



May 2021 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Newsletter
<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

(Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, May 25, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM EDT))

**“Update on Global Gender Issues highlighting a Strategy for Progress,
D.C. for CEDAW: The Time is Now!”**

Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdOivpiliE9LImRm0GXDs0VuPbbIJAZt8>

Presenters:

Karen Mulhauser, President, Mulhauser and Associates, Past President NARAL, Past Chair United Nations Association of the USA, Past President United Nations Association, National Capital Area, will provide a brief history and update on the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) including plans to gain US ratification of this important treaty and how it would work with the ERA when both are passed. She will then describe progress made with the Cities for CEDAW movement and why it is important to make DC a City or hopefully state for CEDAW.

Shayna Vayser, Managing Director of Advocacy and Policy Strategy at the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), will share a call to action for gender equity in Washington, DC. DC for CEDAW is a campaign to have the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted into city legislatures across the National Capital Area, starting with the District of Columbia. The legislation's primary focus requires government agencies to report gender analysis data and develop a citywide plan to ensure equality for women and girls in all arenas. Shayna, representing UNA-NCA's DC for CEDAW Initiative, will provide a presentation on their efforts to work with coalition partners and DC City Council pass and sign CEDAW into local law. DC for CEDAW is coordinated by the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), a non-profit dedicated to advancing the values and priorities of the United Nations locally and globally.

Megan Corrado, Esq, CWI's Vice President of Global Issues, Director of Policy and Advocacy with the [Alliance for Peacebuilding](#), and Co-Chair of the [U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security](#) will provide an update on the Biden-Harris Administration's foreign policy accomplishments and challenges related to gender over its first few months. From the creation of the White House Gender Policy Council and rescission of the "Global Gag Rule," a devastating anti-abortion and reproductive rights policy that undermined the health and freedoms of women around the world, the Administration has made important strides in reversing the harmful policies of the last few years. However, the Administration has been slow to advance some gender laws and policies, such as the Women, Peace, and Security Act, or issue a revised USAID Gender Policy. The recent decision to withdraw all U.S. forces from Afghanistan will have significant implications for the tremendous strides Afghan women and girls have made over the last 20 years. Megan will review and reflect on what has and has not yet been achieved and outlined key policy priorities for the Administration to advance a feminist foreign policy.

Next CWI zoom meeting noon Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Summary of CWI April 27, 2021 Meeting

“The First 100 Days of the Biden/Harris Administration: Accomplishments, Challenges, and Issues”

CWI discusses the issues behind the news. The April 2021 CWI Co-President, Connie Cordovilla and Vice President, Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook focused on civil rights, economics, and education, in addressing what the administration faces, what it has promised and what must be done.

President Biden gave his first address before a joint session of Congress on April 28. The news media reported on his proposed sweeping \$1.8 trillion plan for national paid family leave, universal pre-kindergarten, free community college and subsidized child care in what would be a dramatic federal expansion of the social safety net for families and children.

Biden also formally introduced his American Families Plan. Billed as “generational investments in our future,” the second piece of his "Build Back Better" economic agenda following the release of a \$2.3 trillion infrastructure and jobs plan released earlier this month.

Our speakers are each actively involved in the issues addressed in this historic presidential speech. You can view the video of this meeting by going to <https://womensclearinghouse.org/Programs> and then go to April 2021-“First 100 Days of Biden/Harris Administration: Accomplishments, Challenges and Issues” or go directly to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLkZ4Zmli1k>.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Shiwali Patel, Director of Justice for Student Survivors & Senior Counsel at the National



Women’s Law Center (NWLC), presented an overview of Title IX, the civil rights law passed in 1972 (the year when NWLC was founded.) It prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance.

Patel discussed where we are at the beginning of the Biden administration when a Trump Department of Education, weakened the Title IX Regulation (rule) with a narrow definition of sexual harassment and other provisions that mandated uniquely unfair and burdensome grievance procedures. She also described the current state of lawsuits to stop these new Title IX rules and the long rule making process needed to undo these harmful provisions.

