



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
& EDUCATION CENTER

#BeLikeRBG: Women's Empowerment Advocacy Toolkit

Below is a list of organizations, locally and nationally, that work and advocate for women and girls through a variety of activist techniques. Many of the groups work to influence and support policies that create a more just and equitable world for women and girls everywhere.

After learning about these different organizations, please read our recommended advocacy techniques below to learn about tangible ways that you, too, can be active in your own community and make a positive impact in your world.

Local Organizations

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) advocates for policy change regarding prosecution of perpetrators of sexual exploitation, implements curricula to foster a new culture, and works to prevent sexual exploitation by increasing public awareness of the inherent harm of the sex trade.

www.caase.org

Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network seeks to put an end to society's tolerance of domestic violence in all forms through advocacy, education, and outreach. www.batteredwomensnetwork.org

EverThrive IL supports the health of women, children, and families over their lifespan through community engagement, partnerships, policy analysis, education, and advocacy. www.everthriveil.org

Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago seeks to eradicate sex trafficking in Chicagoland through public awareness, community engagement, and advocacy at state, local, and national levels. www.jcastchicago.org

League of Women Voters Chicago encourages informed and active participation in government while influencing public policy through education and advocacy. <https://my.lwv.org/illinois/chicago>

The Network is a collaborative membership organization dedicated to improving the lives of those impacted by domestic violence through education, public policy and advocacy, and the connection of community members to direct service providers. <https://the-network.org/>

Women Employed (WE) relentlessly pursues equity for women in the workforce by effecting policy change, expanding access to educational opportunities, and advocating for fair and inclusive workplaces



so that all women, families, and communities thrive.

<https://womenemployed.org/>

YWCA of Evanston - North Shore mission is to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. They advocate for community action and public policy that advances economic security, promotes equality and human rights, and improves safety and wellness for women and families.

<https://www.ywca-ens.org/>

National Organizations

Association for Women's Right in Development is a global, feminist, membership, movement-support organization that fights to achieve gender justice and women's human rights worldwide.

www.awid.org/

CARE increasingly works with women and girls. Their Action Network assists activists in speaking out, works with education policymakers, and fights to underscore that the public wants action against poverty and injustice.

www.care.org

Equality Now fights to achieve legal and systemic change that addresses violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world. They tackle the most difficult issues, challenging ingrained cultural assumptions and calling out inequality wherever they see it. They also believe in the power of the law to create enduring equality for women and girls everywhere.

www.equalitynow.org/

International Alliance of Women (IAW) is an international NGO comprising 41 member organizations involved in the promotion of women's human rights, of equality and of the empowerment of women. They work with governments, the private sector, international financial institutions and their members to advocate for the interests and needs of women and promote a culture of peace, justice, and respect for human rights.

<https://womenalliance.org/>

International Center for Research on Women is the world's premiere research institute focused on tackling challenges facing women and girls worldwide. For decades, ICRW has conducted pioneering research that has exposed gender inequities and opportunities for fundamental social change.

www.icrw.org/

National Woman's Party is building a coalition of diverse, dynamic, and engaged group of women's rights advocates who can share history, convene dialogues, and empower change to advance women's equality.

<https://www.nationalwomansparty.org/>

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls. They strive for a just world, working together with children, young people, supporters and partners. They desire to drive change in practice and policy at local, national, and global levels through their reach, experience, and knowledge of the realities children face.

<https://plan-international.org/>

She Should Run is a nonpartisan nonprofit working to dramatically increase the amount of women considering a run for public office.

www.sheshouldrun.org/

TIME'S UP helps change culture, companies, and laws. TIME'S UP aims to create a society free of gender-based discrimination in the workplace and beyond. They desire for every person – across race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and income level – to be safe on the job and have equal opportunity for economic success and security.

<https://timesupnow.org/>

Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. They fight for a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.

<https://www.zonta.org/>



Recommended Advocacy Techniques:

Each link will bring you to a page on our website that includes a more extensive look at each advocacy technique with action steps, templates, and helpful tools on how to take action.

1. Create a [petition](#)
2. Speak with [elected officials](#)
3. Write a [letter](#) to your Congress person
4. Host a [fundraiser](#) event for a local organization
5. [Volunteer](#) for a local organization
6. Host or attend a [rally](#)
7. Use [social media](#) to promote issues
8. Write an op-ed or [letter to the editor](#)
9. [Vote](#) in local and federal elections



Letter Writing Campaign Advocacy Technique Example:

Join Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center and the League of Women Voters of the United States in fighting for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has supported and pushed for ratification of the ERA since it was first passed by Congress in 1972. Leagues across the country have worked to engage lawmakers and organize at the grassroots level to ensure equal rights for all, regardless of sex. On January 27, 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Contact your Representatives today and ask them to vote Yes for H.J. Res. 79 and remove the ERA's ratification deadline so that the ERA becomes law.

Feel free to use this sample letter below:

Dear Representative:

Virginia became the 38th State to ratify the equal rights amendment, reaching the threshold needed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. I am writing to you today as a member of League of Women Voters, to urge you to help finish this fight for equality by supporting H.J. Res. 79, a bill to remove the ERA's ratification deadline, so that true equality under the law can be a reality for women across America.

Despite the significant legal and legislative advances that have been made in recent decades, women continue to face discrimination on the basis of sex. Women continue to fight against unequal pay, workplace harassment, pregnancy discrimination, domestic violence, and limited access to comprehensive healthcare. It is not enough to treat the symptoms; we must address the root cause of inequality by amending the Constitution. In addition, legislation can be removed or weakened while our constitutional rights are steadfast and symbolize our values.

The fight for the ERA is not new, and support for it across the country is stronger than ever. Congress has the authority to remove the time limit for ratification and I urge you to use that power now. If you believe in equality for all regardless of sex, I urge you to support H.J. Res. 79 and remove the ERA's ratification deadline.