



**The state and Portland area chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW) strongly support the Women's March on Portland**

January 11, 2017

The Oregon chapter of the National Organization for Women (Oregon NOW) and the Greater Portland NOW chapter enthusiastically support the Women's March on Portland on January 21, 2017. We hope to see everyone there!

At this critical time in our nation's history we must stand in solidarity. Marching together against hate shows our neighbors and the world that we will not accept racism, sexism, and xenophobia from our soon-to-be leaders - or their followers.

While we initially withheld our support for this march because early planning did not reflect our intersectional values - which couldn't be more important right now - the new march leadership is creating an intersectional, powerful event that we feel great about supporting. It is poised to be a march where *everyone* in Oregon is welcome and, more importantly, where every woman-identified person and ally is invited to march for their rights and is respected for who they are and for their own unique experiences.

We are excited by what we are seeing as the march unfolds, specifically when it comes to meaningful conversations among Oregonians about racism, sexism, classism, heteronormativity, and how we can learn from and respect each other and link arms for the fight ahead. Together we are better able to fight the danger to our collective safety and equality that we now face. United we stand. Divided we fall.

We thank the original march organizers for their time and hard work, and we applaud the continuing time and hard work of the new organizers, who know how much history and potential is riding on this date and grabbed hold of it to harness the powerful and positive energy surrounding an increasingly intersectional feminist movement. We hope that we all continue to push each other to resist oppression in all forms.

Let us achieve solidarity, inspire resistance, and show the world that in our America equality and respect rule the day. Let us join hands - literally and figuratively - with our sisters of color, our white sisters, our young, our aging, our abled and other-abled, our LGBTQIA family, our immigrants, our marginalized, our brothers and all allies. Together we can and must stand up with and for each other.

See you on January 21<sup>st</sup>, when we will rise together.

Oregon NOW and Greater Portland NOW

[www.noworegon.org](http://www.noworegon.org)

**About the National Organization for Women:** NOW is an intersectional, multi-issue, multi-strategy organization that takes a holistic approach to women's rights. Our official priorities are winning economic equality and securing it with an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will guarantee equal rights for women; championing abortion rights, reproductive justice along with other women's health issues; opposing racism; fighting discrimination based on sexual

*orientation or gender identity in all areas, including employment, housing, health services, and child custody; and ending violence against all women, no matter race, age, or socio-economic class.*