She also discussed the steps that the Biden Administration announced it would take on the Title IX rule in President Biden’s March 8 Executive Order “Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free From Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity,” and the Education Department (ED’s) April 6 stakeholder letter outlining its plans for implementing the Executive Order. Next steps include the Department holding a hearing to hear from students, educators, and others about sexual harassment in education, as well as discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

ED also indicated that it will issue a Questions & Answer (Q&A) document “to provide additional clarity about how its Office for Civil Rights interprets schools’ existing obligations under the 2020 rule, including the areas in

which schools have discretion in their procedures for responding to reports of sexual harassment,” and that it “anticipates” issuing a notice of proposed rule making to amend the harmful changes to the Title IX rule.

NWLC Resources on the Title IX rule:

NWLC’s explainer on the DeVos rule (<https://nwlc.org/resources/devos-new-title-ix-sexual-harassment-rule-explained/>)

Resources on NWLC website about the rule (<https://nwlc.org/respect-students/>)

Letter NWLC sent to the Biden-Harris transition team in December 2020 which was signed by over 100 organizations including CWI (<https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Biden-Harris-Title-IX-sexual-harassment-sign-on-letter-12.9.20-vF.pdf>).

NWLC Leads Civil Rights Brief in Support of Students’ Rights to be Free from Harassment and Unfair Discipline (<https://nwlc.org/blog/nwlc-leads-civil-rights-brief-in-support-of-students-rights-to-be-free-from-harassment-and-unfair-discipline/>)

Legislative Action to /support Student Survivors of Sexual Harassment <https://nwlc.org/resources/70-groups-call-for-legislative-action-to-support-student-survivors-of-sexual-harassment/>

ECONOMIC



Ariane Hegewisch, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, (IWPR) presented the research done by IWPR to expose the economic impact of covid on women and families, especially women of color and the steps needed to help women overcome the struggles of fair pay, job preparation and glass ceilings. These include: childcare and care crisis; unemployment & workforce exits; profound wealth and earnings inequality and gender wage gap as well as no paid family leave, paid sick leave, or universal healthcare access; and occupational segregation. She emphasized how the gender segregation in occupations perpetuates and deepens the gender wage gap.

Hegewisch more recently shared a new report from IWPR on the Economic Impact of Equal Pay which finds that if women were paid the same as equally qualified men, poverty for working women would be reduced by more than 40 percent. Closing the gender wage gap would increase working women’s annual average earnings from \$41,402 to \$48,326, a \$541 billion in wage and salary income to the U.S. economy (2.8 percent of 2019 GDP).

IWPR Resources:

IWPR Hegewisch Biden First 100 Days slides (<https://womensclearinghouse.org/wp-content/uploads/IWPR-Hegewisch-Biden-First-100-Days-2021-4-27.pdf>) The last slide has links to other resources.

Economic Impact of Equal Pay (https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Economic-Impact-of-Equal-Pay-by-State_FINAL.pdf) This 5/11/21 analysis is pre-COVID pandemic; 2020 data are not yet available at the level of detailed needed.

EDUCATION

Mindy Grimes-Festge, Secretary/Treasurer of the United Teachers of Dade, discussed the educational needs of students, especially the impact of the forced virtual learning in the face of the pandemic and re-opening schools safely. She discussed the importance of the \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan Act which designated \$170.3 B to education and \$125.5 B for K to 12 education. She also lamented the She-Cession when 2.3 million women left the workforce during the Covid 19 pandemic between Feb. 2020 and Feb. 2021. After discussing AFT Reopening plans Grimes-Festge outlined learning beyond Covid such as broadening assessment instruments to increase focus on student mental health and socio and emotional aspects of teaching. She recommended more focus on expanding early childhood education, supporting English Language Learners, extended school days, summer programs and individual tutoring.



First 100 Days Presentation – Grimes-Festge (<https://womensclearinghouse.org/wp-content/uploads/First-100-Days-Presentation-Mindy-Grimes-Festge.pdf>)

WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS

Jeanette Lim Esbrook, CWI Vice President, Legal Affairs listed some of the women President Biden appointed or nominated for leadership positions in his administration during the first 100 Days. Besides the leadership of the First Lady Jill Biden and the Vice President Kamala Harris, the new administration has so far appointed more women to cabinet level positions than any other president.



