

Inequality Resolution
Submitted by
NFDW Legislative Committee

Whereas, in 2014, the last year of valid statistics confirmed by the U. S. Census Bureau, 14.8 percent or 46.7 million people in the United States lived in poverty based on the criteria of a family of four that is living on \$23,834 per year; and
Whereas, between 1979-2007 the real income of median households increased near 25 percent, and because more people entered the workforce and worked more hours per person this increase did not reflect a true increase in pay. During this same time frame, the real incomes of the richest one percent almost tripled; therefore the richest one percent has about a third of the nation's wealth and the top 5 percent have 60 percent of the wealth in the United States; and

Whereas, researchers have found that the effects of inequality are similar throughout the world and include higher rates of health and social problems, and for the top 21 industrialized countries, counting each person equally, life expectancy is lower in more unequal countries. Countries with greater inequality have more mental illness, more drug abuse, obesity, poorer child well being, more teen pregnancies, lower educational levels and literacy skills, more people incarcerated, more lack of health insurance, more food insecurity, less social mobility and more competition for basic necessities; and

Whereas, overall there is a greater inequality in the status of women. Domestic violence is greater where there is income inequality. The homicide rate in the United States in 2009 was 5 times greater compared with Canada. Greater income inequality seems to amplify and intensify the effects of social status differentiation leading to bigger material differences that create more social distances. The most common trigger to violence seems to be people feeling disrespected and looked down on; and

Whereas, inequality breeds less access to clean water and clean air, less access to safe and clean living standards which fosters higher rates of mortality and morbidity and fosters a loss of a sense of community and a creates a sense of hopelessness; and

Whereas, prejudice, bias and racial inequality has led to greater rates of arrests and incarceration, longer and unjust sentencing, racial profiling and hate crimes.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the National Federation of Democratic Women will condemn inequality in all forms and advocate for equal rights including equal pay for equal work, social justice, and an end to racism and classicism. We will promote legislation and policies, which eliminate prejudice, improve access to education and employment opportunities and close the widening inequality gap in our society.

Supporting Public Education Resolution
Submitted by
NFDW's Legislative Committee

Whereas, public education is critical to the well-being of our nation and is intended to provide free education to all children from primary through 12th grade; and

Whereas, approximately 50 million children attend one of 100,000 public schools in the United States, and each school should be fully funded in providing the resources necessary to keep schools not only running effectively but also providing equitable learning opportunities for each student, undoing the last decade of funding cuts in many states; and

Whereas, accountability of our schools should not focus only on testing but should provide a wide range of measurements to assess teacher effectiveness and student assessment; and

Whereas, teachers, as professionals, must have a major say in the needed improvements and direction of public education, in curriculum, student assessments, and teacher evaluations; and

Whereas, the curriculum should be preparing students for 21st century global engagement through a strong curriculum in all areas that focus on critical thinking and includes a balance in the intellectual, physical, creative, and social development; and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the National Federation of Democratic Women shall speak in favor of full funding of public education, support of the professional teacher, a balanced curriculum, and shall work to support legislation that impacts the quality of the public schools for all students across America.