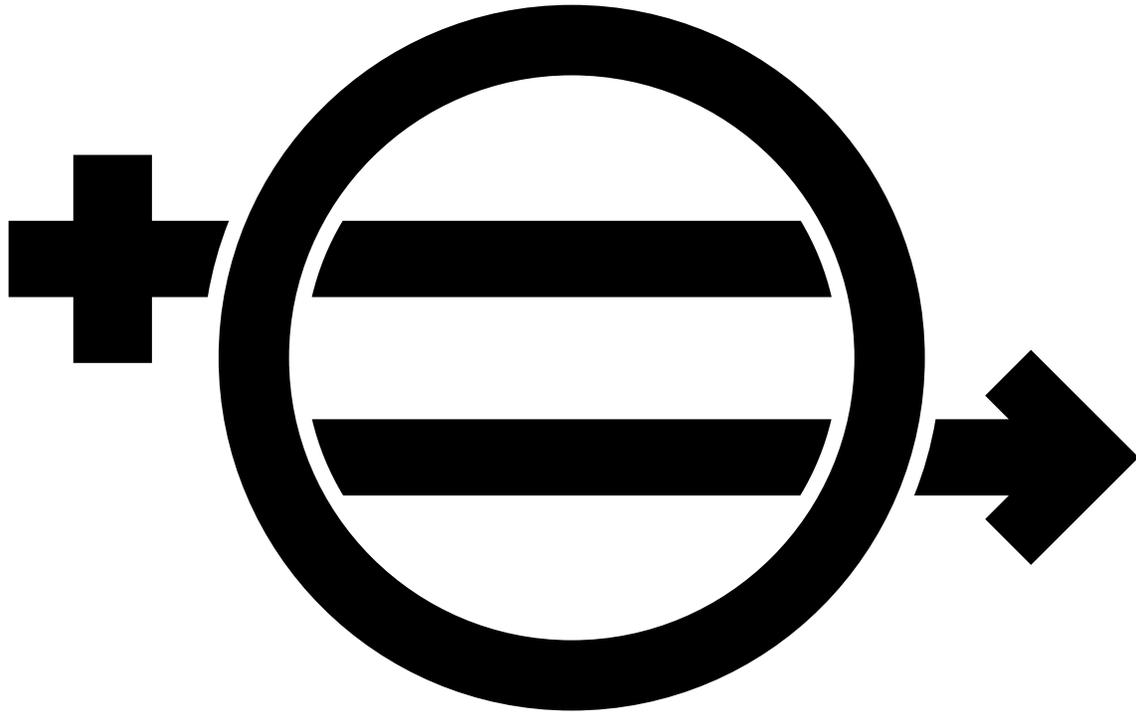


**There are no more excuses.**



**EQUAL**  
**MEANS**  
**EQUAL**

HEROICA FILMS Presents A KAMALA LOPEZ Film EQUAL MEANS EQUAL

Executive Producers LIZ LOPEZ & PATRICIA ARQUETTE Producer JOEL MARSHALL Co-Executive Producer JYOTI SARDA Co-Writer & Producer GINI SIKES

Art Director SARAH GOCHRACH Editor GEOFF STEBBINS Music by CHARLES-HENRI AVELANGE and KATHRYN BOSTIC

Written, Directed & Produced by KAMALA LOPEZ



HEROICA  
FILMS



From left to right: Liz Lopez, Executive Producer (standing); Sitting in front row: Dr. Dara Richardson-Heron (CEO of the National YWCA), Dr. Faye Williams (President of the National Congress of Black Women), Kamala Lopez (director of **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL**), Lisa Maatz (Lead Policy Advisor for the Association of American University Women), Dr. Lucienne Beard (Executive Director of the Alice Paul Institute), Standing in second row from left: Wendy Cartwright (We Are Woman), Bamby Salcedo (TransLatina Coalition), Leslie Acoca (Girls Health and Justice Institute), Bettina Hager (ERA Coalition), Jennifer Reisch (Equal Rights Advocates), Rita Henley Jensen (Women's renews), Noreen Farrell (Equal Rights Advocates), Jessica Neuwirth (President of ERA Coalition), Patricia Arquette (Executive Producer) Back Row Center from left to right: Joel Marshall (Producer), Leanne Litrell DiLorenzo (VoteERA), Crystal Wheeler, Leasha Gooseberry and Isabella Diaz, on floor in front (subjects in **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL**)

Photo: IVY NEY

**EQUAL MEANS EQUAL** is an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today. By following both real life stories and precedent setting legal cases, director Kamala Lopez discovers how outdated and discriminatory attitudes inform and influence seemingly disparate issues, from workplace matters to domestic violence, rape and sexual assault to the foster care system, the healthcare system and the legal system. Along the way, she reveals the inadequacy of present laws in place that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling and persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.

**“The struggle to pass the ERA in the U.S. is experiencing a phenomenal resurgence now, reflected in this film.”**

- Paula J. Caplan, Ph.D., Psychology Today



## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

The documentary **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL** was a logical outgrowth of filmmaker Kamala Lopez' ERA Education Project, the organization she founded in 2009 when Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. Congress) asked for her help to raise awareness about the lack of legal equality for women under the U.S. Constitution.

At the ERA Education Project, she created multi-media PSA's, video FAQ's, social media campaigns, educational videos & sites, piloted curriculum and travelled around the country speaking to groups as well as students in colleges and high schools about the need for equality for women under federal law.



The more Lopez delved into the subject matter, the more she realized that a full length documentary or even a series of programs would be necessary to adequately examine a deeply flawed system that was over two hundred years old and widely accepted as immutable.

In 2011, with the continued support of her mother Liz Lopez and husband Joel Marshall and the encouragement of Molly Tsongas and Robin Raj of Citizen Group, and director/producer Paul Dektor, Lopez began to formulate a plan for her film. It

was clear that documentary films such as *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Sicko* and *Food, Inc.* provided a lightening rod for creating an international conversation and call-to-action on important issues and women's equality certainly fit the bill.

The original concept for **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL** was for Lopez to travel across the country on a bus, organizing marches in each stop that would end with a speech about how equal rights would affect the particular public she was speaking to. She planned to blog and do outreach while travelling on the bus and do local press before each march. The goal was to complete the journey at the same time at the 2012 Presidential elections. Despite initial conversations with Rock the Vote, funding for this was unattainable and she began to hear that the issue was long dead and buried – no one cared about the Equal Rights Amendment anymore.

Convinced that it wasn't a lack of care but a lack of education that was at the heart of the matter, Lopez began to film her speaking engagements at conferences and events for the ERA Education Project and organize shoots at major events in the present day women's movement with a small amount of funding from family and friends.

In early 2012 she traveled to Washington D.C. for the 40th anniversary of the Equal Rights Amendment. There, with a skeleton crew, Lopez filmed legislators, advocates and pillars of the feminist movement including Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, NOW President Terry O'Neill, Feminist Majority founder Ellie Smeal, Senator Menendez and Lisa Maatz, Lead Policy Advisor for the American Association of University Women.



**EQUAL  
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EQUAL**

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION



Later in the year she returned to D.C. for a second major shoot covering the grassroots ERA rally, “We Are Woman,” where Lopez heard from feminist journalist Soraya Chemaly, Mormon feminists for ERA, Reverend Charles McKenzie of the Rainbow Coalition and dozens of American women about the challenges they face on the ground and explored with them how the passage of a Constitutional Equal Rights Amendment might address their struggles.

In order to secure funding to continue filming, Lopez began building a list of allies: women’s organizations, the film community, colleagues and friends. To broaden her personal address book of 6,000 people with people who care, from June through September 2013, she enlisted volunteers and friends to reach out to the 350 largest women’s organizations in the country and try to build a relationship prior to launching a Kickstarter campaign.

In June 2013, Lopez and her writing partner and **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL** producer Gini Sikes began looking through news footage they could use to supplement and support the footage they already shot in order to create a scripted teaser trailer that laid out the premise of the film.

Lopez’s Yale classmate Jeff Mueller helped them to budget out the documentary. Although it came in at almost a million, they ended up setting \$87,011 as their Kickstarter goal just to help them get started while continuing to source alternative funding.

They began their Kickstarter outreach on October 2, 2013 with an email to 50 close supporters telling them about the campaign and asking them to promote the project to their lists. By October 20th, they had amassed \$136,933 from nearly 2500 backers.

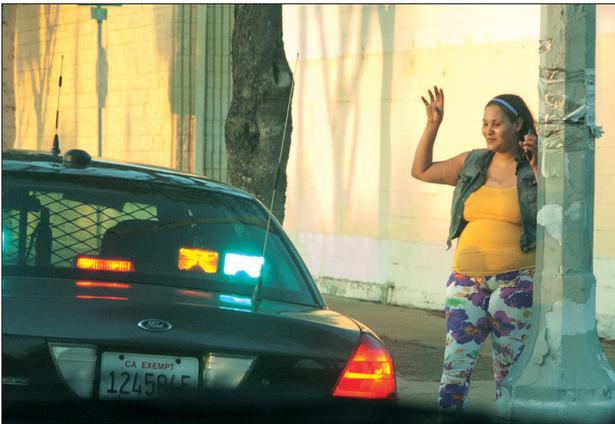


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## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

A few weeks later, Lopez and team travelled to Rhode Island and New York to cover the first ERA Conference in over 30 years at Roger Williams University Law School. Linda Wharton, Former Managing Attorney of the Women's Law Project, Roberta Francis, Chair of the ERA Task Force of the National Council of Women's Organizations, and Emily Sack, Deputy Director for the Center for Court Innovation and Professor of Criminal & Domestic Violence Law were some of the experts and activists with their fingers on the pulse of what's happening with women both on the ground and in policy developments that were interviewed.

In the spring of 2014, Lopez and the crew filmed for over a week in Los Angeles, covering issues such as Foster Care and Child Sex Trafficking. The film crew travelled with the Lieutenant Andre Dawson of LAPD's undercover VICE unit to the tracks in South L.A. where underage girls are bought and sold every day. Kim Biddle of Saving Innocence and Dr. Lois Lee of Children of the Night provided the stark realities of the lives of these children. Prison, juvenile justice and poverty were explored through the lens of



the Women's Center in Skid Row, L.A. County Probation officers, and Gang Specialists. Prison Rights activists spoke of the gender bias in sentencing and we heard the stories of women serving life in prison for killing their abusers. From the Captain Kelly Muldorfer, the highest ranking female officer in the LAPD to the many victims of rape, assault, domestic violence and forced prostitution – these interviews are some of the most visceral arguments in favor of women's explicit human rights that were captured.

Just weeks later, Gloria Steinem won the Presidential Medal of Freedom and agreed to be interviewed for the film. The crew flew back to New York and the result is a profound and transcendent take on gender discrimination from the ultimate source.

As the process of filming continued, Lopez and her team were approached by a growing stream of voices wanting to be heard. So many victims, experts and inspirational tales found themselves on the cutting room floor or, worse yet, unfiled due to time and budget constraints.

Lopez recognizes that one documentary cannot possibly do what needs to be done. And yet she speaks of having heard repeatedly how "we aren't doing a woman's project this year" or "we already have a woman's film in the pipeline" or, best of all, "we can't sell a woman's film."

We believe that women are not a minority issue. Women are not a monolithic homogeneous group that can be easily categorized, pandered to and assuaged. Women deserve to have sufficient content that reflects them, their needs, their stories and their issues. If **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL** then we need MORE to become equal. More characters, more faces, more time onscreen, more opportunities for jobs, more green lights on our projects. MORE. As Lakshmi Puri, head of UN Women said, "We are going for parity – fifty fifty – but we need at least 30%."



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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Several years ago I discovered, in researching my film *A Single Woman* about the life of Montana Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin, that women and men still do not have equal rights under federal law in the United States.

How could this be? It seemed like a monumental oversight that this wasn't front and center in our classrooms and civic life! And if this came as such a surprise to me, how many other people were also ignorant on the subject? What were the ramifications of the lack of legal bedrock underpinning American women's place in our society due to the failure of our Constitution to include them?

