
Randolph
(1866-1951)

By Rosemary Hardison



www.voteforparsippany.com

"Unsung heroine", Reverend Dr. Florence Spearing Randolph was a champion for racial equality, Christian endeavors, and the **Woman's Suffrage Movement**. She was the organizer and pastor (1925-1946) of **Wallace Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Summit, NJ**. The **Alice Paul Institute** and the **New Jersey Historic Preservation Office** listed Wallace Chapel in the first edition of the *New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail* in 2004. It became the first, Union County, African-American historic structure to be placed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places in 2007.

Florence was born in Charleston, SC; attended public schools there, and graduated from the Avery Normal Institute. In 1885, she moved north, married Hugh Randolph, and set up a dressmaking business in their Jersey City home. They had one child before he died in 1913.

Her accomplishments include: She was licensed to preach in 1897; appointed to the 1901 Third Methodist Ecumenical Conference in London; organized and elected President of the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs (NJFCWC) in 1915 - one of the state's most powerful civil rights groups that, for one, lobbied for laws to abolish real estate practices that redlined African-Americans and Jews; Executive Committee member of the New Jersey Suffrage Association; President of the Missionary Society of New Jersey; influential in the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920; the first African-American woman to enroll at Drew University which today offers a scholarship in her name; and invited to assist in Warren G. Harding's 1920 presidential campaign. After four other pastorships, in 1925 she became pastor of Wallace Chapel which, then, met at the YMCA. They purchased a duplex home, reconstructed it, and it remains today at Orchard and Broad Street in Summit - a testament to her leadership.

As a Summit native with a maternal and paternal extended family (*dating back to great-grandparents*) that fellowshiped in services of worship, marriages and funerals over the years at Wallace Chapel -- I am most honored to list Reverend Randolph's accomplishments here.

Bullying and
Hazing High
School Girls

The Op-Ed below was submitted to the "Newark Star Ledger" by NOW-NJ President Maretta J. Short.

Recent reports of hazing and bullying of female students in Millburn High School have caused an uproar among parents, and rightfully so.

The National Organization for Women of New Jersey considers bullying a dangerous and damaging manifestation of sexism, heterosexism and racism. In addition, bullying among children can ultimately spread into our communities as gang violence. It's up to our elected and school officials to recognize the urgency in creating environments that discourage bullying, and implementing policies and programs to prevent bullying.

Unfortunately, awareness of bullying, particularly bullying that involves sexual harassment, is not a top priority for many leaders. For example, in April, NOW-NJ and a number of other organizations sent a letter to Newark Mayor Cory Booker calling his attention to one of the city's newly renovated parks named, "Boys Park."

Although the name "Boys' Park" may have historic roots, it sends a message of exclusion and discrimination that is simply unacceptable in today's society. Just as the city would not identify a park by race or religion (e.g. "Whites' Park" or "Christians' Park") it should not do so by gender. Imagine what girls in the neighborhood must think of themselves, their community, and the world when the name of their local park specifies that such a lovely public space isn't for them.

It's quite possible that some children who may not be aware of their rights in public spaces, may take the name at face value. This could provide some boys with a false sense of entitlement and provoke them to exclude girls (and perhaps other boys) by harassment, intimidation or bullying. Not only would this undermine the purpose of the park, but it would create the potential for a discrimination lawsuit against the City.

Parks and public spaces are integral parts of communities and provide benefits beyond mere recreation. They can create community cohesion and give a place a sense of identity. We hoped that the Mayor and the city would be willing to ensure that the Central Ward be a place where girls are treated equally and could aspire to the same goals as boys. Unfortunately, in the case of our outreach about "Boys' Park," we received no action or response.

Bullying starts at an early age and it elevates into our communities and even into the workplace. Bullying can extend into our communities in the form of gang violence. It's about time that Mayor Booker recognizes that addressing bullying is an urgent matter that deserves his attention. Renaming "Boys' Park" is a small and simple step. But moreover, it's time for Newark to initiate prevention programs in our schools, libraries, churches, barber shops, and hair salons to put a stop to bullying among Newark's most precious resource - its young people.

Catanzaro Seeks Council Seat

NOW-NJ can not endorse local government candidates but *We Can Congratulate* Executive Board Member and President of **Morris County NOW**, **Annelise Catanzaro**, who is seeking a **City Council** seat in **Parsippany, NJ** - her hometown. Copied here is an article that she wrote for the Morris County newsletter.

high school students, I was secretly disappointed since there were no young women who even nominated themselves to run in the election. Then, after a bit of reflection, I realized how closely this student organization represented our government here at the local, state and national level.

