

National Federation of Democratic Women
Resolution on Hurricane Relief for Puerto Rico

WHEREAS, in September 2017 Hurricane Maria passed through Puerto Rico and several other states plus the Virgin Islands. Since then electricity service has not been restored to the island of Puerto Rico; many towns and almost half of the island suffered without electric power and running water, including many areas of San Juan. Being without electricity for more than eight months has affected the economy and the tourism industry and the well-being of its inhabitants; blackouts of the whole island are still very common. Scientists claim the water of Puerto Rico is affecting the health of the people.

WHEREAS, currently Puerto Rico is governed by two different entities: the Government of Puerto Rico and the Oversight Board of the United States. Immediately after Hurricane Maria there were critical shortages of food, gasoline, and medicines that lasted for months.

WHEREAS, FEMA, the United States Corps of Engineers, and many non-profit entities of the United States and Puerto Rico have invested billions of dollars in restoring the power and fixing the infrastructure of electricity and water in Puerto Rico; nevertheless, the problems of lack of electricity and bad quality of water still exist. The Electric Power Authority of Puerto Rico had declared bankruptcy in Federal Court in May 2017.

WHEREAS, the Oversight Board receives exorbitant salaries yet services and public schools have been shockingly reduced while bond repayments have defaulted. In the last four years the Government of Puerto Rico has refused in violation to show audited accounting reports of over \$100 billion in loans it took from US investors, including social security recipients.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a complete investigation should be conducted by the United States Congress to analyze why Puerto Rico has not had full restoration of electricity and water and where the billions of dollars incurred by FEMA and the U. S. Corp of Engineers have been spent while most of the island is still in disrepair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should immediately start a bipartisan investigation of the federal funds invested after Hurricane Maria and should

investigate the bankruptcy of the Government of Puerto Rico and why the bondholders still have not been paid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress also should investigate the deaths of approximately 4600 persons during the hurricane reported by funeral parlors while the Government of Puerto Rico reported only 67 deaths.

In San Juan Puerto Rico 30 of April 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. M. Gardagan', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

President NFDW Puerto Rico

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Submitted April 30, 2018 by the Puerto Rico FDW

Adopted at by the Membership at the NFDW 47th Annual Convention on June 16, 2018