Most of the young women I spoke to believe that society views them as completely equal to their male counterparts. They assume they can "be, do and have" whatever they can achieve based on their individual merits. Unfortunately, as I discovered, the reality is quite different.

Over the course of the past seven years, I have taken a look at the top dozen issues affecting women and done an analysis of whether the laws that are presently in place are working or not to provide women with equal legal protections to men.

The subject and the real-world implications compelled us to be extremely comprehensive in our investigations and not skip any steps or cut any corners. From the gender wage gap to sexual assault, from pregnancy discrimination to child sex trafficking, I found laws that are incomplete, insufficient and in some cases actually deleterious to the women they are supposed to be helping.



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EQUAL**

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



What are noticeably and shockingly absent are the basic explicit human and civil rights protections that men are afforded by the Constitution. In case after case, the Supreme Court demurs on protecting women because they have no explicit Constitutional right to which to point. And despite our reliance on the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia candidly shared his opinion that, "The Constitution does not protect women from sexual discrimination. No one ever thought that's what it meant. No one ever voted for that."

The more I spoke to women, the more convinced I am that there is no woman untouched in the matter of gender discrimination - regardless of her social status or any other distinctions we may designate. The question becomes why is there so much of it hidden in plain sight and why don't we recognize it? Why do we accept it?

Clearly, there is a very effective propaganda campaign in the popular culture designed to convince us that women and men enjoy the same human and civil rights. Studies show that 72% of Americans are completely invested in the false belief that the genders are explicitly equal under the U.S. Constitution. My conclusion, after seven years of over a hundred interviews

and thousands of hours of work is that this blind spot opens the door to a lot of unconscious and conscious bias as well as disguising deliberate exploitation.

In **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL** I discovered that despite appearances, we're all connected. It is a super personal film and one that I want to connect with people on both an intellectual and emotional level. My hope is that the film will reach far and wide across the country and begin to educate the public on what I believe is the greatest civil and human rights violation of our time. And that once informed, the people, in particular, the younger generations who have been shockingly kept ignorant to their own direct economic detriment, will not put up with it. I believe the youth will use their collective energy and will to force a change to happen and make our country do the right thing. The climate is right and ripe for full equality for women today.

Ratifying the ERA would put American women's civil and human rights on a solid immovable foundation, impervious to the winds of political change. **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL** is an opening salvo to reignite the fight for our full civil rights once and for all.



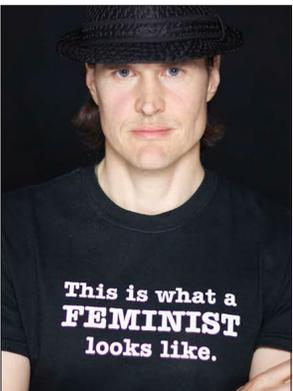
## LIZ LOPEZ - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

An educator, Liz Lopez was the Founder and Director of *Escuela Uno*, a private school in Caracas, Venezuela. Her belief in making truthful information available for the young and old so that they can make educated and forward thinking decisions concerning themselves and the world has been an integral part of her life.

Born in Rangoon, Burma and educated in India, Kansas and New York City and having lived in South America she holds the view that our differences are few and our commonality when shown openly, holds us together globally for a great and better future.

## JOEL MARSHALL - PRODUCER

Raised in the Seattle area, Joel began his career in the theater interning Sattappenwolf Theatre in Chicago, and working with Shakespeare & Company in Massachusetts. Then in Los Angeles he produced and starred in the play *Boy's Life*, at Theatre West and developed the hit play *Resa Fanstastisk Mystisk* with the renowned theatre troupe The Burglars of Hamm. More recently Joel has collaborated with his wife Kamala Lopez, writing, producing, editing, technical supervising, acting and directing on various projects, including the movie *A Single Woman*, the indie film podcast *FatFreeFilm*, the successful WGA online media campaign *Speech-less Without Writers*, and the short films *Coffee Clutch*, *Filet of 4*, *Ese Beso*, *Dark Knight Aurora* and *SLOB90X*. Joel has also produced and built media websites such as Regina Taylor's *CrownstheGospelMusical.com*, *ReginaTaylor.com* and the workout spoof site *SLOB90X.com*.



Joel was one of the founders of the ERA Education Project and produced and built the *ERAEducationproject.com* site and *RAUniversity.com* where he and Kamala did a pilot program working with students from Santa Monica college to create media and blogs centering around the Equal Rights Amendment. He is on the board of the Heroica Foundation, and also holds a technology position at the law firm Latham & Watkins. Joel has a BFA in Drama from the University of Washington in Seattle, and an MFA from CalArts.

## GINI SIKES - CO-WRITER/PRODUCER

Gini Sikes is a documentary filmmaker and investigative journalist, a web editor/writer, magazine editor and an author, who creates films and writes stories on subjects ranging from homeless kids in America to female circumcision in Africa. She's captured the inner lives of ingénues and prostitutes, priests and prisoners, vice cops and vice presidents, drug mules and chimpanzees (they spoke sign language).



Sikes' area of expertise and passion is women's and youth issues. For MTVNews' True Life documentary series, she directed episodes on club drugs, gang violence, prostitution and teen sexual health. She received a News Emmy nomination for *Where Were You At 22? a Rock The Vote/Choose or Lose* election special, which covered the lives of the 2000 presidential candidates



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## THE FILMMAKERS

when they were the age of MTV's viewers. She has created programs for PBS, Discovery Health, Court TV, Vh1, Investigative Discovery, TLC, Voice of America radio and more.

Sikes was a producer on the film by award-winning director Ilan Ziv, *Jesus Politics*, a look at how God entered the voting booth during the 2008 presidential race. (She landed interview subjects that included progressive Mennonites, Catholic anarchists and Tea Party Christians). In 2012 she joined Ziv's team for a six-part international television series for ARTE (French-German TV) about capitalism and the global economic crisis. On the web Sikes helped create and launch <http://executionchronicles.org>, a site connected to a documentary about the conviction, imprisonment and execution of Mark Stroman, who killed two people as revenge for 9/11.

She was a senior editor/writer at Metropolis and Mademoiselle magazines. Her articles have appeared in The New York Times, Vibe, Essence, Washington Post, Ebony, Elle, Harper's Ba-zaar, Glamour, Travel and Leisure among others. Sikes' book *8 Ball Chicks: A Year in the Violent World Of Girl Gangsters* (Anchor/Doubleday), chronicles a year spent with female gang members in three American cities. *8 Ball Chicks* received favorable coverage in The New York Times Magazine, Elle, Glamour, MS, Kirkus, Publishers' Weekly, Library Journal. She has appeared on TV and radio shows and lectured on gangs around the country.

Among her honors, she was awarded a Knight Fellowship for journalists from Stanford University and a Planned Parenthood Maggie Award for exceptional media coverage of reproductive health. She earned a master's from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.



### **PATRICIA ARQUETTE - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Actress, writer and activist Patricia Arquette has spent her career portraying memorable characters in film and on television. Winner of both the Academy Award and the Emmy for her acting, Arquette has chosen to use her considerable visibility to shine a light on issues and speak for people whose voices are rarely heard. Her work post Katrina and then in Haiti after the devastating hurricanes in 2012 led to the creation of the organization "Give Love" to help those still suffering.

As a young single mother, Arquette struggled to make ends meet with her son, Enzo. Later, in the film *Boyhood*, which was filmed over the course of twelve years, Arquette portrayed a woman faced with many of the struggles raised in **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL** - single motherhood, poverty, domestic violence and abuse.

When Arquette raised the issue of equality and fair wages for women at the 2015 Academy Awards, the world took notice. She has galvanized a growing movement determined to achieve equality for women in the United States. She has been a steadfast champion of the film and the women it seeks justice for over the course of many years.



## **JYOTI SARDA — CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Jyoti Sarda currently serves as Vice President of Marketing at Paramount Home Media International. Since 2011, she has led all facets of global marketing operations for Paramount partner brands including Dreamworks, Marvel, Lucasfilm, CBS, Showtime, MTV & Nickelodeon while overseeing international marketing of Paramount's film catalog and acquisitions. Prior to Paramount, Jyoti worked at Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, spearheading the international new releases of high profile franchises (*Avatar*, *X-Men*) and specialty titles from Fox Searchlight. She also managed the domestic TV DVD group during the heyday of *24*, *The Simpsons*, and *Family Guy*.

Before transitioning into entertainment, Jyoti was a successful advertising executive at agencies like Ogilvy & Mather, JWT and MZA working with clients such as Kraft, Dole, and Mattel. Jyoti resides in Los Angeles with her husband and daughter. Having received her Bachelor's from USC and EMBA from UCLA-Anderson, she's both a Bruin & Trojan and won't entertain requests to choose a favorite.

# PRESS COVERAGE

THE  
OSCAR<sup>®</sup>S.

"TO EVERY WOMAN WHO GAVE BIRTH, TO EVERY TAXPAYER AND CITIZEN OF THIS NATION,  
WE HAVE FOUGHT FOR EVERYBODY ELSE'S EQUAL RIGHTS.

**IT'S OUR TIME**

TO HAVE WAGE EQUALITY ONCE AND FOR ALL  
**AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN  
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."**

- Patricia Arquette, speaking at The Oscars, Feb. 2015

# marie claire

# LOOK SEXY NOW!

**KILLER HAIR**  
**STRONG BODY**  
**GLOWY SKIN**

**YOU GOT THE BIG JOB. CAN HE DEAL?**

**RULES FOR A HOT & HAPPY LIFE**

# CAMERON DIAZ

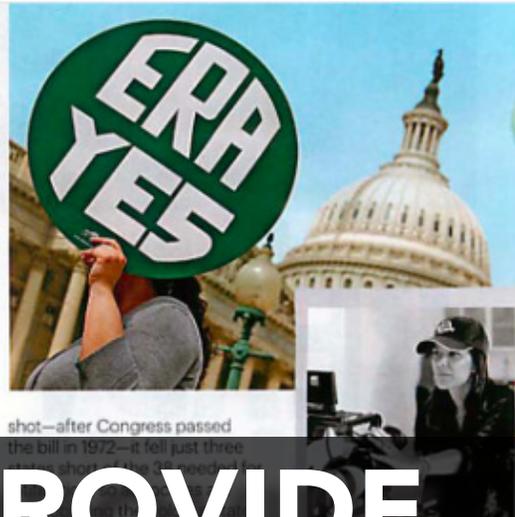
## NewsFeed

**ELECTION SPECIAL**

### UNITED STATES **THE RIGHTS DIRECTION**

Can you believe there's no law protecting equal rights for women? (Yeah, we couldn't believe it, either)

**ACTRESS AND ACTIVIST** Kamala Lopez had had enough of what she calls the "open



shot—after Congress passed the bill in 1972—it fell just three

# "I'M HOPING TO PROVIDE A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT IT IS TO BE A WOMAN IN AMERICA."

I DON'T THINK THE REALITY IS ANYTHING CLOSE TO WHAT PEOPLE THINK."

