



NOW-NYC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 17, 2009

Contact: Rebecca Raible

212.627.9895

## **NOW-NYC Applauds Agreement to Ensure Equity for Young Women Athletes** *As Long-standing Title IX Advocate, NOW-NYC Celebrates Important Local Victory*

New York-NY—The National Organization for Women New York City commends the decision of the NYC Department of Education and the work of the New York Civil Liberties Union and the Office of the Public Advocate to ensure that the equality of young women remains front and center. NOW has long fought for the enforcement of Title IX—signed into law in 1972 to ensure equality for women and girls in education—both in classrooms and on athletic fields. Before Title IX, only one in 27 girls played varsity high school sports. Today that figure is up to at least two in five girls. