



National Federation of Democratic Women

Resolution on Missing and Exploited Children

WHEREAS, the National Federation of Democratic Women, organized in 1971, has been a means of supporting women’s voices within the Democratic Party and has supported justice and equality for all citizens, especially women, children and families of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, children are our most valuable and also our most vulnerable citizens who deserve to be protected by caring and responsible adults everywhere, and one missing child is too many; and

WHEREAS, in light of the increased attention locally and nationally regarding missing children in the District of Columbia and other jurisdictions, there has been heightened awareness of the spiraling number of missing and exploited children in cities, suburban, and rural areas across the country , especially among black and minority children; and

WHEREAS, increasing gang violence and turf wars have exacerbated the number of missing and exploited children and increased the number of children who have been abducted and forced into a subculture of drugs, violence, and prostitution; and

WHEREAS, according to the FBI, in 2016 there were 465,676 National Crime Information Center (NCIC) entries for missing children, and similarly in 2015 the total number of missing children entries into NCIC was 460,699; and

WHEREAS, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) reported in 2016 that one in six of the 18,500 children reported missing in 2016 were likely sex trafficking victims; 86% of these likely sex trafficking victims were in the care of social services or foster care when they went missing; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, many children are never reported missing and there is no reliable way to determine the total number of children who are actually missing in the U.S., including children who run away multiple times;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women encourages: 1) an increased number of well-trained officers be assigned to local child and family service divisions to work on missing children cases; 2) an expansion of missing children websites and social media messaging to include case catalog with broader information; 3) additional grant support be provided to government and non-profit agencies that address the issues of runaway or missing youth, including young adults forced into prostitution; and support an improved, national public education and public awareness program to highlight the growing threat of missing and exploited youth;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women shall advocate for effective legislation and encourage its members to lobby local, state and national elected leaders to reduce the proliferation of missing and exploited children including children victimized by sexual abuse; and encourage its members to be vigilant in monitoring social media sites that publicize information about children who have been recently lost or abducted; and each state chapter of The National Federation of Democratic Women shall transmit a copy of this resolution to their President of the State Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Submitted by the DC Federation of Democratic Women May 1, 2017

Adopted by NFDW Members at Convention June 10, 2017