



National Association of Women Lawyers
Empowering Women in the Legal Profession Since 1899

NAWL Resolution Against Gender-Based Violence

The following resolution was approved by the Board of Directors of the National Association of Women Lawyers on the 29th day of April 2022.

WHEREAS the mission of the National Association of Women Lawyers (“NAWL”) is to provide leadership, a collective voice, and essential resources to advance women in the legal profession and advocate for the equality of women under the law;

WHEREAS NAWL was established in 1899, and, as an organization that is over one hundred and twenty years old, has the power of the law and advocacy experience to advance efforts and initiatives to end gender-based violence under the law;

WHEREAS NAWL recognizes gender-based violence as acts of violence perpetrated in personal and professional environments by means of physical, sexual, psychological, domestic, financial, and online violence and abuse directed at an individual based, in whole or in part, on their gender;

WHEREAS NAWL recognizes that gender-based violence is a rampant human rights violation that causes long-term and life-threatening injury and trauma to victims and survivors, and is perpetuated by systemic gender inequality;

WHEREAS NAWL recognizes that gender-based violence has been used as a predominant tactic by oppressors and perpetrators of national and international humanitarian crises like war and civil unrest, and that the effects of gender-based violence during times of humanitarian crises are far-reaching and continual in nature;

WHEREAS NAWL has long supported gender equality and advocated against gender-based violence through amicus briefs, programming, collaborations with partner organizations, policy advocacy, and thought leadership as indicated in past issues of the *Women Lawyers Journal*;

WHEREAS continuing this legacy, on March 6, 2020, NAWL adopted a resolution in support of the Equal Rights Amendment acknowledging that, “the people of the United States continue to experience the negative effects of the lack of political parity between men and women, including unequal opportunity and pay, health care inequities, and disparate rates of poverty, rape, and domestic violence assaults”;

WHEREAS further continuing this legacy, on October 6, 2020, NAWL adopted a resolution that “commits to actively oppose structural racism and combat the impact of systematic racism by reiterating and

reinforcing NAWL's commitment to racial equity and justice," and recognizes that gender-based violence often disproportionately affects women of color, trans women of color, and individuals belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community;

WHEREAS further continuing this legacy, on September 13, 2021, NAWL adopted a Resolution in Support of Reproductive Justice recognizing that reproductive justice is fundamental for the dignity, equality, health, and well-being of every person and that women cannot be fully equal under the law—or professionally, as lawyers—without bodily autonomy, that includes freedom from gender-based violence and abuse based on an individual's biological sex and gender identity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NAWL recognizes gender equality cannot be achieved without freedom from gender-based violence and therefore will not relent in our advocacy to end gender-based violence by supporting survivors seeking justice, supporting those seeking justice for victims and survivors, and advocating for legal and systemic reform efforts aimed to protect individuals from gender-based violence; and

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NAWL commits its collective voice and the power of law to advance efforts and initiatives to end gender-based violence around the world, and to actively support, promote, and advocate for these efforts and initiatives under the law by partnering with and supporting the efforts of international, national, and local organizations to further public policy, values, and practices by encouraging lawmakers to take legislative action to protect individuals and ensure freedom from gender-based violence, by supporting pro bono opportunities and projects in furtherance of this mission, and by engaging the NAWL Amicus and Supreme Court Committees on this subject.