



Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, January 26, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM EST)

January 2021 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

“Successful Collaboration in Feminist Women’s Organizations: How Much Is Racism at Play?”

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom - Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdOivpJliE9LImRmOGXDs0VuPbbIJAzt8>

“The Constitution they wrote was designed to protect the rights of white, male citizens. As there were no black Founding Fathers, there were no founding mothers - a great pity, on both counts. It is not too late to complete the work they left undone. Today, here, we should start to do so.” - Shirley Chisholm, 8/10/1970 [SC, 11/30/24-1/1/05]

“Can’t we all just get along?” - Rodney King, 5/1/1992 [RK, 4/2/65-6/17/12]

The current pandemic has exposed great inequity and injustice in our country. We all face the deadly virus which can only be controlled when we come together to fight it collaboratively.

So it is timely for the Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues to focus this month on aspects of women and race to examine what the thinkers above urged us to address. Please note that the “today” of Shirley Chisholm’s words was more than fifty years ago. The urgency seems to grow and especially with the events of recent days.

We are indeed fortunate to have these three women share their experience and expertise to guide us in this discussion through an intergenerational lens.

Sheila Coates is a sixth generation Virginian activist on behalf of African American women and families for more than four decades. In 1985 she founded [Black Women United for Action](#) (BWUFA), a community service volunteer organization which she still serves as president. BWUFA has grown from 14 Northern Virginia members to an international organization with ties in Africa, Canada and Europe. Her many accomplishments as the leader of BWUFA include the development of the annual observance of the Slave Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony at Mount Vernon. The annual ceremony, developed many years ago, has grown from a few local guests to travelers from all over the world, including Africa and Canada. Ms. Coates has successfully advocated for the appointment of an African American woman to the Board of George Mason University (a first in that institution’s history). She has testified numerous times on behalf of African American families before official committees and commissions and has been invited to the White House under two administrations to speak on public policy issues and family preservation. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Stan Lee Foundation, devoted to promoting literacy, diversity, culture and the arts. Ms. Coates has received four gubernatorial appointments, including the Virginia Commission on Women, the George Mason University Board, and the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association Advisory Board. In addition, she has served on several other community boards and commissions and has received numerous awards.

Thu Nguyen serves [OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates](#) National as its Director. A graduate from Rice University with degrees in Chemistry and Sociology, Thu found her way into the nonprofit sector through organizing Asian American students on campus and bridging partnerships between student groups and local Houston community organizations. Previously she freelanced for non-profits and Asian-owned start-ups to do community outreach and marketing. As Director, Thu oversees storytelling, relationships, and operations for OCA. She brings a unique understanding of grassroots organizing and design to her work at the national level where she focuses on the intersection of advocacy

with small businesses. She works 5-9 in hospitality, cosmetology, and zine-making. You can find her exploring how to spacemake via thudawin.org.

Christian F. Nunes, MBA, MS, LCSW, in August 2020, became the president of the [National Organization for Women](#) (NOW), the largest grassroots feminist organization in the country. She was previously appointed Vice President by the NOW board in May 2019. Christian is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Consultant, and a Woman-Minority Business Owner. She received her BSW degree from Northern Arizona University, Master of Science from Columbia University, and Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. An active community organizer, she has spoken at events such as the March for Black Women in 2018. Along with her activism for mental health, she also has over 20 years of experience advocating for children's and women's issues. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Consultant, and Woman-Minority Business Owner. In 2006, she founded a behavioral health and consulting practice where she assists social service and behavioral health companies, and provides direct mental health services to individuals and families. As an advocate for social justice and mental health policy, she took up the role as Chair of the Phoenix Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues and co-authored a community survey on police response to crisis. Additionally, she has worked tirelessly to elect progressive candidates to school boards and local office positions. She is often featured in many media outlets such as Ebony, Black Enterprise magazine, AZ News Channel 3, and Yahoo News.

We hope you will join us in this important discussion which is co-sponsored by Montgomery County Maryland NOW and that you will bring your questions to that conversation.

Updates from the CWI Board

Have you viewed CWI FIVE YEAR HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAMS CELEBRATING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT by Loretto Gubernatis (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjP_063LZrM).

If you are a past presenter or in-person audience member, you may see yourself in this highlights reel.

This production, an homage to our foremothers, shows small snippets from many of our programs in the past five years.