Janet Yellen would be the nation's first woman Treasury secretary and Deb Haaland would be the first Native American as head of the Department of the Interior. Biden has also named a number of other firsts to positions just under the Cabinet level, recently appointing Dr. Rachel Levine as assistant secretary of health. She would be the first-ever transgender person to be confirmed by the Senate.

Other women Cabinet level appointees include:

Marcia Fudge, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy
Isabel Guzman, Administrator, Small Business Administration
Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence
Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce
Cecilia Rouse, Chair, Council of Economic Advisors
Katherine Tai, U.S. Trade Representative
Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US. Ambassador to the United Nations

SUMMARY

The Biden-Harris administration has taken important steps during the first 100 days to take vital steps to move women forward.

They have prioritized their commitment to gender equity, by initiating the process of rescinding harmful Trump administration actions.

This includes the Title X domestic gag rule that restricted access to vital family planning services for millions of people. A review of the Department of Education's Title IX regulations that weakened protections for sexual assault survivors was initiated.

The Biden Cabinet is the most diverse in United States history, with women comprising nearly half of all appointees. An executive order was issued to create the White House Gender Policy Council to implement governmentwide gender equity strategies.

CLEARINGHOUSE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES (CWI) BOARD ELECTIONS

CWI BOARD MEMBER TERMS ARE 2 YEARS.

The following CWI board members' terms end in June 30, 2021 but they have agreed to stand for election at the June 22, 2021 CWI meeting.

Co-Presidents Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla have agreed to run for reelection and Connie has also agreed to serve as VP membership.

Anne Martin has agreed to continue as VP Organizational Management

Sherry Klein has agreed to continue as VP Technology

Alotta Taylor, has agree to continue as VP Diversity

Linda Fihelly has agreed to continue as a Board Member

CWI Members are encouraged to volunteer to serve on our great board. Just tell any board member you are interested in being appointed.

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>. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on additional feminist meetings and activities.

The following events in purple are copied from the Montgomery County MD Chapter of NOW Feminist Calendar with many thanks.

Maryland Democratic Party Asian American Pacific Islander Diversity Leadership Council

United Communities of Color: Anti-Hate Panel

Monday, May 17 • 7 pm EST

Panel will discuss the disturbing rise in hate crimes targeting Asian Americans, and how we can come together as Marylanders to create a more united country and state. The panel will be moderated by **James Stowe**, Director of the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, and will feature **Gustavo Torres**, Executive Director of CASA; **Zainab Chaudry**, Director of CAIR's Office in Maryland; **Cherri Branson**, Third VP, Montgomery County NAACP; and **Paul Tiao**, President of Communities United Against Hate. **TO REGISTER**

Tuesday May 18; 8-9 PM EDT, Stop US Support for Saudi Arabia Code Pink, RSVP

Wednesday, May 19, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM The Criminalization of Black and Brown Girls: Adversity, Abuse and the School-to-Prison Pipeline” VA NOW and many co-sponsors. REGISTER

Washington Area Women's Foundation

#AskThem Webinar: The Impact of Gender-Based Violence on AAPI Women

Wednesday, May 19 • 12 pm

Join us for our next #AskHer webinar about the impact of gender-based violence on AAPI women. On May 19th, participate in a poignant discussion on how our culture, institutions, and systems undermine the safety of women and gender expansive people from Asian and Pacific Island cultures. We'll discuss this historical issue and how it is playing out today alongside the recent increased violence against Asian American communities. **[FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)**

One America Movement

The Science of Polarization: Decoding and Demystifying Our Divisions

Wednesday, May 19 • 7 pm EST

Join One America Movement in their virtual fast-paced sessions that will help you better understand the subtle inner workings of your brain and behavior that influence how you perceive and interact with others— and how they perceive and interact with you. **[TO REGISTER](#)**

