

July, 2024

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National Women's History Alliance

*Wishing you a happy & safe
July 4th!*

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE

REFLECTING ON THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate July 4th, there is no better time to consider the importance of the ERA and what it would mean to future generations of women.

In 1848, a small group of women and men in New York organized the first women's rights conference in Seneca Falls, demanding the fundamental rights of citizenship. This historic women's rights meeting was soon followed by other women's rights gatherings in different states that drafted and circulated countless petitions calling for equal rights for all women.

The Declaration of Sentiments, modeled after the original Declaration of

Independence, outlined the grievances and rights denied to women, paralleling the complaints listed against the English King by the American colonists. It also detailed the rights women demanded. For the full document, which provides fascinating insights into its 1848 context, see: [Declaration of Sentiments](https://elizabethcadystanton.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/1848DeclarationofSentiments.pdf) (**Reference:** Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust. (n.d.). 1848 Declaration of Sentiments. Retrieved from <https://elizabethcadystanton.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/1848DeclarationofSentiments.pdf>).

Twenty-eight years later, the country celebrated the Great Centennial (1876) and Susan B. Anthony and other women's rights activists interrupted the Vice President's official speech to highlight their demand for full rights for women.

In 1923, suffrage leader Alice Paul proposed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to expand the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution to both genders. She understood the importance of constitutional protections for all citizens when she argued, "We shall not be safe until the principle of equal rights is written into the framework of our government." After more than 50 years of inaction by Congress, opponents defeated the amendment through the introduction of new rules and a campaign that raised various concerns and doubts.

The text of the ERA states that **"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."** If the Equal Rights Amendment were to become part of the Constitution, it would ensure that all individuals, regardless of gender, are guaranteed reproductive rights, equal pay, equal access to inheritance, and the recognition of same-sex marriages, among other rights. This amendment would help to protect and affirm rights that currently vary by state.

To reinforce the importance of the ERA being written into the Constitution, it's essential to examine various perspectives and legislative actions.

Our goal is to engage in constructive conversations that allow us to explore these perspectives and find common ground. By working together, we can ensure that the rich history of women's contributions to our society is celebrated and preserved for future generations.

For instance, there are differing views among members of Congress on:

- Title IX and its role in ensuring equal opportunity in education
- The Violence Against Women Act, the Fair Pensions Act, and the Paycheck Fairness Act
- Funding priorities, such as health-related benefits for family planning
- The U.S. ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

By engaging in open and respectful discussions, we can better understand these varying perspectives and work towards common goals that uphold equality and justice for all.

As we celebrate our independence this year, let's encourage conversations with friends, relatives, colleagues, and candidates about their understanding of the Equal Rights Amendment. Achieving constitutional recognition of women's rights and her

history has been a significant milestone throughout women's history.

[Join us](#) in being a part of this important conversation.



Stahr, Paul. "Retouching an Old Masterpiece." Life Cover Illustration, July 1915. Courtesy of The Library of Congress. Accessed July 3, 2024. Staten Island Museum.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY EVENT
SAVE THE DATE
August 26, 2024

We are excited to announce our upcoming Women's Equality Day event on Monday,



August 26th! This special day commemorates the strides we've made towards gender equality and honors the contributions of women throughout history.

This event promises to be an inspiring and empowering celebration. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details and registration information.

Event Highlights:

- **Celebration of Women's Equality Day:** Join us in recognizing the progress made and the work still ahead in achieving full gender equality.
- **Announcement of Our 2025 Theme:** Be the first to hear about our exciting new theme for Women's History Month 2025.

Let's celebrate Women's Equality Day with passion, purpose, and a commitment to progress!

For more information and updates, please visit [our website](#) and follow us on social media.

PURCHASE YOUR WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY SWAG NOW!

INCLUDED IN THE KIT:



- NWA exclusive Women's Equality Day poster (18"x24")
- Living the Legacy poster (red, white, blue) (18"x24")
- National Women's History Alliance exclusive Women's Equality Day banner (34"x11")
- Women's Equality Day bookmarks (25 pack)
- Women's Equality Day balloons (red and blue) (12 pack)
- Votes for Women balloons (gold and purple) (12 pack)
- Women's Equality Day electronic logo
- How Women Won the Vote PowerPoint

link

- The original Celebrating the Women's Suffrage Centennial Magazine pub. 2021 (20 copies)
- 2024 Women's History Magazine pub. 2024 (20 copies)

[PURCHASE YOUR KIT HERE.](#)

National Women's History Alliance is a non-partisan, non-profit registered 501(c)(3) whose mission is dedicated to advancing women's history in education, fostering empowerment, championing equality, and promoting inclusion.

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