If you like it enough to own a DVD copy, do purchase one by selecting Other Amount: \$20

on <https://womensclearinghouse.org/membership/> and enter your email address. We will contact you for your mailing address. If you select Other Amount: \$31, we will include one year of membership with your DVD.

Info from 1-6-2021 Board meeting: List of Planned CWI 2021 Noon Zoom Meetings

January 26 **Racism and Feminism- Intersections** - Alotta Taylor & Holly Joseph

February 23 **Elder Issues and Actions** – Harriett Stonehill

March 23 **What's Up with the National Women's History Museum?** - Sue Klein & Alotta Taylor

April 27 **The First 100 Days: Assessment of Progress** - Connie Cordovilla & Jeanette Esbrook

May 25 **Global Women's Community** – Megan Corrado

June 22 **Taking Stock of the Membership of CWI**

Discussion of the former National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO): CWI is discussing if and how it might take on some of the tasks of the former NCWO. Martha Burk, former chair and founder of NCWO, pointed out its importance and says it should be revitalized. Karen Humphrey noted that it will take more collaboration and a good data management system. Will it require paid staff? Sue Klein suggested that CWI might take over some of the information sharing functions of NCWO. It would be helpful if CWI could produce the membership booklet of over 200 organizations. The discussion will continue at the next board meeting in March. We welcome your suggestions on what you would want from an umbrella organization of feminist organizations.

Elections of Note: Let's cheer for the results of the recent special elections in VA and GA. In VA, the January 5th contests to fill recently vacated seats in the House of Delegates were won by Democratic women of color who will have a foothold for the regular fall elections when all 100 seats in the VA House of Delegates will be up for vote. And in

Georgia, thanks to work of Stacey Abrams and the thousands of volunteers, from all over the country, many of whom were women of color, the winners of the run-off Senate elections were the two Democratic candidates. This ends the current Republican control of the US Senate and brings the control of both houses to the same party as well as the White House. It will allow for fair hearings on many issues that have been tabled or stalled by the previous administration.

Congratulations Are in Order! We join feminists in congratulating the Biden-Harris team in winning the November 2020 election. As discussed at our October 2020 CWI meeting, we urge everyone to consider working with their state legislators to sign on to the National Popular Vote Compact so that in the next presidential election everyone's vote will be counted equally no matter what state they are from. Check to see the status of your state's sign-on to the National Popular Vote Compact at <https://www.commoncause.org/our-work/voting-and-elections/national-popular-vote/>. This is a much more feasible solution than the more difficult challenge of abolishing the electoral college with a constitutional amendment. Again, many thanks to all our meeting presenters and attendees and our hardworking volunteer CWI Board.

CWI Board Meeting Updates:

CWI had its Zoom Board Meeting on January 6, and it thankfully ended as the Trump supporters started to storm the Capitol. We hope all our readers are staying safe and healthy during these trying times. We also just received an announcement that **Nan Aron**, founder and president of the Alliance for Justice, will step down as president July 31, 2021. We deeply thank Nan and AFJ for hosting CWI in-person meetings for many years.

Summary of CWI Zoom Meeting, November 17, 2020, 12:00-1:30 PM EST "Feminist Priorities in the Biden-Harris Administration"

This well-attended meeting allowed all to start celebrating the election of the Biden-Harris Administration and learn about some of the possibilities that it will bring to feminists to accomplish the vision developed in the Biden Agenda for Women (<https://joebiden.com/womens-agenda/#>).

The audio of this meeting is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJhnEB7XXso&feature=youtu.be>. We encourage you to listen to it to get more of the richness of this meeting than we are able to capture in the following summary.

The meeting presenters discussed feminist priorities in the areas of education, economics, health, and foreign policy as well as how to nominate feminists for key governmental positions in the Biden-Harris administration.

Meeting presenters:



Ben Strand, Legislative Assistant from Senator Mazie Hirono's office (D-HI), discussed the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity Education Act (GEEA) which Senator Hirono reintroduced during the 116th Congress (2019-2020) with Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA). GEEA would establish an Office for Gender Equity in the US Department of Education (DOE) and provide \$80 million for additional resources, training, and technical assistance to support the full implementation of Title IX and develop an infrastructure focused on Title IX Coordinators. There has not been any office focusing on gender equity in the DOE since the Women's Educational Act expired except for a small Title IX team in the ED Office for Civil Rights.

