

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM WAS ADOPTED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC COUNCIL CONVENTION ON MARCH 17, 1968, AND INCORPORATED INTO ITS PLATFORM:

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

On November 7, 1967, the United Nations declared unanimously that women are entitled to equal rights with men in employment, politics, education and cultural life. In 1961 Pres. Kennedy established the National Commission on the Status of Women. Since then, 50 states have created Status of Women Commissions. However, prejudices, discrimination and inequalities of opportunity continue to exist for women in these United States, preventing development of their full potentials as well as their maximum contribution to society. All of these aforementioned Commissions are only investigative and have no powers for corrections of problems. We therefore recommend that the Democratic Party recognize its obligation to the 51% of our population who are women and work for the following:

1. Passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution providing equality of rights to women as well as men.
2. Regarding employment:
 - a. Urge legislative bodies of the states to add word "sex" to their Fair Employment Practices Acts.
 - b. Guarantee equal remuneration with men for work of equal value.
 - c. Non-discrimination on grounds of marital status.
 - d. Prohibition of employment ads which exclude women where women can do the job.
 - e. Provisions for paid maternity leave and guarantee of return to job.
 - f. Disability or unemployment insurance benefits for pregnancy.
 - g. Unemployment insurance coverage for women in agriculture and establishment by Industrial Welfare Commission of hours and working conditions comparable to other industries.
 - h. Establishment by Industrial Welfare Commission of minimal wage rate protection for household domestics.
3. Regarding women's rights to complete control of their bodies:
 - a. Dissemination of birth control information to all women regardless of age and marital status.
 - b. Removal of prohibitions against abortion.
 - c. Revision of welfare legislation and poverty programs which deny women dignity, privacy and self-respect.
 - d. Modernization of laws against prostitution in order to make the buyer equally liable with the seller. Investigation of police protection of syndicates. Establishment of rehabilitation program instead of punishment.
4. Regarding education and job placement opportunities:
 - a. Broadening of information and guidance centers throughout the states to assist women as well as men in finding education, training & work opportunities.
 - b. Opening of all vocational and academic opportunities to women as well as men, from grade school upward.
5. Regarding women's needs for their children:
 - a. Provision of publicly financed child-care centers for citizens from all income levels, to be established widely for convenience of working and student parents.
 - b. Revision of income tax laws to permit deductions of child-care expense of working mothers.
6. Revamping of marriage, divorce and property laws to equalize rights of women and men.
7. Regarding rectifying secondary role of women to men:
 - a. Pledge to reject a separate women's division in the Democratic Party and instead integrate them into the party's main structure.
 - b. Support more equitable representation of women in governmental, political and private organizations, granting them decision-making roles.
 - c. Encourage women to seek public office.
 - d. Create programs for combatting the assaults on women's dignity perpetrated daily by the mass media.