- Kamala Lopez, Director of EQUAL MEANS EQUAL, Nov. 2014

**22-PAGE MC@WORK BLOWOUT!**

**DRE**

**BY THE NUMBERS CONTINUED**

COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

**49%** CUBA

**45%** SWEDEN

**44%** SEYCHELLES



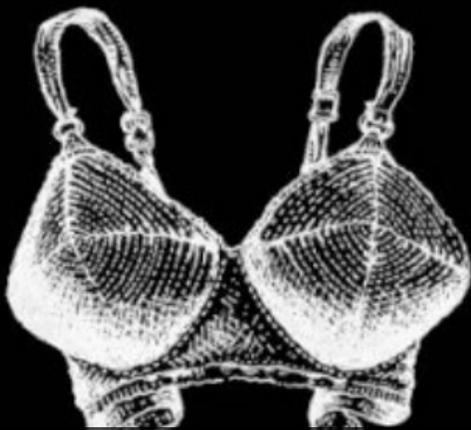
# MovieMaker magazine

MOVIEMAKER.COM

THE ART & BUSINESS OF MAKING MOVIES

**"WHAT LOOKS LIKE EQUALITY, FEELS LIKE EQUALITY, & IS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE EQUALITY FOR AMERICAN WOMEN IS IN FUNCTION, FACT AND SUBSTANCE NOT EQUALITY AT ALL."**

- Kamala Lopez, Director of *EQUAL MEANS EQUAL*, Feb. 2014



**The Best Women's Rights Documentary Ever...Is Coming Soon!**

BY KATIE FUSTICH IN MOVIES ON OCT 07, 2013



# BUST

MAGAZINE

**"THE BEST WOMEN'S RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY EVER... IS COMING SOON!"**

Katie Furtich, *BUST Magazine*, Oct. 2013



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EQUAL

# TrustLaw

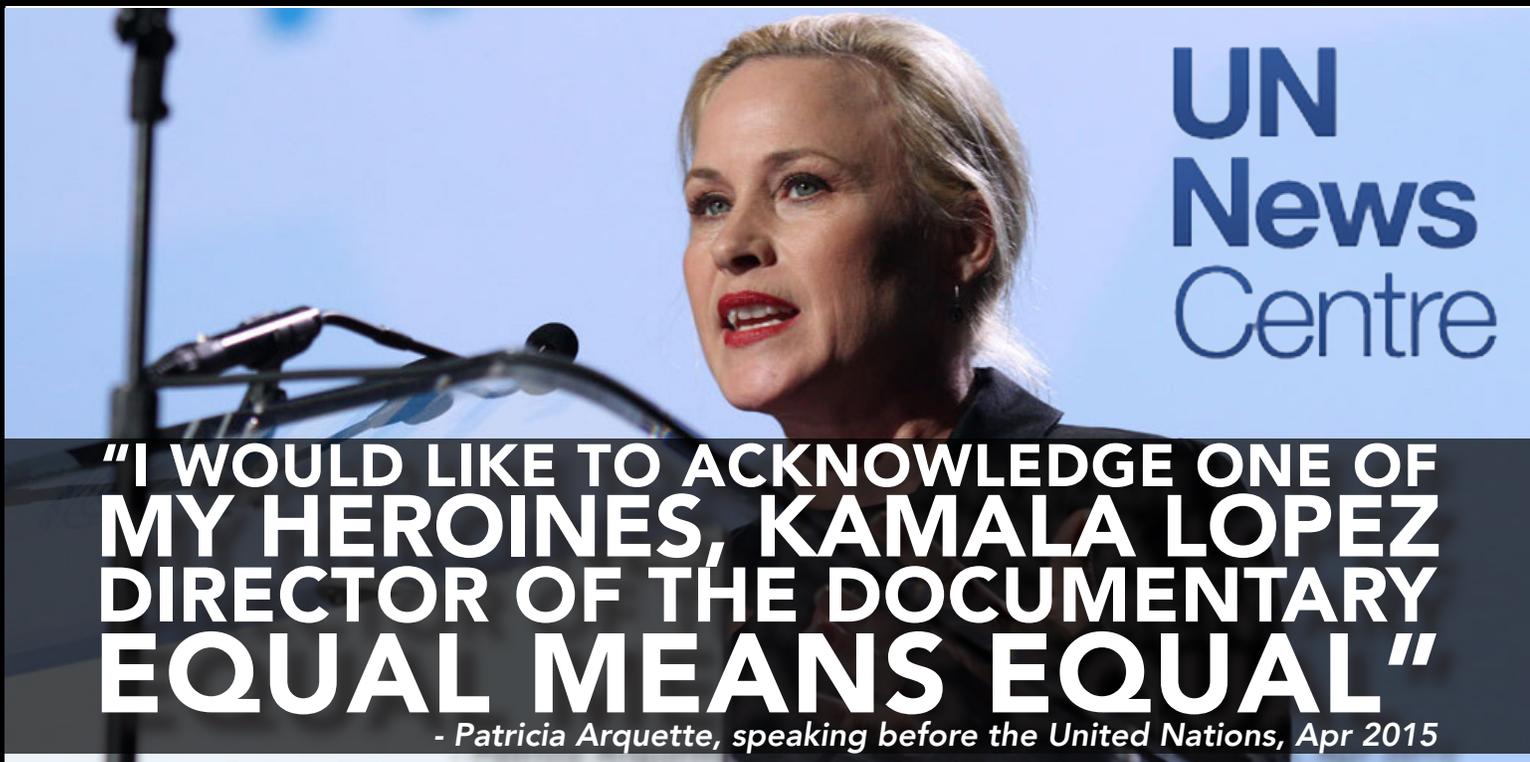
A THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION SERVICE

**"ONE PERSON FIRES ME UP TO BELIEVE  
...KAMALA LOPEZ, AN ACTOR AND AN ACTIVIST.  
LOPEZ IS ALSO A POWERFUL ORATOR AND SHE JUST MIGHT HAVE  
THE WILL, THE RESOURCES AND THE STRATEGY TO BRING IT OFF."**

*-Rita Henley Jensen, Founder & Editor in Chief of Women's e News, Aug. 2011*

Only one woman in the congressional Super Committee charged with cutting \$1.5 trillion from the federal budget with such women-critical programs---like

**YOU?**



**"I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ONE OF  
MY HEROINES, KAMALA LOPEZ  
DIRECTOR OF THE DOCUMENTARY  
EQUAL MEANS EQUAL"**

*- Patricia Arquette, speaking before the United Nations, Apr 2015*

Photo: UN Women/J Carrier



EQUAL  
MEANS  
EQUAL



— THE —  
**SHRIVER**  
— REPORT —

**"WHEN MORE THAN HALF THE U.S. POPULATION DOESN'T HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW AND THREE-QUARTERS OF THEM DON'T KNOW IT, THAT'S A DE FACTO VIOLATION OF THE MAJORITY'S CIVIL RIGHTS."**

*- Kamala Lopez, Director of EQUAL MEANS EQUAL, Oct. 2013*

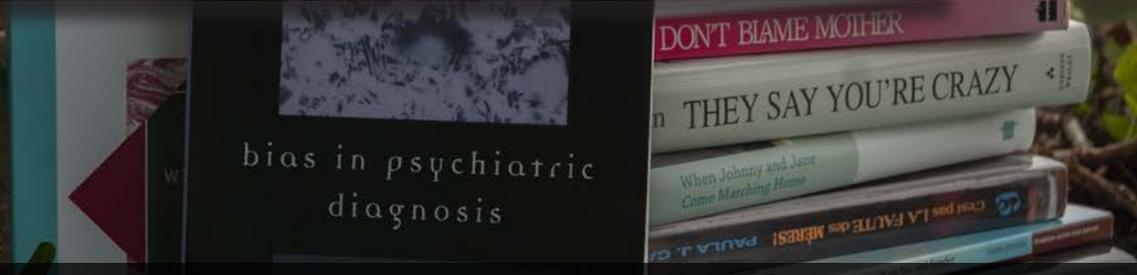


**"MYTHS ABOUT GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S ALLEGED INFERIORITY AND OTHER KINDS OF MYTHS SERVE A CRUCIAL PURPOSE: THEY MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THOSE WITH THE MOST POWER AND RESOURCES TO JUSTIFY REFUSING TO GIVE GIRLS AND WOMEN THEIR FAIR SHARE."**

*- Jessica Ravitz, CNN, Apr. 2015*

Companion book **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL** by Jessica Neuwirth

**Psychology Today** Here To Help



**"THE STRUGGLE TO PASS THE ERA IN THE U.S. IS EXPERIENCING A PHENOMENAL RESURGENCE NOW, REFLECTED IN THIS FILM"**

- Paula J. Caplan, Ph. D., *Psychology Today*, Mar. 2014

**Policy.Mic**



**ERA**

**"MEN AND WOMEN DO NOT HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES — THIS IS PROOF"**

- Elizabeth Plank, *Policy Mic*, Oct. 2013



EQUAL  
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EQUAL



# "FILM DIRECTOR AND ACTIVIST KAMALA LOPEZ SPEARHEADS THIS MOVEMENT

THAT SEEKS TO FINALLY MAKE A REALITY AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION."

-Univision, 2012

# THE HUFFINGTON POST



**Kamala Lopez** [Become a fan](#)  
Filmmaker and actress

## Funeral for a Fake Out

Posted: 10/30/2014 5:50 pm EDT | Updated: 12/30/2014 5:59 am EST

# "THE UNITED STATES HAS THE HIGHEST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE RATE IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD.

THREE WOMEN A DAY WILL DIE AT THE HANDS OF THEIR INTIMATE PARTNERS."

-Kamala Lopez, Director, EQUAL MEANS EQUAL, Oct. 2014



EQUAL MEANS EQUAL



BUHACH COLONY  
HIGH SCHOOL



**"LET'S PUT IT IN WRITING,  
LET'S DO IT NOW."**

*-The Students of Buhach Colony High School, Mar. 2014*



**UPWORTHY**

**"WE HERE AT UPWORTHY ARE  
SO HAPPY WE CAN HELP FACILITATE  
A POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE IN ANY WAY WE CAN."**

*-Joseph Lamour, Upworthy, Mar. 2014*



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Joining feminist filmmaker and actress Kamala Lopez in the receipt of the NWPC 2011 Women of Courage Award are, Pakistani women's rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Rubina Feroze Bhatti; author, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Edie Fraser; Minority Leader, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi; past and youngest director of the Women's Bureau and Secretary of Labor, Alexis Herman; first Filipina-American elected to a state legislature in the U.S., Velma



**"LOPEZ, A STAUNCH DEFENDER OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, HAS BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN A PROJECT THAT SEEKS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE NEED TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO GUARANTEE EQUALITY."**

Victoria; first president of the Women's Action Organization of Mississippi; and former National Women's Political Caucus member and state legislator, Joyce Fernabough Bolling; author of Politics & Campaign Magazine; and first woman to be elected to the National Organization for Women's Executive Board.

The 2011 Women of Courage awards will be presented at the NWPC Diversity Reception at the Los Angeles Convention Center on July 14, 2011. Hilda Solis, 2009 Women of Courage Award recipient, has

*- Yvonne P. Mazzulo, examiner.com, Jul. 2011*

Kamala Lopez (photo courtesy Steve Shadrack)

# LATIN AMERICAN Gerald Tribune

- The World
- Sites/Places
- Venezuela
- Venezuela News
- Facts about Venezuela
- Venezuela Tourism
- Embassies in Caracas

LOS ANGELES – Actress and filmmaker Kamala Lopez is a staunch defender of women's rights and has become actively involved in a project that seeks to raise awareness about the need to amend the Constitution to guarantee equality.

**"[KAMALA'S] ACTIVISM HAS WON HER THE 2011 WOMAN OF COURAGE AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS."**

*- The Latin American Herald Tribune, Aug. 2013*





THE TIMES OF INDIA

# Kamala Lopez defends women's rights

**"LOPEZ IS DIRECTOR OF THE ERA EDUCATION PROJECT, A NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT."**

Actress and founder of the ERA Education Project, Kamala Lopez shared information to the audience at the 2012 Constitution Day event to rally awareness around the issue of gender inequality through media, social and new media campaigns and college projects. *Kamala Lopez, a staunch defender of women's rights has become actively involved in a project that seeks to raise awareness about the Equal Rights Amendment.* - *The Times of India, Jul. 2011*  
The New York-born Lopez Rankin.



## Gender equality discussed at Constitution Day panel

**"[KAMALA] LIKES TO BRING THE CONVERSATION BACK TO THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION, "DO WE AS AMERICANS FEEL THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL?"**

- *Allie Garry, Campus Correspondent, Oct. 2012*

KEVIN SCHELLER/The Daily Campus

Dartmouth professor Lisa Baldez speaks at the 2012 Constitution Day panel on gender equality, Tuesday.

Actress and founder of the ERA Education Project, Kamala Lopez shared information to the audience at the 2012 Constitution Day event to rally awareness around the issue of gender inequality through media, social and new media campaigns and college projects.

"96 percent of the population in the United States is white, 8 percent of us think it does [guarantee that right]."