Following a discussion of establishing an Office for Gender Equity in the US Department of Education which could be done administratively even before GEEA is passed, the Feminist Majority Foundation developed an organizational [sign-on letter](#) requesting the Biden-Harris DOE transition team to establish an Office for Gender Equity reporting to the new Secretary of Education. This letter was sent Jan. 8, 2021 and had over 100 organizational supporters. This letter points out why the Office is needed and how it can be established administratively even before GEEA is passed.

Donna Lent, President of the National Women’s Political Caucus (NWPC) explained how NWPC is again leading a multi-partisan nominations process to contribute to the new Administration’s feminist leadership team under the Coalition for Women’s Appointments. NWPC started this Coalition for Women’s Appointments in 1976 and claims helping with the original federal appointments of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Janet Reno, and Madeleine Albright. The goal is 50% women appointments. The Coalition for Women’s Appointments is establishing a digital registry that can be used beyond Biden-Harris appointments. It can be used for state and local positions and even by corporations. The process for nominating feminists is described in detail in the NWPC website:



<https://www.nwpc.org/launch-of-the-coalition-for-womens-appointments/> and <https://appointwomen.org/home>.



Connie Cordovilla, Co-President, Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues and President of Virginian NOW, Inc. reported on **The Institute for Women’s Policy Research** new report entitled “Build(ing) the Future: Bold Policies for a Gender-Equitable Recovery.” (<https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Policies-for-a-Gender-Equitable-Recovery-Finalsm2.pdf>) which thoroughly covers stressors and solutions facing working women in the wake of the economic downturn caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. This report provides a framework for shared prosperity and equitable economic recovery. It examines the impact of the economic crisis and recession on working women, their families, and communities. So far 850,000 women have left the workforce mainly to provide childcare. The report provides a blueprint for a gender equitable recovery that is not only about meeting the immediate economic needs of women and families, but it lays out a long-term strategy for creating stronger systems and institutions that reflect the experiences and contributions of women in the workforce, in society, and in their families.



Dr. Diana Zuckerman, PhD, President of the [National Center for Health Research](#), (NCHR) who is an epidemiologist and psychologist, addressed a wide range of health priorities. These priorities included improving testing, treatments, and vaccines for Covid-19; improving access to reproductive health; correcting the lack of diversity in clinical trials that harms women of color and older women; the lowering the safety standards for medical products (speed and greed vs. safety and effectiveness); and the need for rebuilding and strengthening the clout and independence of the Offices focused on women’s health in the various federal health agencies.

Covid-19 has a disparate impact on women although men are more likely to die from it. Many older women are very isolated due to the threat or actual suffering from Covid-19. The National Center for Health Research has criticized the Trump administration for lowering standards for Covid-19 treatment and testing. In the

testing of vaccines, although most of those who have gotten COVID are in the placebo group, we know little about the impact on older people, people of color, and other people at higher risk. There has been much emphasis on speed and greed. Few older women have been in the drug testing trials even though older people metabolize drugs differently than younger adults.



Megan Corrado, Esq., CWI’s Vice President for Global Affairs, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Alliance for Peacebuilding, and Co-Chair of the U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). This group is a collective of over 50 NGOs aiming to fully implement the Women Peace and Security Act of 2017 and to ensure women's meaningful participation in all aspects of peacebuilding. In conjunction with its Secretariat, the United States Institute of Peace, it seeks to build bridges between the US Government and civil society, and to serve as a go-to network of experts to facilitate a cross-government and holistic approach to WPS through foreign and national security policy.

Megan addressed some key priorities to achieve a feminist foreign policy to ensure women's meaningful participation in all facets of decision-making and improve the lives of women and families around the world.

In doing so Megan described the framework and priorities she has been working on with a collective of the nine largest coalitions focused on international gender, women, and girls issues—Girls Not Brides, Coalition to end Gender Based Violence Globally, Coalition for Women’s Economic Empowerment and Equality, Sexual and Reproductive Health Roundtable, Big Ideas Coalition, CSWG, and others. The framework for the new administration is designed to elevate issues related to gender in its development, humanitarian, asylum, security, and overall foreign policy. (See : https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FFPFramework_d12-spreads.pdf) Although each individual coalition had context-specific priorities, a few cross-cutting themes emerged.

DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org . LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider. <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Times are EST. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on additional feminist meetings and activities. To join the National Women’s Political Caucus VA chapter, contact katihornung@gmail.com or jane.newell@comcast.net , or visit NWPC.org/membership.

Maryland Women’s History Podcast Releases Second Season of Ballot & Beyond, produced by Preservation Maryland. It is a multi-media public history exhibit and podcast highlighting the work of remarkable Maryland women with a focus on the state’s suffragists and activists. More than 55 episodes are available now for streaming and reading on: ballotandbeyond.org.

Tune in to episodes of Ms. magazine podcasts, On the Issues, with Michele Goodwin on [Apple Podcasts + Spotify](#).

Sign up for free Health Empowerment Academy. This is a 6-day mini-course from the National Women's Health Network . [Get Instant Access.](#)

Events:

Saturday, January 16, 2021, 11am-12:30pm - SPW Leadership Opportunities Webinar, American Psychological Association, Div. 35, Psychology of Women. [Register](#)

Monday, January 18, 2021, 4-5:30pm - People's Holiday Concert. National Museum of African American History and Culture [Register](#) <https://eventactions.com/eareg.aspx?ea=RsvpSu>

Monday, January 18, 2021, 7pm - Trending Topics: State & Local Budget Projections and Their Impact on Future Legislation, League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. [For More Information and to Register.](#)

Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 6:30-8pm - EcoHour Speaker Series on seafood, public health and food systems. DC EcoWomen. [For More information.](#)

Tuesday, January 26, 2021, Noon - CWI Meeting (See Page 1). Successful Collaboration in Feminist Women's Organizations: How Much Is Racism at Play?

Tuesday January 26, 2021, 6-6:45pm - MCASA's Legislative Reception. Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault. For [More Information and to Register.](#)

Thursday, January 28, 2021 - Demanding What to Build: A Reflective Plenary on Post-Election Scholarship and Academic Labor, National Women's Studies Association [Registration](#) for On-line. Plenary \$5. Open to the Public.

Thursday, January 28, 2021 - 323 Days of COVID: The Lasting Impact on Women, National NOW, For More Information visit website <https://now.org/first-100-days-the-feminist-agenda/>.

Sunday, January 31, 2021, 12:30-4:30pm, Virtual Maryland Legislative Briefing, Montgomery County Commission for Women and Co-sponsors. [Registration](#) \$20 through Jan. 28 (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-womens-legislative-briefing-registration-128800049415>).

Thursday, February 4, 2021, 7-8:15pm - Betty Friedan's 100 Birthday: Moving the Legacy Forward, Veteran Feminists of America. [Free Registration](#)

Thursday, February 25, 2021 - A Holistic Approach to Equitable Reproductive Healthcare, National NOW For More Information visit website <https://now.org/first-100-days-the-feminist-agenda/>

CWI's newsletter is endowed in loving memory of our previous longtime editor, Roslyn Kaiser

Meeting summary by Sue Klein and the meeting presenters. Newsletter edited by Sue Klein and Holly Joseph

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2021

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla; VP Membership, Connie Cordovilla; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary and VP Global Issues, Megan Corrado, VP Diversity, Alotta Taylor; VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Organizational Management, Anne Martin; Director, Linda Fihelly; **DIRECTOR EMERITA:** Elaine Newman, **EX OFFICIO:** -Harriett Stonehill
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Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues Membership Form

<https://womensclearinghouse.org/>

The CWI membership year is: **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year and Gift memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in beginning and end years (e.g. 2020-2023 for a 3-yr membership). Members will receive CWI newsletters and meeting announcements as well as other feminist news and event notifications. Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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	Individual	Organization	Young Adult (< 30 yrs. old)	Virtual (outside DC area)
One-year	\$25	\$40	\$15/yr.	\$20/yr.
Two-year	\$45	\$70	Gift Membership (insert information in individual or organization membership)	
Three-year	\$65	\$100		

Membership Dues Amount: _____
Tax deductible donation: _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____
Date of Payment _____

- Mail form & check to Connie Cordovilla, Membership Chair, CWI, 7439 Patterson Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043-1332; or
- Pay through PayPal, by selecting the desired membership option on our website’s membership page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/membership/> & please send this form by mail to the above address or email it to MembershipChair@womensclearinghouse.org; or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)