



## Action Alert

October 11, 2019

From NFDW President Cindy Jenks:

October 11 is International Day of the Girl, and it is still important today to focus on the welfare of girls. According to the United Nations, “12 million girls under 18 are married; 130 million girls worldwide are still out of school; and approximately 15 million adolescent girls aged 15 – 19 have experienced forced sex.”

“Protecting girls everywhere is paramount to the future of mankind. After all, it was First Lady Hillary Clinton who proclaimed at the Beijing Conference in 1995 that ‘Women’s Rights are Human Rights.’ The lives of these girls literally depend on us,” stated President Jenks.

NFDW has elected to make ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment a priority for 2019 – 2020. Adding the ERA to the U.S. Constitution will contribute to more and better opportunities for the females of our country. The ERA will help close the wage gap between women and men in the U.S.A. This difference in pay can mean a woman is shortchanged by \$1 million over her lifetime in the work force.

Adoption of the ERA can also provide more balance in the courts. Currently sex discrimination cases are considered by intermediate standards. The ERA can help bring consistency to how these cases are reviewed because sex discrimination would be elevated to “strict scrutiny,” the same way race and religious discrimination are treated in the courts.

“Let’s get the ERA ratified because of the protections it will provide for our girls, and let’s make everyday International Girl Day” stated Jenks.