

National Federation of Democratic Women

Resolution Committing to Combating Sexual Assault and Harassment

WHEREAS, the National Institute for Justice and the Centers for Disease Control estimate 1 out of every 6 women in the United States will become a victim of rape or sexual assault in her lifetime; and the same organizations estimate nearly 1 out of every 33 men, or 3 percent of men in the United States, will become a victim of rape or sexual assault in his lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice National Crime Victimization survey reports an average of 237,868 victims of sexual assault over the age of 12 each year; and,

WHEREAS, the US Bureau for Justice Statistics reports approximately 80 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 30. Furthermore, sexual assault reporting procedures on campuses of institutions of higher learning are often inconsistent, outdated, and the oversight authorities to enforce them are underfunded; and,

WHEREAS, support services for victims of sexual assault are often severely limited in rural areas, including on Native American and tribal reservations; and

WHEREAS, sexual harassment, threatening, and bullying in domestic settings, workplaces, school and college campuses, reservations, and social venues often lead to repeated persecution, sexual assault, or rape,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National Federation of Democratic Women recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and reaffirms our commitment to eradicating sexual harassment and sexual assault.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the National Federation of Democratic Women recognizes and appreciates the contributions of the many survivors of sexual discrimination, harassment, and assault who have bravely stepped forward to share their story in light of the #MeToo movement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the National Federation of Democratic Women stands in solidarity with all victims of such abuse and continues to pledge to fight for their rights and equal treatment, thus empowering those who have suffered sexual assault and harassment in their quest for justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the National Federation of Democratic Women shall work to prevent sexual harassment and rape by calling on all state legislatures and Congress to adopt stronger laws and programs that can help to remove this violent behavior from our society.

Submitted by the NFDW Legislative Committee April 6, 2018

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