ERA is the

political, back to the fundamental question, "do we as Americans feel that all people are equal?"

us quo all of us, women and men, are losing out. According to Kamala, for every dollar a man makes a white woman will make 77 cents, a black woman 69 cents, and a Latina 59 cents.

Lisa Baldez is a Political Science Professor at Dartmouth College and is finishing a book on the



EQUAL MEANS EQUAL

# Honoring Womens Rights or Defending Them? Top Activists and Advocates Discussed and Debated It



## SALINAS CONFERENCE

**"THE DAY WAS MARKED BY CURRENT EVENT NEWS-MAKERS, SUCH AS WOMENS HEALTH ADVOCATE SANDRA FLUKE AND ... ERA EDUCATION PROJECT FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KAMALA LOPEZ."**

On September 8th a grass-roots WCA project brought Salinas Conference, Sept. 2012 women's rights advocates from all over the country to inform and discuss current and past political



LOS ANGELES – Actress and filmmaker Kamala Lopez so has become actively involved in a project that calls for the Constitution to guarantee equality.

Her activism has won her the 2011 Woman of Color Caucus, which she will receive on July 27, when she is honored.

Lopez is director of the E.R.A. Education Project, which is focused on the Equal Rights Amendment.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) is reintroducing legislation to acknowledge what the immense majority of the people believe before the law," Lopez said in an interview with E.R.A. Education Project.

"What many people don't know is that the 14th Amendment, which could guarantee women's rights at the federal level, was passed in 1868. It has been a long time since we've had the winds of change blowing through the halls of Congress. Acting carelessly in the name of progress is not the way to move forward."

**"RATIFYING THE ERA WOULD PUT THE AMERICAN WOMAN'S SIZEABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HER GAINS THROUGHOUT THE LAST CENTURY ON A SOLID IMMOVABLE FOUNDATION, IMPERVIOUS TO THE WINDS OF POLITICAL CHANGE."**

- Kamala Lopez, Director of EQUAL MEANS EQUAL, Jul. 2011

*Kamala Lopez defends women's rights*

She debuted as a filmmaker in 2009 with "A Single Congresswoman, Jeannette Rankin."

# Oscar-winner Patricia Arquette keeps the push going for equal pay for women



Patricia Arquette arrives at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP)

By [Rob Lowman](#), Los Angeles Daily News Posted: 02/28/16, 4:00 PM PST |

robert.lowman@langnews.com @RobLowman1 on Twitter A year ago, Patricia Arquette made an impassioned Oscar acceptance speech about equal pay for women that helped drive a national discussion about sex-based discrimination.

On the eve of this year's Academy Awards, which are mired in the controversy over not nominating any non-white actors, we caught up with Arquette, star of CBS's "CSI: Cyber" and who won her Oscar for her role in "Boyhood."

"I knew I wanted to say something at the Oscars about equal pay because of my mother's experience, because of my own experience as a single mom, and my character's experience in 'Boyhood,' where she stays in an abusive relationship because she didn't have the money to get out," says the actress.

On Thursday, Arquette hosted a dinner in Los Angeles called "Dinner for Equality," attended by Jennifer Lawrence, Elon Musk and Reese Witherspoon, Lily Tomlin, Marisa Tomei, Maria Bello, Minka Kelly and India Arie and Stevie Wonder.

After Arquette's Oscar speech, California Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) was inspired to introduce The Fair Pay Act, and she asked the actress to campaign for it. The equal pay bill passed the legislature in October and took effect on January 1.

At the dinner, Arquette said she believes she has already lost out on some acting jobs because of the stand she took last year. However, she is remaining active and is a producer of a provocative documentary from her friend Kamala Lopez called "Equal Means Equal," which the actress calls a "state of the union for women in America today."

Arquette has also helped start a petition to reintroduce the Equal Rights Amendment, which failed to be ratified in 1982. (<https://www.change.org/p/ratify-the-equal-rights-amendment-equalmeansequal>)

So far the film has not picked up a distributor. "Everyone we have shown it to has said, 'We're not doing anything with women this year,'" Arquette says, shaking her head. "But this is an important conversation this year with the election."

Earlier this week, USC released a report that confirmed what is at the heart of the controversies — "the film industry still functions as a straight, white, boy's club." The study found that men far outnumber women as directors, writers and industry executives. Minorities are drastically underrepresented in acting roles, and lesbian, gay and transgender characters are almost nonexistent.

At Saturday's Independent Spirit Awards, Arquette was a presenter — as she will be at the Oscars — and said she was proud to be there on "this historic occasion when trans women are nominated for best actress and best supporting actress roles."

One of them, Mya Taylor, won as best actress for "Tangerine."

"There is not enough diversity in our industry," says Arquette, "but I also think it's in every other industry, and when it's compounded with gender bias it's a very bad thing."

She adds that as an actor she loves to watch great acting. "To have something limited because of the color of their skin or their gender really makes me sad. I don't want the best performances and stories left out of the room."



JEN YAMATO

GAME CHANGER 02.27.16 1:25 AM ET

# Patricia Arquette on Her Incendiary Oscars Speech and the Fight for Equal Pay

One year later, the Oscar winner looks back at the historic speech that helped bring gender pay inequality into the national debate.

This time last year, Patricia Arquette was plotting how she'd bring the fight for gender equality to the Academy Awards stage if she won the Oscar.

She did win. And then she delivered the most impactful half-minute speech of her career, one that helped propel gender wage inequality into the national debate and led to the passage of the California Fair Pay Act, which took effect last month.

"I didn't write that blurb until they were putting on my makeup," Arquette told *The Daily Beast* Friday, flashing back to the incendiary 2015 Oscars speech blasting the fact that women in this country are paid substantially less than men for no reason, a systemic discrepancy many don't realize has major economic and social ramifications beyond the payroll. "But I knew I was going to talk about pay equality and equal rights."

This year, again on the eve of Hollywood's biggest night, Arquette is back championing gender equality — and she's got many, many more friends. Thursday night in Los Angeles she co-hosted the first Dinner for Equality, gathering luminaries from entertainment, politics, and business to rally around the cause.

Present alongside Elon Musk, Reese Witherspoon, and Stevie Wonder at the inaugural dinner was Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence, the biggest female movie star in Hollywood, who last October penned a letter questioning why she was paid less than her male co-stars. At Thursday's event — held days before the 2016 Oscars, where she's nominated for her performance in *Joy* — Lawrence spoke of the support that flooded her way but also the intense scrutiny that followed both publicly and privately, including from the Republican relatives who "told me my career was effectively over."

Arquette can sympathize; that history-making Oscars speech lost her jobs, she told *Variety's* David S. Cohen.

"I feel really bad for [Lawrence] because she came out and talked about recognizing that she'd been paid less," Arquette said Friday, shortly after launching a Change.org petition to push a long-needed Equal Rights Amendment through the American legal system. "What we were watching was any young girl discovering that she'd been paid less, discovering that there's a gender pay gap. It's not about being an actor, or how many zeroes are behind the number. What it is about is that this is in 98 percent of all businesses."

"Standing behind Jennifer Lawrence, while they seem totally unrelated to this big movie star who makes a lot of money, are 33 million women and kids who are seriously suffering because their mom's not paid her full dollar," she continued. "To diminish that argument and make it about actresses or wealthy actresses is really a stupid argument because the reality is it's in all businesses and we need to talk about it."

Equal rights begins with economic equality, they argue. After seeing Arquette's impassioned Oscars speech last year, California state senator Hannah-Beth Jackson authored the bill that would toughen existing pay equity laws. Prior to its signing, women in the state were paid 84 cents for every dollar a man made working a comparable job.

"It's a life and death situation for multiple millions of people," said Arquette. "We have 33 million women and kids that are in poverty in America *with* full time working moms. If those moms were paid their full working dollar, it's not that they'd be wealthy, but they would not be in poverty. That's a big difference. That's food. That's groceries."

A recurring figure of opposition in the film is the late Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia, whose vocal influence on several influential decisions that failed to protect women's rights set major precedents for the women of today.

"Scalia had said the way he interpreted the Constitution, women did not have equal rights," Arquette said, emphasizing the need to make constitutional changes that will no longer leave the rights of American women up to interpretation. "If you have a Supreme Court justice telling you that you don't have equal rights, you'd better damn well do something about it and make sure they put in your equal rights, once and for all. You can't be at the will and the mercy of whoever's standing wearing that robe, and whoever's making laws state to state."

And while she admits to having "strong political feelings" about the 2016 Presidential candidates whose campaigns fall in sharp contrast to the best interests of women everywhere, Arquette says the Equal Rights Amendment movement must remain nonpartisan if it is to have a shot at passing – and so must she.

"I'm trying to really work on passing the ERA," she said, declining to comment on any specific Presidential candidates. "When Senator Hanna-Beth Jackson made the speech I said, 'We've got to make [the California Fair Pay Act] nonpartisan.' She was like, 'That's going to be really hard.' But they got almost unanimous bipartisan support and then the governor signed it, and that's really what we need. We won't pass the Equal Rights Amendment without nonpartisan support."

They need the support of the entertainment community as well, Arquette urged—even if some content distributors have told her they've already filled their quota of female-centric fare for the time being. "We need this movie to understand what's happening in our country, because this isn't the story we're learning in the news, and this isn't the lesson we're learning in the classrooms. We need to see what the hell is going on in America."

“I feel really bad for [Lawrence] because she came out and talked about recognizing that she’d been paid less,” Arquette said Friday, shortly after launching a Change.org petition to push a long-needed Equal Rights Amendment through the American legal system. “What we were watching was any young girl discovering that she’d been paid less, discovering that there’s a gender pay gap. It’s not about being an actor, or how many zeroes are behind the number. What it is about is that this is in 98 percent of all businesses.”

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Arquette is hoping to get people talking with *Equal Means Equal*, a new documentary she executive produced and appears in alongside an impressive coalition of national advocacy and activist leaders. Directed by actress and filmmaker Kamala Lopez, the film’s goal is to wake America up to the gendered discrimination and inequality enabled by the country’s lack of protective laws for women.

*Equal Means Equal* unites typically segmented women’s advocacy groups and connects the dots to illuminate the alarming web of causality that links them together. Blending shocking statistics and heartbreaking personal stories with interviews, news reports, and narration by Lopez, the doc dives into social ailments including female poverty, poor domestic violence protections for women, increasingly limited reproductive rights, sex trafficking, and female incarceration, and argues that they share a central root — the lack of basic gender equality laws for women.

“This isn’t a movie to go see, like, ‘Let’s go see a fun movie!’ This is a college crash course [lasting] 90 minutes,” said Arquette. “It’s a blistering, nightmarish state of the union examination of women in the United States of America. This is not a pretty picture. This is living, breathing, real American history happening right now.”

The film mounts a convincing case, arguing how any one of these issues is far from an isolated issue, but rather creates devastating ripple effects unto the lives of women and families of all walks of life, whether they know it or not. That’s how the story of one artist

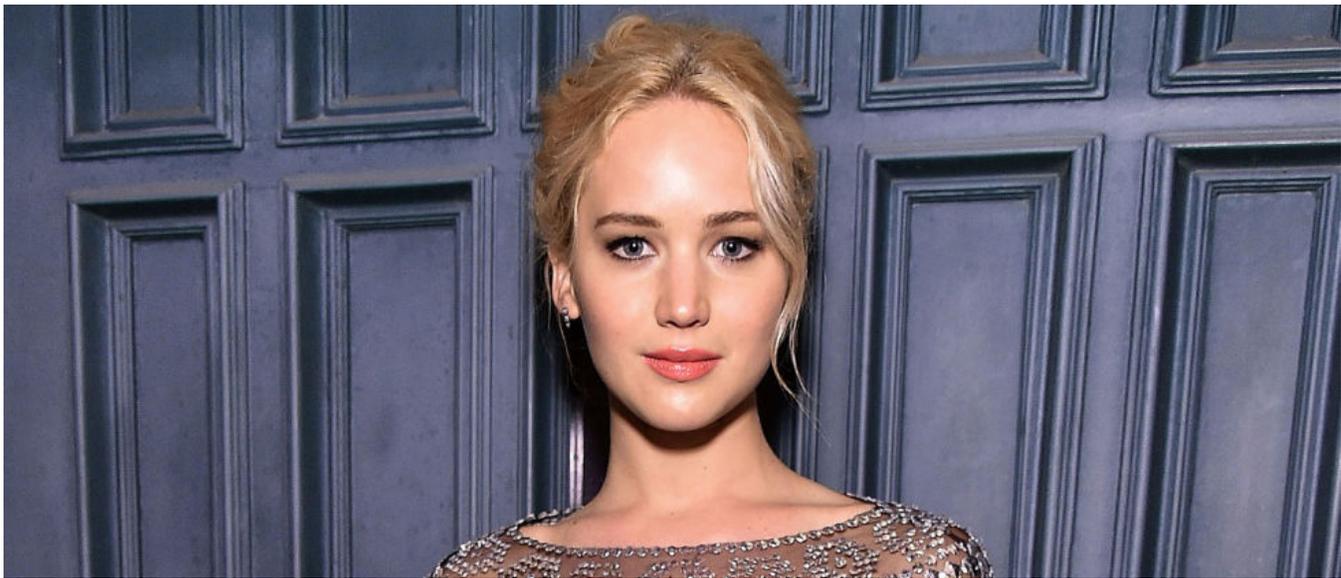
that didn’t bother to ask if she was okay—finds echoes in the high profile case of a public figure like Kesha, for example.

