

**RESOLUTION ON FIREARMS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE
UNITED STATES PROTECTING VICTIMS AT THE MOST DANGEROUS TIME**

WHEREAS, the **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN (NFDW)** has been a consistent champion of legislation protecting victims from domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the NFDW recognizes that over 2 million injuries and 1,300 deaths are caused each year in the U.S. as a result of domestic violence; and that firearms are the most commonly used weapon to commit intimate partner homicides; and research on domestic violence shows that firearms are used in almost 40 percent of the intimate partner homicides that occur annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the NFDW recognizes that according to the statistics tabulated by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, victims in an abusive relationship are 5 times more likely to be killed if the abuser has access to a firearm; and that domestic assaults that involve firearms are 12 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force; and

WHEREAS, research on domestic violence shows that the days following a victim's application for a restraining order and attempts to end an abusive relationship are the most dangerous and that Courts order temporary, ex parte, restraining orders for a period of up to two weeks only when the victim faces "immediate and present physical danger."; and

WHEREAS, currently in many states in the U.S., Courts have no explicit authority to order respondents to surrender firearms for the duration of a temporary, ex parte restraining order and there is no criminal penalty for possessing a firearm while subject to an ex parte restraining order; and laws that prohibit the purchase of a firearm by a person subject to a domestic violence restraining order are associated with a reduction in the number of intimate partner homicides; and

WHEREAS, it is therefore critical that each state's laws be amended to close this gap in safety for victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the NFDW recognizes that over 20 U.S. states have implemented strong laws, all in compliance with the Second Amendment and Due Process, prohibiting possession of firearms during ex parte orders based on the state's interest to protect victims of domestic violence; and the NFDW commends the State of Connecticut, which on May 2, 2016 became the most recent state to pass such legislation; however, the remainder of U.S. state legislatures have yet to pass such protective legislation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NFDW supports legislation in all 50 States that would explicitly empower courts to order respondents to surrender firearms upon the issuance of certain ex parte orders and that would make noncompliance with an ex parte order to surrender firearms a criminal offense; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NFDW members, in every state where such legislation is pending or yet to be introduced, shall educate and inform their local chapters on this issue who shall lobby their state legislators and governors to pass such legislation.

Submitted by the Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women
May 1, 2016