

FIST 13 Principles

1. We affirm that women and girls are oppressed based on our biological sex, i.e., the female capacity to bear and birth children.
2. We fight for all females, not just the privileged few, and oppose not just male supremacy but also white supremacy and class hierarchy.
3. We are gender role abolitionists seeking an end to socially-imposed roles based on sex that enforce male supremacy.
4. We demand an end to all forms of discrimination and harassment based on sex, including the wage gap and de-facto job segregation. Pass the Equal Rights Amendment now!
5. We fight to end racism and the system of white supremacy that oppresses women of color.
6. We struggle against all forms of male violence against women whether it takes place in the home, on the street, at work, or in colleges or universities.
7. We work for the abolition of prostitution and pornography; we support the criminalization of traffickers, pimps, and sex buyers and the decriminalization of prostituted women and girls (“Nordic Model”).



8. We support complete sovereignty over our bodies and reproductive lives, including free unimpeded access to safe, legal abortion and birth control and no forced sterilization.

9. We defend our fundamental right to female-only spaces, programs and organizations that allow us to collectively resist our sex-based oppression against serious challenges by forces within the transgender movement.

10. We call for free childcare, paid parental leave, and other community supports needed to end the double day and empower women to live independent lives. Fund human needs, not war.

11. We demand an end to discrimination and stigma against lesbians and other women who have intimate relationships with women.

12. We reject any alliances or collaboration with the male supremacist religious Right or the white supremacist, anti-immigrant Right.

13. While the mission of FIST is to build a women's liberation movement to oppose that which oppresses women because of male supremacy, we recognize the existential threat that the capitalist-induced climate crisis and risk of nuclear war pose not only to the possibility of women's liberation, but to the whole of humanity, and life on this planet.

WHY WE NEED THE ERA



Feminists in Struggle (FIST)

<https://feministstruggle.org>
[@feministstruggle](#) on Twitter

Who We Are:

Feminists in Struggle (“FIST”) is a national female-only radical feminist network, democratically run, and composed of individuals born female and affiliated female-only feminist organizations. We aim to bring together women from diverse radical and revolutionary feminist traditions.

FIST welcomes women of every racial, ethnic, and class background, all ages and abilities/disabilities, whether lesbian, heterosexual or bisexual, who share a common set of feminist principles.

We are committed to organizing a serious fight-back against the attacks on our rights from multiple quarters

The ERA would end women's second-class citizenship by finally giving women equal standing in the federal CONSTITUTION, thus would ensure women's equal TREATMENT under all laws, regulations, and policies of state and federal governments.

The ERA would afford women equal treatment under the DUE PROCESS CLAUSE and the EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE, which affect all other rights including everything from obtaining a dog license to the First Amendment, LIBERTY, etc. These fundamental constitutional rights ensure that all people enjoy the most basic freedoms: autonomy, self-determination, authority over the self, bodily integrity, etc. Without the ERA, women cannot be assured that any rights will apply equally to them.

The ERA would require courts to use strict scrutiny when reviewing claims involving different treatment of women. Without the ERA, courts are allowed to use only intermediate scrutiny, which, unlike strict scrutiny, permits infringements on rights.

The ERA would protect abortion rights and literally save women's lives by making it clear **in the text of the Constitution**, for the first time in history, that women are fully equal persons who can no longer be subjected to unequal treatment under any laws, including abortion laws.

The ERA would allow us to fight and reverse any sex discriminatory state or federal law, regulation or policy. The ERA specifically states that the Congress may pass legislation to enforce the ERA, which would mean Civil Rights laws would be amended to ensure women's equal legal stature. Without the ERA women do not enjoy equal treatment under civil rights laws. For example, aside from employment, women are excluded from Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. ERA would fix this.

Under the ERA and strict scrutiny, women would still enjoy separate spaces and sex-based preferences that serve a compelling state interest, such as a need to address a history of discrimination.

The ERA would allow women to sue the government for unequal enforcement of rape and domestic violence laws, bias against women in family court, and courts enforcing laws requiring equal pay for women would have to construe the word equal to mean actually equal. Without the ERA courts can interpret laws requiring equal treatment to mean something less than fully equal. **The ERA would enable women to assert stronger legal arguments against the commodification of women by surrogacy, pornography, prostitution, and sex trafficking.**

According to Wendy Murphy, attorney for Equal Means Equal, "The ERA is more desperately needed in 2022 than ever before because of Dobbs" (the decision that overturned Roe). "Women's pervasive status as second-class citizens enabled the Supreme Court to cavalierly take away all personhood rights of pregnant women. Women are literally the lifeblood of this nation, yet they are vulnerable to dystopian court rulings solely because they lack basic equality in the Constitution. The only solution is to fix the Constitution. The ERA does that."

The ERA was ratified by the 38th state in January of 2020 and is now the law of the land, but, just like the Trump Administration, the Biden Administration is blocking the ERA from being published in the Constitution. Biden is also fighting against the ERA in federal court the same way Trump did. Please get the word out to pressure Biden to publish the Equal Rights Amendment Now!

#PublishERAJoe!

Four lawsuits are currently pending in NY, MI, RI and DC that seek to validate the ERA. The DC case is scheduled for oral arguments at:
DC Circuit Court of Appeals on September 28th.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **Come to DC** and help us protest Joe Biden's opposition to Women's equality. **WE DEMAND EQUALITY NOW!!**
- **Call/text the White House**
Comment Line: 800-456-1111
- **Tweet #PublishERANow!**
@POTUS and @JoeBiden
- **Call your Senators and Congress members** and urge them to demand Biden **publish the ERA!!**

