

RESOLUTIONS FROM 1974 SOUTHERN REGIONAL NOW CONFERENCE

October 20, 1974

Resolution #1

Johanneke ^{Mary}
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Carried

The Southern Regional Conference of the National Organization for Women highly commends Senator William Brock of Tennessee for his untiring efforts to obtain equal credit opportunity for women. He was instrumental in successfully amending House Bill #11221 (passed by the Senate and House in October 1974) to prohibit discrimination in the granting of credit based on sex or marital status. We applaud his action in providing us with another legal weapon for our struggle to attain full equality and status in our society.

RESOLUTION #2

Mary Jo
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Carried 31-6

Whereas, we recognize the need to establish an ongoing means of communication on issues of concern to minority women throughout the national organization; And whereas, we also have the means to assemble and distribute such information through the national newsletter, the workshop on minority women and chapter action proposes the establishment of a column devoted to minority and ethnic affairs in DO IT NOW, the national newsletter, Submitted by Del Dobbins - workshop leader.

RESOLUTION # 3

Juanita
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Carried

Whereas the justice system does not treat assaults on wives and girlfriends in the same manner as other assaults; Whereas this differential treatment results in the institutional acceptance of a man's right to beat and do other physical violence to his sexual partner; Whereas such a policy of condoned violence toward women degrades women and represents systematic political oppression of women by men; Whereas NOW's political goals will never be reached unless women are liberated from fear of assault and violence in their own home; Therefore be it resolved that NOW study the prevalence of "wife beating" and evaluate the adequacy of the present police prosecutorial, judicial, the sentencing and rehabilitational procedures with the justice system with the ultimate goal of preventing wife beating.

RESOLUTION # 4

Mary Jo
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Carried

Whereas NOW's statement of purpose states that it constitutes itself as a new movement toward true equality for all women in America... "As part of the world-wide revolution of human rights now taking place within our national borders (and Beyond) Whereas NOW established an International committee and Convened the International Feminist Planning Conference, June, 1973 to plan a World Congress of Women to include "Women of the new countries of Africa, our sisters of China and Cuba, Greece and Spain, South America, and our sisters now subject to political persecution in Brazil and Portugal... toward the human liberation of the energies alienated and exploited for sterile profits, violence, death and war, all liberated in the service of human life, love and peace." (Friedan 6/73); Whereas NOW National Conference in May, 1974 adopted resolutions authorizing affiliations with international units; encouraging the convening of new international affiliates; and seeks non-governmental organization consultative status within the United Nations; Whereas it is the policy of NOW to further the growth of world-wide feminism as

Julia Amends to delete not-pertinent names,
Carried

indicated by the establishment of NOW chapters in the Canal Zone, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Canada, New Zealand and others; to encourage membership of minority women in NOW who have families and friends in other countries; and the growth of these policies depend on their perception of our concern for women in other countries. Whereas the International Feminist Task Force of the NOW D.C. Chapter has protested the sexual torture of Chilean women political prisoners and seeks the release of women prisoners in "Tejas Verdes and La Buen Pastor" prisons by joining with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and others to seek the inclusion of a woman doctor in the investigatory committee of the Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States to investigate these prisons and examine these women prisoners which was denied; by supporting legislation to cut off military aid to Chile, require all countries receiving military aid to report to Congress of the state of human rights, and to cut off funds for training police or the internal security forces of any foreign government or governments that do not allow inspection of its prisons for alleged violation of human rights; and by distributing bracelets with the names of 35 Chilean women political prisoners to provide individual communication, comfort and support; therefore

Be it Resolved That the National Organization for Women protest the sexual torture of Chilean women political prisoners by the Chilean government and ask that they be released;

That NOW urge Senator J.W. Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate to retain the Senate - passed cut-off of military aid to Chile when it considers the foreign aid bill after the general election recess;

That NOW support the International Feminist Task Force of D.C. NOW in its effort to help our Chilean sisters and urges individual NOW members and chapters to support their efforts;

That NOW urge the International Committee to appoint a subcommittee to receive information about the treatment of women political prisoners in Chile and other countries in which women are subjected to sexual torture;

That copies of this resolution be sent to the following individuals and groups: ~~Sen. J.W. Fulbright~~, Chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Rep. Thomas E. Morgan, House Foreign Affairs Committee; Patricia Hutar, U.S. Representative to the U.N. Commission of the Status of Women; Helvi Spila, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations; Dr. Ruth Baxton, Director, the U.S. Center for International Women's Year; Dr. Henry Kissinger, Department of State; Amnesty International; Human Rights Commission; Human Rights Commission, Organization of American States and its Inter American Commission of Women; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; United States Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners; Gen. August Pinochet; and all NOW chapters.

Respectfully submitted by Flora Crater, National Board of Directors.

RESOLUTION #5

Bernice

Carried

Whereas the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment is crucial in the Southeastern States;

Let it be Resolved that the Southern Regional Conference of NOW reaffirms its commitment to work on the passage of the ERA as a priority issue.