I am currently running for local Township Council in Parsippany, and if I win this November, I will only be the fourth Councilwoman ever elected. Looking at our grim statistics statewide, though New Jersey claims to be a progressive state, we've had only one woman elected statewide - Republican Governor Christie Todd Whitman, and we still have yet to elect a female Senator. As a nation, we have still not elected a woman candidate.

Some people point out the past presidential election with Sen. Hillary Clinton and former Gov. Sarah Palin, and say that we've equaled the playing field, but I disagree. Look back over the past 25 years - the only other woman who's had a shot at winning the White House was Geraldine Ferraro in 1984! There is still a long road ahead that women need to travel before we have reached political equality.

NOW has a long history of affecting law and policy

**Feminist Voice**

By Annelise Catanzaro

Recently, a newly formed group, the Parsippany Young Democrats, held their second official election. After their formation in January of this year, I am proud to say that we had our first young woman elected to the executive board. At their first election, even though the group was filled with ambitious, bright, young

Become A NOW Member



We Need YOU To Do Your Part!

To Re-Educate Hospitals And Care Providers
 To Stop The Unnecessary And Dangerous Cutting Of Women In Childbirth
 To Make Sure There Are Better Maternity Practices For All Women In Labor
 → Go To www.njmaternitycare.com For Your Local NJ Hospital's Cesarean and Episiotomy Rates



Please Share This Information With Women And Support Our Campaign!

Did You Know ???

... the United States ranks behind at least 40 other nations in maternal mortality rates according to the World Health Organization. In 2005, the United States reported 15.1 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, up from 7.5 per 100,000 in 1982?

...that black women in the United States have 4 times the risk of dying from childbirth or childbirth related complications? Hispanic women in the United States, similarly, are 1.6 times more likely than non-Hispanic white women to die from pregnancy-related causes?

... the Centers for Disease Control estimated in 1998 that the US maternal death rate is actually 1.3 to three times that reported in vital statistics records because of underreporting of such deaths? (1)

... that reporting of maternal deaths in the United States is done via an honor system. There are no statutes providing for penalties for misreporting or failing to report maternal deaths?

... the Centers for Disease Control estimates that more than half of the reported maternal deaths in the United States could have been prevented by early diagnosis and treatment? (1)

...that in 2003 our NOW NJ State Board passed a resolution regarding what was back then called a Cesarean Rate Crisis?

... the statistics are WORSE than ever at this point in time (Oct. 2009) in NJ we are shamefully even further away from the World Health Organization and Healthy People 2010 Optimum Cesarean Rate goals than when they were originally set?

... some NJ hospitals are cutting more than half of all the pregnant women that come through their doors?

... several of the hospitals and one birth center with the best statistics for good maternity care were actually recently closed in NJ?

Notes: 1. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, September 4, 1998, Vol. 47, No. 34. <http://rememberthemothers.net/Fact%20Sheet%202005.pdf>

2003 NOW New Jersey State Conference Resolution: New Jersey Cesarean Rate Crisis

WHEREAS, we are now in a crisis situation with more Cesarean Sections being performed than at any other time in U.S. recorded history; and **WHEREAS**, in New Jersey, the rate of Cesarean Section, 30.9%, far exceeds the national average of, 26.1%, a rate which itself is unacceptably high; and **WHEREAS**, more women than ever are at a higher risk for surgical complications and death in childbirth because of the rising number of unnecessary Cesareans performed; and **WHEREAS**, as many as half of all cesareans performed in the U.S. are unnecessary according to the World Health Organization (WHO); and **WHEREAS**, evidence-based medical practices are not being followed to protect the health of women and infants during childbirth; and **WHEREAS**, existing medical associations, hospitals and political policies are not protecting women in childbirth; and **WHEREAS**, The National Organization for Women (NOW) values and supports women's lives; and **WHEREAS**, NOW passed a resolution in 1999 Expanding Reproductive freedom to include the Midwifery Model of care, which follows the World Health Organization's recommendations that the cesarean rate be no higher than 10-15% in any region; and **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NOW NJ educates its members about the cesarean rate crisis; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOW NJ will join with other concerned organizations in lobbying for a government commission to address this crisis and to monitor cesarean rates at each NJ birthing facility on a monthly basis and to publicize their findings each month; and **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOW should work in cooperation with state and national organizations for better Maternity Practices to protect women's reproductive rights based upon the WHO recommended Cesarean rate of 10-15%.