“God!” Arquette exclaimed, commenting on Kesha’s public battle to sever ties from music producer Dr. Luke, whom she alleges drugged and raped her. “When in the history of the world have we seen this before? Where someone could own someone’s work, tell them what to do and when, silence their voice, and rape them at will?”

Ultimately, the Equal Means Equal group has an even loftier goal than public awareness: Ratify the Equal Rights Act first introduced in 1923, which too few Americans realize never actually passed.

# Jennifer Lawrence And Patricia Arquette Stump For Equal Rights During Oscars Weekend

Say and repeat: "Equal pay for women!"



BY EMILY ZEMLER FEB 28, 2016

The conversation surrounding this year's Oscars has been largely focused on racial disparity, but the gender pay gap was the topic of choice at the Women In Film Pre-Oscar Cocktail Party on Friday.

At the event, hosted by non-profit Women In Film, nominee Jennifer Lawrence gave an impromptu speech about the importance of equal compensation. The actress, who has previously [discussed the subject at length](#) in an essay as well as at Thursday's Dinner For Equality event—took the stage after Patricia Arquette, who has been an outspoken advocate for the cause since addressing it [in her acceptance speech](#) at last year's Oscars.

"I'm a huge fan of Patricia Arquette," Lawrence told the room of attendees including Alicia Vikander, Lake Bell, Charlotte Rampling, and Jennifer Jason Leigh. "I actually played the younger version of her [on *Medium*]. I love that she stood up—we're getting a conversation going. We're getting a dialogue going." The actress asked the crowd to sign Arquette's [new petition](#), which asks to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to ensure that it reflects complete equality in America. Lawrence, flustered by her last minute speech, admitted, "I didn't know I was going [to do this]" and concluded by shouting "Equal pay for more as I go. It's weird being a public figure talking about all of this stuff because you put a target on your nose.")

On the red carpet before the event, Arquette explained to ELLE.com why this cause is so important to her. "We say we have equal rights, but we don't exactly," she said. "It's funny because I just did [one of those PBS specials](#) where you learn about your roots. They found out that my family has been in North America for 400 years. Before America *was* America—we came to Québec like 20 years before Canada started to get settled. So I figure, 'Well, my family fought in the French-Indian War. My family fought in the Revolutionary War. My family fought in the Civil War.' And you know what? I'm fighting for equal rights right now in America. It's time to have equal rights for women."

[#equalmeansequal](#). Sign and spread the word! Thank you [@PattyArquette](#) & [@SenHannahBeth](#). <https://t.co/jVEnj31rQh> [pic.twitter.com/sKoducjjac](https://pic.twitter.com/sKoducjjac)  
— Reese Witherspoon (@RWitherspoon) [February 27, 2016](#)

**"YOU DAMN WELL  
BETTER GET  
YOURSELF SOME  
EQUAL RIGHTS."**

Arquette's continued activism has earned public support on Twitter from actresses like Reese Witherspoon. "There has been a lot of great changes," Arquette noted. California and it's awesome, but if

you look at what's going on in Kentucky with women, it's really a bad scene. Especially women of color. Especially trans women. And lesbian women. We've got to have really basic human rights so that our lawyers can say, 'We have this in our constitution.'"

"We need this for so many reasons." She added, "Anthony Scalia, who recently passed away, he said that women do not have equal rights. So if you have a Supreme Court justice telling you that you don't have equal rights, you damn well better get yourself some equal rights."



Women in Politics



Kamala Lopez attends The Dinner For Equality on Feb. 25, 2016 in Beverly Hills, Calif.  
Windle/Weinstein Carnegie Philanthropic Group/Getty

Photo by Mike

## Filmmaker seeks to put the Equal Rights Amendment back on the map

03/02/16 02:38 PM —UPDATED 03/03/16 01:40 PM

By Adam Howard

It's been more than 30 years since the Equal Rights Amendment came close to becoming constitutional law in the United States. Since then, it has become something akin to the white whale for women's rights advocates: The proposed amendment is re-introduced year after year by Democratic lawmakers, and although it has historically enjoyed bipartisan national support, recalcitrant forces have stymied its progress in state and federal legislatures.

As Women's History Month begins, the U.S. is in the midst of a contentious election year, when congressional action is especially challenging. Women's issues have been for the most part marginalized by the 2016 campaigns, even though women make up a majority (51 percent) of the

Filmmaker seeks to put the Equal Rights Amendment back on t...

overall population. It is within this maelstrom that filmmaker [Kamala Lopez](#) is planning to deploy her new Kickstarter-funded documentary "[Equal Means Equal](#)" — which features formidable figures like feminist icon Gloria Steinem and [Oscar-winner Patrica Arquette](#) — to reignite the conversation around the Equal Rights Act (ERA).

"This film is designed to arrive at this moment. I've been reverse engineering this all along," Lopez told MSNBC on Tuesday. "It is absolutely critical that women of all stripes, and of all parties, and of all ages are aware that their civil rights are, have been, and will continue to be violated on a very basic, profound level until they call representatives to account on the issue and do not permit a single local, state, federal, PTA appointee or elected person that doesn't stand up and say 'I believe in equality for all American citizens' period, end of story."

The genesis for this project started years ago with a [series of PSAs](#) highlighting the need for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights and protections for women. That eventually evolved into an ambitious film [delving into the incredible challenges](#) facing women globally today — from pay inequality to rape culture to pregnancy discrimination and much, much more. The film draws the stark conclusion that "not only is there a war on woman but we are losing battles and rights we won years ago."

Why has women's rights taken a backseat to other issues, when gender equality enjoys nearly universal support? Lopez believes the systematic partisan politicization of the topic, coupled with the interests of corporate America (which has made billions through, in her words, "ripping off" women by paying them less) has kept Americans in the dark. But she sincerely believes that rising activist movements and a frustrated voting populace will coalesce around the eventual ratification of the ERA, regardless of who becomes president this November.

"What women can do, and what the ERA can do, is make it a gentle revolution, because that's what we bring to the table. Because the revolution is coming, it's very clear how it's going to go down. It's a matter of whether we want to include women in a power position at the table to be able to make this a gentle, holistic, comprehensive, compassionate revolution versus what it could very well become," Lopez said.

Both she and the film credit the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia with unintentionally reigniting the movement by acknowledging during a 2011 interview with [California Lawyer](#) that women are not named in the Constitution and were purposefully left out.

"Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't," Scalia said. "Nobody ever thought that that's what it meant. Nobody ever voted for that. If the current society wants to outlaw discrimination by sex, hey, we have things called legislatures, and they enact things called laws."

However, the ERA has been on the legislative bubble since it was first introduced in 1923. Although it passed both houses in the early 1970s and enjoyed support from both Republican and Democratic presidents until the Reagan revolution in 1980, it never reached ratification in the 38 states required to

Filmmaker seeks to put the Equal Rights Amendment back on t...

make it law, falling just three short. The ERA was successfully lobbied against by social conservatives like right wing activist Phyllis Schlafly, who convinced many women that the amendment could backfire on women, forcing them to use unisex bathrooms or be drafted into the military.

In retrospect, some have argued that pro-ERA forces may have erred by lobbying for congressional support first before turning their attention to individual states, but Lopez isn't interested in re-litigating the past, although she admits that activists should be "prepared for push back."

"I'm not a constitutional lawyer, I'm not even a political individual per se. I'm a filmmaker and an actor, so from my perspective, the goal is communication, broad multiple angle communication," she said. "Whatever it takes, that's my position."

Meanwhile, Lopez is looking into a strategy to get her film wide distribution. "It really is like now or never and it's gotta get out there," she added.

It was recently shown privately at the Wilshire Screening Room in Los Angeles with Arquette — who started a national conversation on the gender pay gap with her Academy Award acceptance speech last year — and other women's rights advocates in attendance. Following the screening, Lopez and Arquette unveiled a Change.org petition renewing the push for ERA ratification. It has nearly 75,000 signatures already.

"With the upcoming 2016 election, we need to intensify the conversation around women's issues and compel our lawmakers to protect the basic civil and human rights of American women by passing the ERA," wrote Arquette in the petition. "It is time that we finally make this happen for ourselves, our daughters, and for the future of our nation."

Correction: An earlier version of this piece incorrectly stated that Hillary Clinton had opposed the ERA in her youth. In fact she supported the amendment. This piece has been corrected to reflect that fact.

One year on, Oscar winner Patricia Arquette powerfully revisits...

# One year on, Oscar winner Patricia Arquette powerfully revisits her call for equal rights

The celebrated actress and activist has joined with Equal Rights Advocates to call for an overdue amendment to the United States Constitution

BY PATRICIA ARQUETTE AND NOREEN FARRELL

02.26.16



"BOYHOOD" SUPPORTING ACTRESS WINNER PATRICIA ARQUETTE DELIVERS A STIRRING ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, FEBRUARY 22, 2015. (PHOTO BY KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES)

"It's our time to have wage equality once and for all, and equal rights for women in the United States of America" ~ Patricia Arquette, 2015 Academy Awards

If you were able to convey one message to 36 million people at the same time, what would that message be? You'd choose carefully, right? For us, the cause of wage equality was a fitting one to lift up at the Academy Awards in 2015.

One year on, Oscar winner Patricia Arquette powerfully revisits...

Fitting, urgent, and compelling: wage inequality impacts women in nearly every profession and every job category. It not only harms women, but entire families, including children and men who rely on women's earnings. And it is hurting women of color the most. Nationally, African American women make just 60 cents and Latinas just 55 cents to one dollar earned by white men. California is one of the worst states in the nation in terms of the pay gap for Latinas; here Latinas make just 44 cents to one dollar earned by white men.

It has been a year since the moment when women's equality took center stage at the Academy Awards. It has been a year of tremendous progress, as Hollywood activists have joined hands with advocates and community members and legislators and business leaders. We've been inspired by the range of allies invested in unearthing, exposing, and addressing wage inequality impacting nearly every industry – from [Jennifer Lawrence](#) to leaders at [Salesforce](#) to members of the national [Equal Pay Today! Campaign](#). Currently, there are efforts in multiple states to close the pay gap.

The California Fair Pay Act, the strongest equal pay law in the country, was signed into law by Governor Brown this year. The bill was a centerpiece of a broader women's economic security campaign called [Stronger California: Securing Economic Opportunities for All Women](#), led by the state's top advocates, which promotes policy reform to address poverty, expand access to childcare, and ensure fair pay and family friendly workplaces. We certainly have not removed all of the obstacles faced by women and families in California, but the momentum to do so is fierce.