Alice Paul Institute

The 28th Amendment: A Bipartisan Case for the ERA

Thursday, May 20 • 6 pm EST

The Alice Paul Institute welcomes GOP for the ERA founder and Executive Director **Steve Anderson**, for a conversation about the nonpartisan history of the ERA. As a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, Steve led the charge for ratification of the ERA in 2019 and argues that it is well past time for renewed bipartisan support of the national legislation. Steve will lead a discussion about his efforts to promote ratification in other states and to advocate for Congress to remove the ERA's ratification timeline. Alice Paul famously stated, "...most reforms, most problems are complicated, but to me, there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality." Join us as we examine the unprecedented complications faced by this important amendment. **[FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)**

Tuesday May 25, 10 AM, POLITICO'S Health Care Innovators: Fixing America's Maternal Health Crisis, CVS Health. [Register](#)

Tuesday May 25, Noon Update on Global Gender Issues highlighting a Strategy for Progress, DC for CEDAW: The Time is Now! (See newsletter page 1 for details.)

Tuesday, May 25; 7:30-8:30 PM Let's talk about women and the pandemic (*save this link to your calendar*)<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84275800009>

Meeting ID: 842 7580 0009 Please RSVP to info@mcmdnow.org

The 2021 National NOW Conference, themed *Springing Hope into Action: Amplifying NOW's Intersectional Feminist Agenda* will be held virtually on **Saturday, July 24 and Sunday, July 25; Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1; and on Saturday, August 7 and Sunday, August 8.**

Here are some favorite feminist articles from Carrie Baker

Advocates Cheer FDA Review of Abortion Pill Restrictions

<https://fixingmaternalhealthcrisis.splashthat.com/Invite1>

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/11/fda-review-abortion-pill-restrictions-mifepristone-biden/>>,

Ms., May 11, 2021.

Linking Voter Suppression and Abortion Restrictions: “If We Lose Voting Rights, We Lose Women’s Rights,” Ms., May 7, 2021

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/07/voter-suppression-abortion-restrictions-womens-rights/>

Attorneys General Appeal ERA Lawsuit, Press Biden Administration to Recognize the 28th Amendment

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/06/equal-rights-amendment-attorneys-general-virginia-illinois-nevada-appeal-era-lawsuit-biden-administration-28th-amendment/>>, Ms., May 6, 2021.

Major Victory for National Abortion Federation Against Anti-Abortion Extremists

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/04/david-daleiden-national-abortion-federation-anti-abortion-extremists-planned-parenthood/>>, Ms., May 5, 2021.

Unprecedented Surge in Anti-Abortion Laws Proposed and Passed Across the U.S.

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/04/anti-abortion-laws-texas-arizona-arkansas-indiana-west-virginia-kentucky-oklahoma-south-dakota-wyoming/>>, Ms., May 4, 2021.

Athletes Win Historic Title IX Settlement with Clemson University

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/03/title-ix-settlement-clemson-university-womens-sports/>>, Ms., May 3, 2021.

“Every Issue is a Gender Issue”: United State of Women Highlights Gender Disparities in All U.S. Policy

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/04/28/every-issue-is-a-gender-issue-united-state-of-women-gender-disparity-policy/>>, Ms., April 28, 2021.

“Invisible Abuse: Ending Coercive Control in Intimate Relationships,”

<<https://www.gazettenet.com/Columnist-Carrie-N-Baker-40071670>> Daily

Hampshire Gazette, April 22, 2021 (republished on Ms. here

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/04/25/ending-coercive-control-domestic-violence-connecticut/>>).

FDA Allows Telemedicine Abortion During Pandemic

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/04/19/fda-telemedicine-abortion-pill-mifepristone/>>, Ms., April 19, 2021.

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

Meeting summary by Sheila Wickouski and many of the Meeting Presenters.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2021

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

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____ EMAIL _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE: H/W _____ CELL _____

OR

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

ORGANIZATION NAME _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
Organization website address (URL): _____
NAME & EMAIL of Org. Rep.: 1) _____
PHONE _____ CELL _____
NAME & EMAIL of Org. Rep.: 2) _____
PHONE _____ CELL _____

Membership Years Covered: 202_ - 202_ (Check your Membership Type)

	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)