Submitted by *Virginia* (Ms.) NOW Chapter.

RESOLUTION # 6

Irene Pycaso

Carried

Southern Regional Conference shall take specific action to require all branches to provide training to equal opportunity service leaders and women on an equal

basis with male applicants. Submitted by Sylvia M. Rojas - Workshop on Women in the Military.

RESOLUTION # 7

Julia ✓ Carried

Whereas credit to women is limited because we have the lowest paying jobs;
Whereas our credit is limited because our jobs are of uncertain tenure- last hired, first fired;
Whereas our credit is limited because we are judged by our relationship or lack of it with men;
Let it be resolved that this Conference urges the individual chapters help in establishment of feminist credit unions.
Submitted by Credit Workshop Coordinator, Judy Huatala.

RESOLUTION # 8

Johnette ✓ Carried

Whereas we, Members of the Southern Region of NOW, will strive to facilitate adequate representation and participation of all members regardless of socio-economic status;
Be it resolved that this Conference both support the principle of a National By-Laws change to a delegate system for all NOW National Conferences.
Submitted by Carolyn Feinglass, Montgomery Co. NOW; Dot Howze, Jo Ann Lockley, North Prince Georges County NOW; Carol Hensen, Sally Mace, Memphis NOW.

RESOLUTION # 9

Mary⁵⁰ ✓ Carried

Whereas formal written English has no adequate impersonal pronoun;
Whereas the generic use of HE continues to reinforce the assumption of male dominance, and to imply that girls and women are excluded from a number of roles;
Whereas HE OR SHE though sometimes necessary for emphasis, is too cumbersome for general use;
Whereas there are many precedents for use of THEY (THEM, THEIR) as a singular generic pronoun; (it is common in spoken and informal English. It has been used since Anglo-Saxon times by such authors as Jane Austen and Lord Chesterfield. It is recognized by such dictionaries as the Oxford English Dictionary and Webster's Third International, which defines THEY as meaning HE OR SHE;
Whereas the English language is a living language which reflects the needs of those who speak it when the needs change;
Be it resolved that the Public Relations Committee and all Task Forces of NOW use THEY as a generic singular in all NOW literature; and communicate with the National Publishers and News Media urging the adoption of this usage;
That all NOW members be encouraged to use THEY in place of HE or HE OR SHE, and to publicize this policy in newsletters, press releases, letters to the editors, and discussions with English teachers;
That communications be made on both the National and local levels with organizations such as NWPC, WEAL, AAUW, NEA, and National Secretaries Association, informing of the resolution and asking them to join with us in encouraging usage of THEY.
Submitted by Special Meeting Coordinator Amanda Smith.

RESOLUTION #10

114 ✓ Carried

Whereas the Memphis and Memphis State Chapters of NOW have extended a gracious welcome to their sisters and brothers;
Whereas the tremendous amount of time and energy which has been spent is evidenced by the smoothness and efficiency with which the whole conference has run;

Be it resolved that this conference commend the Memphis State and Memphis NOW chapters and express our appreciation for a job well done.
Submitted by Tootsie Holland, Columbia NOW.

RESOLUTION # 11

Carried

Carole Sharpenburg

Whereas there has been concern expressed by the membership regarding the lack of accountability of the National NOW offices;
Whereas it behooves the Southern Region of NOW to set the standards for the organization;

Be it resolved that a line item budget shall be submitted by the Regional Director to the state coordinators within 3 months after each Southern Regional Conference;
That a detailed report of income and expenditures be submitted to all chapter presidents within the Southern Region within the 2 months preceding each Southern Regional Conference beginning with the conference of 1975.
Submitted by Sally Mace, Memphis NOW.

RESOLUTION # 12

Carried failed

Whereas there is a tendency for our National and Regional conferences to be totally destroyed by politicking for elections, our valuable workshop time obliterated and our money wasted on non-productive travel, the membership of which spent the money to come in order to gain knowledge from the workshops and moral support from their sisters;
Whereas the in-fighting which occurs in the above mentioned conferences leads to bitterness and diversity rather than love and support from its members,

Whereas the practice of voting for officers at these conferences gives power of deciding our leadership and plans of action to those affluent members who can afford travel and conference expenses depriving those sisters who are forced to remain at home for various reasons (those too poor to come whom NOW is touted to "truly" represent) from having a voice in our momentous choices and decisions,

Be it resolved that this conference support balloting for National and Regional officers through the appropriate newsletters, through the U.S. mails, therefore allowing our precious conference time to be used for the purpose of education, exchanging ideas and support building membership and truly creating a "sisterhood that is powerful"
Submitted by Ruth Garman, Gainesville NOW.

RESOLUTION #13

Carried

Whereas the Memphis chapter had only two months to plan the 1974 Southern Regional Conference;

Be it resolved that the Southern Regional Conferences be bid, accepted, and announced regionally 10 months in advance of each Southern Regional Conference.
Submitted by Judy Yates, Memphis NOW.