1999 Resolution passed by the NOW National Board:

Expansion Of Reproductive Freedom To Include The Midwifery Model Of Care

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW) has long supported reproductive freedom as a priority issue; and **WHEREAS**, NOW believes that women should have complete authority over their reproductive lives; and **WHEREAS**, reproductive freedom not only includes the ability to decide whether or when to bear children, but also the right to devise a birth plan with a medical provider of their choice in either a hospital or an alternative setting such as a freestanding birth center or private residence; and **WHEREAS**, women have historically given birth with midwives; and **WHEREAS**, the practice of midwifery has many benefits including lower costs, lower rates of premature births, higher rates of breastfeeding; and greater satisfaction with the birthing experience; and has been endorsed by the World Health Organization; and **WHEREAS**, midwifery has a lower incidence of medical interventions during the birthing process, including the routine use of episiotomies and Caesarean sections; and **WHEREAS**, women's access to midwifery and traditional birthing practices many times is limited by restrictive laws and non-coverage by private insurance companies and state-subsidized funding; **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NOW's policy statements, brochures, and fact sheets concerning reproductive freedom include references to birthing choices, safe childbearing practices, midwifery; and **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOW work in cooperation with state and national midwifery organizations to increase women's access to midwifery and community awareness of childbirth, pregnancy, and early parenting choices.

(This was printed from <http://www.now.org/nnt/fall-99/resolutions.html#midwifery>)

Top Ten Reading List for 10 Months (or 42 weeks)

Gain Knowledge for Your Optimum Birth & Breastfeeding in the United States in 2008

This list was compiled by a Certified Birth Doula, Stacey Gregg CD, DONA has been honored to attend many births. Over the years she has determined that the extent of knowledge is the only variable that truly makes for a difference between an awesome birth experience and one that is less. It was difficult to narrow the list to just the "Top Ten" of the Best Books for expectant mothers to Read and Breastfeed. These Ten will hopefully inspire readers to explore the others. If your due date is tomorrow and you do not have time to go through the list – do not despair, the first book on the list stands alone if you can only read one book – this book alone has provided many expectant couples with enough knowledge to be better prepared for their birth experience and make it be what they truly desire.

Natural Childbirth the Bradley Way: Revised Edition by Susan McCutcheon-Rosegg This is an easy book to read! It eliminates many fears about birth. Dr. Bradley is credited with American institutions allowing partners to stay during labor and birth.

The Official Lamaze® Guide: Giving Birth with Confidence by Judith Lothian, PhD, RN, LCCE and Charlotte DeVries of Lamaze International This book is rooted in the Lamaze® philosophy of birth, times have changed, and so has Lamaze®. Lamaze isn't about breathing techniques anymore.

Ina May's Guide to Childbirth by Ina May Gaskin US citizen and an Internationally Famous Midwife – author Ina May is affectionately called the Modern Day Mother of Midwifery. This book inspires women to reduce the fear of childbirth by regaining confidence in their bodies and assuring them – Your body still works!

Gentle Birth Choices by Barbara Harper A guide to making Informed Decisions about Birthing Centers, Birth Attendants, Water Birth, Home Birth, Hospital Birth comes with DVD.

The Thinking Woman's Guide to a Better Birth by Henci Goer Award winning medical writer and birth activist Henci Goer gives clear, concise information based on the latest medical studies. Goer will help you compare and contrast your various options and show you how to avoid unnecessary procedures, drugs, restrictions, and tests.

The Birth Book: Everything You Need to Know to Have a Safe and Satisfying Birth by William Sears & Martha Sears Every topic that they have written on is based on evidence – Other topics they have books about are Breastfeeding, Parenting, Discipline, Sleeping & Potty Training.

Birthing from Within: An Extra-Ordinary Guide to Childbirth Preparation by CNM, MA, Pam England This book reclaims childbirth as a rite of passage, Sample of chapters are: Connecting With Other Women, Birth Art, Preserving your Shape Shift: Making a Belly Cast, How to Give Birth if You Need a Cesarean, Gathering Information: Guidelines for Making Decisions and Giving Informed Consent.

Pushed: The Painful Truth about Childbirth & Modern Maternity by Jennifer Black This book examines childbirth as a reproductive rights issue. It is a provocative, well –researched and incisive analysis of child birth today in the United States.

The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding: Seventh Revised Edition by La Leche League International A classic, this definitive guide to breastfeeding reflects current research while maintaining its trademark style of mother-to-mother sharing.