But what about the rest of the nation? As the newly released documentary [Equal Means Equal](#), made by filmmaker [Kamala Lopez](#), reveals, women's progress is seriously hampered. More than one in seven women – nearly 18.4 million – and more than one in five children – more than 15.5 million – lived in poverty in 2014. More than half of all poor children lived in families headed by women. Employers are firing pregnant workers who request bathroom breaks or a stool to sit on while working. Every nine seconds, a woman is assaulted in the U.S. In 2014, 38 states introduced legislative provisions to limit women's access to critical health care services. While President Obama has approved executive orders to close the gender wage

One year on, Oscar winner Patricia Arquette powerfully revisits...

gap, federal legislation like the Paycheck Fairness Act continues to stall in Congress. And both executive orders and legislation can be repealed.



Meryl Streep applauds Patricia Arquette's call for wage equality and equal rights. (YouTube/Oscars)

Whether you are paid equally or protected from violence or have access to health care should not depend on the state in which you live or the political whims of legislators. That is why we are joining [partners across the country](#) to call for an amendment to the United States Constitution that would expressly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. The Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced into Congress in 1923. It provides simply: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." It sets a national standard that cannot be repealed.

Polls indicate that 90 percent of Americans support the Equal Rights Amendment. But the political momentum needed to move this amendment has not matched the pace of popular demand. We can change that. Federal and state legislators have renewed efforts to pass and ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and [you can support this critical women's equality effort on Change.org by clicking here](#). As the 2015 Oscars demonstrated, the movement for women's equality is a movement of inspirational moments. This is an important one to seize. It will take all of us in a sustained effort to improve the lives of families across the nation. We think the U.S. Constitution is an excellent place to start.

Patricia Arquette is an Academy Award winning actress and activist, and Noreen Farrell is the Executive Director of [Equal Rights Advocates](#), one of the nation's leading non-profits fighting for women's equality.

## 'We Need Equal Rights and We Need It Now': Patricia Arquette Explains Why She Started a New Equal Rights Amendment Petition

812  
SHARES



Patricia Arquette  
ARAYA DIAZ/GETTY

BY KARA WARNER @karawarner 03/06/2016 AT 11:10 AM EST

Want to help make equal rights a reality? Sign [Patricia Arquette's](#) recently launched [petition](#) to make it so.

Why the need for this petition and advocacy? The Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced to Congress in 1923 by Alice Paul. Although the Senate and House of Representatives eventually passed the amendment in 1972, it was never ratified – a shocking fact for many, and a key component to filmmaker Kamala Lopez's new film, [Equal Means Equal](#), which examines the startling effects of gender inequality in the United States, the inadequacy of current laws in place and the dedicated advocates who've been fighting for decades to rectify the situation.

"People think it's a women-only issue but it's not," Arquette tells PEOPLE. "It's an equality issue. If I were to hear that men didn't have equal rights in the United States I would think, 'That is not acceptable.' The truth is, when you start talking about these issues like women's rape kits not being processed for decades or being thrown in the trash can, every dad out there wants that changed. Every husband out there wants that changed. This is a broken system in multiple areas and we have multiple things that are affecting women, we have rape, we have gender wage discrimination, socioeconomic costs and it's all bubbling down. The people there at the bottom of the barrel can't take it anymore."

The outspoken [Oscar winner](#), who made headlines and brought new attention to the gender pay gap with her infamous [2015 Oscar speech](#), says that the goal of the petition is to garner public support and the attention of lawmakers in order to ratify the ERA once and for all.

"The petition will end up going to lawmakers and also governors, we need nonpartisan support for this," Arquette says. "It was originally introduced by a Republican and had very strong Republican support and we want that back. We need to get our politicians talking more about it during the election cycle, because we are 51 percent of the population. We want equal rights in America and we don't have it, it's not up for debate."

Arquette and [Equal Means Equal](#) director Lopez emphasize the fact that ratifying the amendment will have immediate positive effects on multiple areas of gender inequality.

"We know for a fact that gender wage discrimination would be eliminated," says Lopez. "If you eliminate that, that has a domino effect into foster care, child sex trafficking, even domestic violence because most of the time women stay with their abusers because of the economic reality that they can't leave with their kids."

"They are saying the gender pay gap at this rate will not close until 2058," adds Arquette. "That means a young woman who starts work tomorrow, her whole life span, her whole earning years, it will take years longer to pay back a college loan, years longer to buy a house and save up for the down payment, years longer to pay off her car and everything else. She'll have \$400,000 less in her retirement, or if she has higher education she will have lost two million dollars in her lifetime. I'm not accepting that. I think we have to get this done. I'm giving us a two year limit."

Arquette says she is feeling hopeful about the momentum behind the ERA, despite negativity from naysayers.

"A lot of people don't want any change," she says. "They say there is no pay equality, they say that I only care about actresses having equal pay or white woman, none of that is true. But I do feel good about [the momentum]. I know there will be a resistance, there's always resistance to change we just have to keep pushing through it until it becomes sort of ridiculous. Because it is ridiculous."

"We need equal rights, and we need it now," she continues. "And we need to say to the world, women have equal rights in America, *all* people have equal rights."

VFSC FEBRUARY 27, 2016 10:27 PM

# Patricia Arquette Relives Her Earth-Shaking Oscar Acceptance Speech at the Vanity Fair Social Club



Photograph by Tory Stolper/Courtesy of the Vanity Fair Social Club

“I told my family I might not get jobs after the speech,” the Oscar winner admitted.

BY DON KAYE

**W**ith the emphasis at Friday’s Social Club on the talented women working both below and above the line in Hollywood, there couldn’t have been a better finale to the afternoon than the arrival of **Patricia Arquette**. Last year’s winner for best supporting actress made headlines worldwide with her **fiery acceptance speech/call to arms for equal treatment and pay for women in the movie business**. It was a rallying cry that is still having an impact a year later, and one that she knew she had to make no matter what: “I told my family I might not get jobs after the speech,” she admitted to her interviewer, *Vanity Fair* contributor **Nell Scovell**, “But they were like, ‘Let’s do this thing.’”

Arquette said her remarks were the culmination of thinking about the role she was nominated for, a struggling single mother dealing with two kids, abusive and/or absentee relationships, and the challenges of building her own career while paying the bills. “Having seen what my character went through with my own mom, and not having equal power or equal money and being a single mom myself at 20, I knew so many women were going through the same thing.” When Scovell remarked that it was so generous for Arquette to think of others during a peak moment of personal and professional achievement to pivot and think about other people, Arquette quipped, “Isn’t that the woman’s way?”

Arquette was there to promote *Equal Means Equal*, a new documentary that is an offshoot of the E.R.A. Education Project and its campaign for the long-overdue passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. The film tackles subjects such as pay disparity, sexual assault and domestic violence while also making the case (as if one needs to be made) for the E.R.A.: “The movie is upsetting,” said Arquette candidly. “It’s a 90-minute college course. But it’s living American history and it’s the brutal reality about what’s going on here.” Luckily we have women like Patricia Arquette to shine a light on that reality.

**E**arlier in the day, British costume designer **Sandy Powell** held court with *Vanity Fair*’s Senior Hollywood Writer **Julie Miller** as she discussed competing against herself and three costume designers for this year’s costume design Oscar. The three-time Oscar winners’ work in *Carol* and *Cinderella* couldn’t be more different from each other, yet both show an incredible imagination at work not to mention a sharp eye for detail, texture and character.

She said she did the first of her two nominated films, **Kenneth Branagh’s**

*Cinderella*, because she wanted to do something “for girls” after working on the testosterone-drenched *The Wolf of Wall Street*. But a classic like *Cinderella*—defined by Disney’s legendary 1950 animated version—comes with its own particular challenges. “There’s such a pressure to not disappoint on *Cinderella* because the images are so ingrained in everyone’s heads,” she admitted, before adding that the studio itself didn’t set out any mandates for her to follow: “I was told that Disney was interested in doing a whole new version and we didn’t have to follow the animation.”

Miller held out *Cinderella*’s dress for the ball as an example of Powell’s genius, while Powell herself described it as “a feat of structural engineering,” comprised of six different layers of fabric and taking some 500 man-hours by a team of 20 to complete. Meanwhile, **Cate Blanchett**’s outfits as the wicked stepmother were inspired by 1940s Hollywood and featured no small amount of input from the star herself: “It’s really helpful to know an actor well,” said Powell. “Not just their physicality but how to communicate with them.”

Powell dressed Blanchett again on **Todd Haynes**’ *Carol*, with its depictions of 1950s styles ranging from semi-bohemian to filthy rich. “Sears catalogs from that period are a good reference because that’s what everybody was wearing,” Powell revealed. Oddly enough Powell’s team located a company that still made “solid, sort of pointy” vintage bras from the '50s: “The undergarments are the first thing you have to get right, because if you don’t, everything on top of them is going to be off.”

**P**owell counts herself lucky if she gets to spend any time at all with the actors before dressing them, make-up artist Lesley Vanderwalt spent lots and lots of time—six months, plus reshoots—in the most remote parts of Australia with her actors

on *Mad Max: Fury Road*. In her talk with *Vanity Fair* beauty director SunHee Grinnell, the New Zealand native and first-time Oscar nominee said there wasn't much work for women in film when she was starting: "I started as a hairdressing apprentice. When you were a woman in those days you were either a secretary or receptionist, there wasn't much else."

Hair led to make-up, which led to photo shoots, which led to local movies, and eventually to director George Miller and a job doing make-up on the second *Mad Max* film, *The Road Warrior*. She also worked with Baz Luhrmann on his directorial debut, *Strictly Ballroom*, as well as films like *Dark City*, *Moulin Rouge!*, *Australia* and more. It was 2010 when she first got a call about *Mad Max: Fury Road*; but the movie's long development process delayed shooting until 2012.

"George always likes everyone to participate as much as possible in their roles," she explained. "So at first he had this idea that everyone would do their own makeup. We did the basic stuff, but we let them do their own eyes and teeth." Make-up on the dozens of post-apocalyptic mutants in the movie would start up to two and a half hours ahead of the call time on set, so some actors had to be in the chair at 5:00 a.m. – which meant they had to leave the hotel to get to the distant location around 3:30 a.m. Despite the long hours and labor, Vanderwalt prefers delving into worlds like that of *Mad Max* over, say, a Victorian drama (no offense to Victorian dramas): "Recently someone said, 'You'll always be known for creating these white people,' but I hope it's not that," she said about her bleached-out *Mad Max* army. "I like creating a new world rather than following something, and creating something that's different and over the top rather than period work."

# Patricia Arquette calls on Congress to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment

By [Michael Walsh](#)  
February 27, 2016 9:48 AM  
Yahoo News



Patricia Arquette accepts the award for best actress in a supporting role for "Bo...

Hollywood may be embarrassed when its pay inequality and lack of diversity enter the spotlight, but in many ways these are symptoms of larger problems.

Patricia Arquette has launched a petition calling for lawmakers to vote in favor of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to give women a clear constitutional basis for challenging discrimination.

It's not a new issue for Arquette. The critically acclaimed actress' impassioned plea for pay equity at last year's Academy Awards sparked a national discussion about sex-based discrimination.

Now she's doubling down on her calls for full equality for women under the law.

"We're not saying women are better than men. All it says is all people are equal in the United States regardless of their sex. And who can argue with that?" Arquette said in an interview with Yahoo News.

On Thursday, just days before the 2016 Oscars, Arquette and Equal Rights Advocates, a women's rights nonprofit, launched a [petition on Change.org](#) to compel Congress to finally ratify the ERA, which reads "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

First introduced in 1923 by suffragist Alice Paul, the bill finally picked up steam in the 1970s (passing both the House and the Senate and getting endorsed by presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter) but was ratified by only 35 states — three states short of the minimum needed to become federal law.

The ERA would require the judicial system to treat discrimination claims by women the same way it treats those on the basis of race, religion or national origin. Without the amendment, Arquette says, women's rights are left open to interpretation.

In 2011, much to the chagrin of feminists, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who died on Feb. 13, said, "Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't."

To counteract this argument, the ERA would provide a clear constitutional basis on which women could challenge gender-based discrimination.

Arquette also applauded California Gov. Jerry Brown's signing of the state's Fair Pay Act last year, but said women need change at the federal level because they cannot be beholden to whoever happens to be in office at the time.