Milk, Money, and Madness: The Culture and Politics of Breastfeeding by M.D., Naomi Baumslag & Dia L. Michels Not only bringing light to the topics in the title, this book discusses the rich array of benefits to mother, child, family and society of the magical, intimate breastfeeding relationship.

Editorial provided by Stacey Gregg CD, DONA. of Childbirth Matters, LLC, a Doula in New Jersey.

**Are You A Member?
Join NOW**

It's a way to bring needed changes to our community.

**NOW-NJ
State Chapters**

Middlesex County NOW

President: Alan Gross
www.nownj.org/middlesex
Email: middlesex@nownj.org

Morris County NOW

President: Annelise Catanzaro
www.morriscountynow.org

**Northern NJ NOW
(Bergen County)**

Board: Doria Baran Hirsch
www.nownj.org/NNJ
Email: njnow@nownj.org

Ocean County NOW

President: Lynda Roszel Fote
learning plus@comcast.net

Passaic County NOW

President:
Rachel Prehodka-Spindel
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Shore Area NOW

Operating Committee:
Abbie Spector
Email: shoreareanow@aol.com

Somerset/Hunterdon NOW

President: Veronica Guarraia
somerset-
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South Jersey NOW

- Alice Paul Chapter
Co-President: Joy Booth
www.southjerseynow.org
outreach@southjerseynow.org

Trenton Area NOW

Currently Reorganizing

Union County NOW

President: Linda McCulloch
UnionCounty@nownj.org

**Women Of Color & Allies
- WOCA -**

(Essex County NOW)
President: Maretta Short
Email: wocanow@yahoo.com

**Proud
To Be Making
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**NOW-NJ State Office
110 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
Phone: 609-393-0156**

WHAT EVERY WOMAN IN AMERICA SHOULD KNOW

In the rest of the industrialized world, women live quite differently than we do here. In dozens of other countries women have more economic independence from men, regardless of their marriage or employment status, and more time for themselves. This is because they have:

- National health care for everyone, health care that is not dependent on a job, or a husband.
- Universal free, quality childcare, and eldercare.
- Paid parental leave for both parents (The state of New Jersey passed a family leave bill in May 2008).
- Shorter working hours (with no reduction in pay).

Many countries have all of these programs; others have some of them. Our government guarantees Family Leave in only three states in the nation.

Who takes up the slack here? Women. We take care of children, husbands, boyfriends, parents, and even husbands' parents. Because we lack these universal programs in the U.S., we are tracked into unpaid care work and made dependent upon men and employers. On top of that, people in the U.S. now work the longest hours in the industrialized world.

But it doesn't have to be like this! If women in other countries have these programs, so can we. The first step is exposing the myth that, far from being number one, the U.S. lags way behind other countries in taking the burden of unpaid care work off women. We're not the most liberated women in the world, we're the most lied to women in the world.

If we wake up we can catch up, and go even further.

We the undersigned feminists are asking for your help to move these programs onto the national political agenda. Sign this ad, tell your friends, contact us.

First things first - let's vote out those conservatives who are opposed to freedom for women while they tell us that we're better off here than anywhere else. Liberals, we demand that you address these issues and deliver on them too. You'll hear from us at the polls and in the streets.

To order a copy of the Redstockings organizing packet **Women's Liberation & National Health Care: Confronting the Myth of America**, on which this statement is based, contact [Redstockings](http://Redstockings.org) at www.redstockings.org.

This statement was developed by the Women's Liberation Task Force for National Health Care, now a part of [National Women's Liberation](http://National Women's Liberation.org), and originally ran in the Fall 2004 National NOW Times. To learn more about the Task Force and how your group can join, go to: www.womensliberation.org or write to NWL@womensliberation.org.

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| | Universal Healthcare | Public Childcare | PAID Parental Leave | Shorter Work Hours |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| France | * | * | * | * |
| Sweden | * | * | * | * |
| Italy | * | * | * | * |
| Finland | * | * | * | * |
| U.S. | No | No | No | No |

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2004 Organizations: Redstockings Allies and Veterans Social Wage Committee (NY), National Organization for Women-NJ, National Organization for Women-NY State, Florida National Organization for Women, California National Organization for Women, Morris County NJ Chapter-National Organization for Women, NOW Brooklyn-Queens NOW, Gainesville (Fl.) Area NOW, University of Florida/Santa Fe Community College Campus NO, Parenthood Mohawk Hudson, Women's Liberation Women of Color Caucus, Morning Liberation, Mamaflaga.com, National Lawyers Guild Anti Sexism Committee, W.I.T.C.H (Women In Time Change History), Street Harassment Project - NYC.

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