Last year, actress Jennifer Lawrence spoke out against the gender pay gap after the Sony e-mail hack revealed that she had been paid far less than her male co-stars. Arquette, who empathized with Lawrence, said the "Hunger Games" star unfairly caught a lot of heat and was perceived as a "spoiled wealthy actress" by people who missed the point.

"When I see Jennifer Lawrence stand up and speak, I see 33 mil-

Filmmaker Kamala Lopez recently worked with Arquette on the film "Equal Means Equal," a documentary about the treatment of women in the U.S. today. She says that people often look at different issues facing women individually but need to deal with sexism holistically.

"One of the things a Supreme Court justice [Scalia] said very clearly was, 'Look, the Constitution was written, and women were not included in it. It was deliberate. It was part of the culture of the time. But don't try to shoehorn the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment or Title IX or Title VII to actually grant women basic human and civil rights.' And he's right," she said to Yahoo News.

In 2009, Lopez was inspired to direct "Equal Means Equal" after doing research for her first film, "A Single Woman," about Jeanette Rankin, the first American woman elected to Congress.

Her new film brings together real-life stories and legal cases to make a compelling argument for passing the ERA.

"It comes down to all of us Americans standing up for what we know is right and who we are as a country and the basic values that we share," she said. "And I have great faith that we'll be able to work together to make this happen."

As of Saturday morning, the petition had garnered 48,323 signatures. Arquette and Equal Rights Advocates will decide when to deliver it to the recipients: the House, the Senate and governors across the nation.

The petition can be found at [change.org](#).



**"WE NEED THE LAW ON OUR SIDE.  
I BELIEVE THIS MORE THAN EVER AFTER THIS SHOOT."**

*- Kamala Lopez, Director of EQUAL MEANS EQUAL*

# INTERVIEW SUBJECTS

**EQUAL MEANS EQUAL** would not be the definitive documentary about women in America today without the depth and breadth of our interview subjects' expertise, passion and help. I am heartened by the incredible women I met. Lawyers, doctors, scholars, law enforcement officers, politicians, rape victims, warriors on the front lines of sex trafficking, international policymakers, prominent public intellectuals and american activists willing to put their bodies and freedom on the line were all part of the incredibly diverse cross section of our society interviewed for **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL**. Some are well known, some anonymous, all invaluable.

Below is a sampling of the more than one hundred people interviewed for **EQUAL MEANS EQUAL**.



## GLORIA STEINEM

Gloria Steinem is a journalist and globally recognized champion of women's rights since the late 1960s. She founded the seminal feminist magazine *Ms.* and helped launch *New York Magazine*, where she was a political columnist. A prolific writer, her latest book, *My Life on the Road*, explores her 30 years as a feminist organizer.



**"ONE OF THE WOMEN TOLD ME LAST WEEK  
'EVERY DAY ON THE STREETS  
FELT AS IF SOMEONE HAD A GUN TO MY HEAD.'  
THAT ISSUE OF SUCH VULNERABILITY IS SO HUGE AMONG WOMEN."**

*- Lisa Watson, CEO the Downtown Women's Center*



## ELLIE SMEAL

Eleanor Smeal, the President of the Feminist Majority Foundation, has fought on the frontlines for women's equality for more than three decades. In the 1970s, as President of the National Organization for Women (NOW), she spearheaded the drive to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, the largest nation-wide grassroots and lobbying campaign in the history of the modern women's movement. Frequently testifying before Congress, she has played a leading role in helping pass landmark legislation for women's rights.



## LAKSHMI PURI

Lakshmi Puri is the Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and the Deputy Executive Director of UN Women. As a global advocate for women's rights, Puri spearheads efforts to educate and empower women around the world, including training candidates to run for political office. Within two years, UN Women has helped increase the representation of women in parliament to 33 percent in seven nations.



## SARAH SLAMEN

Sarah Slamen is a Political Activist and Writer for the Feminist Justice League. At 28-years-old she made national news when she spoke out against the Texas government during state legislative hearings and was forcibly dragged out of the chamber by state troopers in front of television cameras.



## RITA HENLEY JENSEN

Rita Henley Jensen is the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Women's eNews*, an award-winning nonprofit news service covering issues of particular concern to women, which reaches an estimated 1.5 million readers in more than 90 nations.



## KEVIN NOBLE MAILLARD

Kevin Noble Maillard is Professor of Law at Syracuse University focusing on family law, adoption law, civil liberties and popular culture. He has written on nontraditional families, racial intermixture and the role of marriage in America as a contributing editor to the *New York Times* and for *The Atlantic*.



## LENORA LAPIDUS

Lenora Lapidus is the Director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. Adhering to the guiding principle that women's rights are human rights, Lapidus and her team argue in both federal and state courts around the U.S. for women's equal employment and educational opportunities, and for an end to discrimination against victims of violence.



"I COULD TELL BY THE SOUND OF HIS FOOTFALLS. OPENING THE DOOR. THE KEYS.

**I COULD TELL YOU  
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY,  
WHAT TYPE OF NIGHT IT WAS GONNA BE."**

*- Cheryl Sellers, Domestic Violence Survivor*



## **KELLY MULLDORFER**

Captain Kelly Mulldorfer is Commanding Officer of the Vice Division of the Los Angeles Police Department. Early in her career she posed undercover as a prostitute. Appalled by middle-class men with baby seats in their cars, she later joined the Abused Child Unit, where she became a department expert and trainer. In 2008 she became the first female Commanding Officer in the history of the LAPD to be assigned to the Metropolitan Division (Metro), known nationally for its S.W.A.T. team.



## **ANDRE DAWSON**

Lieutenant André Dawson is a 32-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department. He leads the Human Trafficking Task Force, a vice team dedicated to freeing women and children from sexual slavery. He is also the supervisor of the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force.



## **DONALD FARISH**

Donald Farish is President of Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island, and also a scientist and attorney. A vocal supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, President Farish and the university held a conference of leading activists and scholars from across the country to examine the current status of the ERA.



## **UGOJI EZE**

Ugoji Eze is a crusader for women and children living in war and conflict zones. She launched the Eng Aja Eze Foundation to focus global attention on their plight and to offer advocacy, fundraising and policymaking. She serves on the NGO Commission on the Status of Women, Peace and Security at the United Nations and is a solicitor and advocate of the Supreme Courts of England, Wales and Nigeria.



## **HEIDI RUMMEL**

Heidi Rummel, the Director of the Post Conviction Justice Project at the University of Southern California, leads teams of law students who represent battered women serving life sentences for killing their abusers in California. To date, she and her students have helped win freedom for 55 imprisoned women.



## **STEPHANIE RICHARD**

Stephanie Richard is policy and legal services director of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), the first organization in the country dedicated exclusively to serving survivors of human trafficking and modern-day slavery. She developed and supervises a pro-bono legal network for survivors of prostitution and forced labor.



**"IT'S ABOUT CONTROL, MANIPULATION  
TREATING THESE GIRLS AS OBJECTS  
...THAT'S JUST PART OF THE GAME TO CONTROL THEM."**

*- Lt. André Dawson, LAPD, VICE Division*

A sex trafficking victim on the streets of Los Angeles. Her pimp has "branded" her forehead.



## JESSICA NEUWIRTH

Jessica Neuwirth is the President of the ERA Coalition and the Founder and former President of Equality Now, an international human rights organization aiming to end violence and discrimination against women. She worked as policy advisor for Amnesty International and with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. She served as a consultant on sexual violence to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, helping win landmark decisions recognizing rape as a form of genocide.



## DINA BAKST

Dina Bakst worked as a lawyer with the National Organization for Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund, where she frequently heard stories of pregnant women who had been fired for requesting small accommodations on the job. To help provide a solution, Bakst co-founded A Better Balance, a national legal advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the legal rights of pregnant women and caregivers in the American workplace. Bakst was instrumental in helping pass the NYC Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and is frequently featured in the local and national news for her advocacy.



## CAROLYN MALONEY

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, (D-NY) is the co-sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment ratification bill in the House of Representatives. Previously she'd introduced nine different variations of the bill beginning in 1997. Her refusal to let the ERA die is among a long list of efforts to advance women's rights over the course of her congressional career that spans three decades.



## **TERRY O'NEILL**

Terry O'Neill is a civil rights attorney and President of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Her feminist activism began in the 1990s, fighting against David Duke and other right-wing extremists in the Deep South. She has testified before committees in the Maryland House of Delegates and has written federal amicus briefs on abortion rights for Louisiana NOW, Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union.



## **LOIS LEE**

Dr. Lois Lee has rescued over 10,000 children from prostitution since 1979 when she founded Children of the Night, the first comprehensive sex trafficking program in North America. As a result of her pioneering efforts, police are beginning to treat child prostitutes as victims instead of criminals, and juvenile courts more frequently place them in shelters, foster homes and treatment programs rather than detention.



## **KIM BIDDLE**

Kim Biddle first became exposed to child slavery while working in Thailand. She returned to the United States with the conviction to find and help slaves "hidden in plain sight" here at home. She founded and is Executive Director of Saving Innocence, a non-profit organization that rescues, mentors and restores child victims of the commercial sex trade.



# NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR *EQUAL MEANS EQUAL*

*EQUAL MEANS EQUAL* is already part of a growing national movement.

The ERA Education Project is one of the eighteen organizations that make up the Steering Committee of the newly formed ERA Coalition.

## THE ERA COALITION



Our 170,000 members and supporters span local and virtual communities, cities and college campuses, all over the world. On campuses, we foster the next generation of women in leadership and in the workplace. After graduation, we mentor, fund, and support educational and professional development.

The ERA Coalition is working to support passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. It brings the experience and wisdom of veteran activists together with the energy and social media skills of a new generation to build a successful coalition effort for passage and ratification of the ERA.

## THE ERA COALITION'S "STEERING COMMITTEE" IS MADE UP OF THE FOLLOWING LEAD ORGANIZATIONS:

### THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (AAUW):



With 1000 local branches and 800 university partners, the **AAUW** is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls since their founding in 1881.



## A CALL TO MEN



We are a leading national violence prevention organization providing training and education for men, boys and communities. We recognize that the underlying causes of violence and discrimination against women are rooted in

the ways women and girls have been traditionally viewed and treated in our society. We partner with schools, universities, corporations, government, social service agencies and communities to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. Partners include: Rayogram, V-Day, Verizon, Plenty, No-Vo Foundation.

## THE COMMUNICATIONS CONSORTIUM MEDIA CENTER (CCMC)



We are a public interest media center dedicated to helping nonprofit organizations use media and new technologies as tools for public education and policy change.

## THE ERA EDUCATION PROJECT



The ERA Education Project was created by actress and activist Kamala Lopez to raise public awareness about the need to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Supporters

include: The National Women's Political Caucus, EqualRightsAmendment.org, Writers Guild of America, Screen Actors Guild, National Organization for Women, passera.org, Bust Magazine, Color of Change, Give Love, The National Association of Women's Commissions, Yale women and Digital Hollywood

## THE FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION (FMF)



The FMF was created to develop bold, new strategies and programs to advance women's equality, non-violence, economic development, and, most importantly, empowerment of women and girls in all sectors of society. Led by President Eleanor Smeal, FMF research and action programs focus on advancing the legal, social and political equality of women with men. FMF is also the publisher of Ms. Magazine.

## THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN, INC. (NCBW)



The NCBW is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the educational, political and cultural development of African American women and youth. Currently, NCBW trains women for leadership and decision-making positions in government, nonprofit organizations and the private sector.



## THE NATIONAL NETWORK TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (NNEDV)



The NNEDV was founded more than 15 years ago to be the leading voice for survivors of domestic violence and their allies. NNEDV provides training and assistance to the statewide and territorial coalitions against domestic violence. It also furthers public awareness.

Supporters/Partners include: United Way, Amazon, Qualcomm, Firefox, Chico's, Google, Verizon, Soma, Facebook, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, MAC AIDS Fund, Avon Foundation for Women, Allstate Foundation

## THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN (NOW)



As the grassroots arm of the women's movement, the National Organization for Women is dedicated to its multi-issue and multi-strategy approach to women's rights. NOW is the largest organization of feminist activists in the United States, with hundreds of thousands of contributing members and more than 500 local and campus affiliates in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

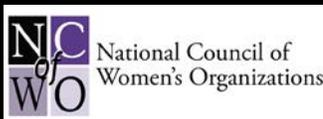
## THE NATIONAL WOMENS POLITICAL CAUCAS (NWPC)



Founded in 1971, the NWPC is the oldest national organization dedicated exclusively to increasing women's participation in all areas of political and public life - as elected and appointed officials, as delegates to national party conventions, as judges in the state and federal courts, and as lobbyists, voters and campaign organizers - regardless of political party.

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS (NCWO)\*\*

**\*\*[\(Full list of NCWO partner organizations to follow\)](#)**



The NCWO is a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan, nonprofit coalition that represents over 12 million women across the United States. Our 200 member organizations collaborate through substantive policy work and grassroots activism to address issues of concern to women and their families. These topics include: economic equity, education, affirmative action, older women, corporate accountability, women and technology, reproductive freedom, women's health, younger women and global progress for women's equality.

## UNITEWOMEN.ORG®



Founded on February 19, 2012, Unitewomen.org® held an unprecedented 55 rallies across the country on April 28, 2012, in answer to the political

climate that disregarded the rights and equality of women. Our online structure allows Unitewomen.org® to work face to face virtually, in real time across all time zones, and gives us the ability to react to situations and legislation within minutes. We have 10,000 state groups and a reach of over 20 million individuals in the U.S. and other countries around the world.



## VoteERA.ORG



In the 1970s The Equal Rights Amendment failed to be ratified by 3 states before the June 30, 1982 deadline. VoteERA.org works to help states pass the ERA in their own constitution.

## WE ARE WOMAN



We Are Woman is a national advocacy group dedicated to protecting human rights and improving the lives of women and families through collaboration, advocacy, education and outreach by building a network of community members, volunteer agencies, grassroots and larger organizations that work together as a unified force for positive change.

## THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YWCA)



The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA represents 2 million women, girls and their families in the United States and 25 million women worldwide.

The YWCA has almost 250 associations across the United States. YWCAs can also be found in more than 100 countries.



## ADDITIONAL ERA COALITION MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

A BETTER BALANCE  
FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN  
VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA  
ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE  
HADASSAH  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES  
WOMEN-MATTER.ORG  
AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
ILLINOIS NOW  
RE:GENDER  
WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS  
CENTER FOR WOMEN POLICY STUDIES  
KATRINA'S DREAM  
SECULAR WOMEN  
WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS  
MANA, A NATIONAL LATINA ORGANIZATION  
SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH  
WOMEN'S CENTER FOR ETHICS IN ACTION  
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.  
MILITARY RAPE CRISIS CENTER  
THIRD WAVE FUND  
WOMEN DONORS NETWORK  
CLEARING HOUSE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES  
MS. FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN  
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ORG  
COALITION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN  
NA'AMAT USA  
U.S. WOMEN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
WOMEN'S MEDIA CENTER  
EQUALITY NOW  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS  
V-DAY  
YWCA-CENTRAL CAROLINAS  
ERA ONCE AND FOR ALL





**I BELIEVE VERY PASSIONATELY THAT  
WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER  
FOR THAT WHICH IS RIGHT**

**WE MAKE CONDITIONS WITHIN OUR NATION BETTER FOR US ALL."**

*-Reverend Charles McKenzie*

Producer Liz Lopez hugs Isabela Diaz, AKA Ms3, after an emotional interview.

## **\*\* THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS (NCWO)**



The National Council of Women's Organizations represents over 12 million women and 200 member organizations, who all support women's equality.

### **THE NCWO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:**

**ABORTION CARE NETWORK  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLERGY  
ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
ALICE PAUL INSTITUTE, INC.  
ALLIANCE FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE (AND)  
ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN IN MEDIA  
ALLIANCE OF FAITH AND FEMINISM  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (AAUW)  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES  
AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN FORUM  
AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN SOCIAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN WOMEN IN RADIO AND TELEVISION  
AQUINAS COLLEGE WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTER  
ARIADNE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF MYTH AND RITUAL  
ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE  
ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC WOMEN'S HEALTH PROGRAMS  
ASSOCIATION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S HEALTH, OBSTETRIC AND NEONATAL NURSES  
BLACK WOMEN IN SPORTS FOUNDATION  
BLACK WOMEN UNITED FOR ACTION  
BLACK WOMEN'S AGENDA, INC.  
BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE  
BREAK THE CHAIN CAMPAIGN  
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
BUYING INFLUENCE, INC.  
CATHOLICS FOR CHOICE  
CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY  
CENTER FOR ETHICS IN ACTION  
CENTER FOR HEALTH AND GENDER EQUITY  
CENTER FOR PARTNERSHIP STUDIES  
CENTER FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES**



CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS  
CENTER FOR THE CHILD CARE WORKFORCE  
CENTER FOR WOMEN POLICY STUDIES  
CENTER OF CONCERN - GLOBAL WOMEN'S PROJECT  
CHELLIS HOUSE/MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE  
CHICAGO FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN  
CHOICE USA  
CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF ELEGANCE  
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY, APPLIED WOMEN'S STUDIES  
CLEARINGHOUSE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES  
COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN  
COAST GUARD FAMILY ORGANIZATION INC.  
CODEPINK: WOMEN FOR PEACE  
COMMONWELL INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN & WORK  
COUNSELING FOR WOMEN  
DC RAPE CRISIS CENTER  
DEPARTMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO  
DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY, INC.  
DIGITAL SISTERS, INC.  
EATING DISORDERS COALITION FOR RESEARCH, POLICY AND ACTION  
EMERGING WOMEN PROJECTS  
EQUAL RIGHTS ADVOCATES  
EQUAL VISIBILITY EVERYWHERE, INC.  
EQUALITY NOW  
ERA SUMMIT  
FAIR FUND  
FAIRFAX COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES  
FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN  
FEMINIST CAUCUS OF THE AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION  
FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION  
FINANCIAL WOMEN INTERNATIONAL  
FIRST FREEDOM FIRST  
FLORIDA WOMEN'S CONSORTIUM  
FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH, DBA: WOMEN'S HEALTH: ADVANCING RE-  
SEARCH, EDUCATION, AND COMPASSIONATE CARE  
FRIENDS OF THE MISSOURI WOMEN'S COUNCIL  
GENDER ACTION  
GENDER PUBLIC ADVOCACY COALITION  
GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS  
GIRLS INCORPORATED  
GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE  
HADASSAH, THE WOMEN'S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA  
HEALTH



HEALTHYWOMEN  
HELPING OUR PAIN AND EXHAUSTION  
HYSTERECTOMY EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES (HERS) FOUNDATION  
INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH & AGING  
INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH  
INTERACTION-COMMISSION ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN  
INTERNATIONAL BLACK WOMEN FOR WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DEMOCRACY CENTER  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MEDIA FOUNDATION  
JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL  
LAW STUDENTS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
LEGAL MOMENTUM  
LOW-INCOME FAMILIES EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION - LIFETIME  
MANA, A NATIONAL LATINA ORGANIZATION  
MARYLAND WOMEN'S COALITION FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM  
MIAMI UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CENTER  
MILLION MOM MARCH WITH THE BRADY CAMPAIGN  
MOMS RISING  
MS. FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN  
NA'AMAT USA  
NARAL  
NATIONAL ABORTION FEDERATION  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR CAREGIVING  
NATIONAL ASIAN WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
NATIONAL ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN WOMEN'S FORUM  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FEMALE EXECUTIVES  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMISSIONS FOR WOMEN  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS' CENTERS (NAMC)  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH (NPWH)  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ORTHOPEDIC NURSES  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS  
NATIONAL COALITION OF ABORTION PROVIDERS  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF WOMEN FOR A DEMOCRATIC IRAN  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON PAY EQUITY  
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN  
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.  
NATIONAL CRITTENTON FOUNDATION  
NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN LEGISLATORS  
NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE  
NATIONAL HISPANA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



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NATIONAL HOOK-UP FOR BLACK WOMEN  
NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH  
NATIONAL NETWORK OF ABORTION FUNDS  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN  
NATIONAL OSTEOPOROSIS FOUNDATION  
NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR WOMEN & FAMILIES  
NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER (NRC) FOR WOMEN & FAMILIES  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH NETWORK  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION  
NCA UNION RETIREES  
NETWORK  
NETWORK OF EAST-WEST WOMEN  
NONTRADITIONAL EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM  
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM  
ORGANIZATION FOR THE RELIEF OF UNDERPRIVILEGED WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN  
AFRICA. ORUWOCA INC  
OVARIAN CANCER NATIONAL ALLIANCE  
OWL: THE VOICE OF MIDLIFE AND OLDER WOMEN  
PEACE X PEACE  
PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA, INC.  
PROJECT KESHER  
PROJECT KID SMART  
PROJECT SINGLE MOMS WORLDWIDE, INC  
PUBLIC LEADERSHIP EDUCATION NETWORK  
RACHEL'S NETWORK  
RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE  
RUNNING START  
SECULAR WOMAN  
SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE AND MUSEUM  
SISTER TO SISTER: EVERYONE HAS A HEART FOUNDATION, INC.  
SISTERSONG WOMEN OF COLOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY FEMINIST STUDIES INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM  
THE GBOMAI BESTMAN FOUNDATION  
THE TRANSITION NETWORK  
THE WAGE PROJECT  
THE WOMEN'S CENTER  
THE WOMEN'S INFORMATION NETWORK (THE WIN)  
THE WOMEN'S MUSEUM: AN INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE



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THIRD WAVE FOUNDATION  
TURNING ANGER INTO CHANGE  
U.S. COMMITTEE FOR UNIFEM  
U.S. WOMEN CONNECT  
U.S. WOMEN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
UNITED AMERICAN NURSES, AFL-CIO  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, WOMEN'S DIVISION, GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL  
MINISTRIES  
UTAH WOMEN'S ALLIANCE FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY (UWABC)  
VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA  
VISION 2020  
VITAL VOICES GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP  
VOICES OF A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES  
W-SPARC, WOMEN'S SOCIAL POLICY AND RESEARCH CENTER AT VANDERBILT UNI-  
VERSITY  
WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK CAMPAIGN  
WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
WHITE HOUSE PROJECT  
WIDER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN  
WINGS: WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NEWS GATHERING SERVICE  
WINTER:WOMEN IN NONTRADITIONAL EMPLOYMENT ROLES  
WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
WOMEN & POLITICS INSTITUTE-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN EMPLOYED  
WOMEN FOR AFGHAN WOMEN  
WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN IN ECOMMERCE  
WOMEN IN FILM AND VIDEO  
WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT  
WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.  
WOMEN UNDER FORTY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (WUFPAC)  
WOMEN WAGING PEACE – HUNT ALTERNATIVES FUND  
WOMEN'S CENTER FOR ETHICS IN ACTION  
WOMEN'S POWER CIRCLES LTD  
WOMENHEART: THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR WOMEN WITH HEART DISEASE  
WOMEN'S ACTION FOR NEW DIRECTIONS (WAND) / WOMEN LEGISLATOR'S LOBBY  
(WILL)  
WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FORUM  
WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE  
WOMEN'S CITY CLUB OF NEW YORK  
WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF 100  
WOMEN'S EDGE COALITION  
WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION  
WOMEN'S HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP. (WHEDCO)



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WOMEN'S INFORMATION NETWORK  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR A SECURE RETIREMENT  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS  
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM  
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK  
WOMEN'S LAW CENTER OF MARYLAND, INC.  
WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY LINK OF DELAWARE, INC.  
WOMEN'S ORDINATION CONFERENCE  
WOMEN'S RESEARCH & EDUCATION INSTITUTE  
WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION  
WOMEN'S STUDIES AT SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY  
YWCA USA



Line Producer Jeff Mueller, Director Kamala Lopez and Mike Presta,  
Sound, filming in New York City.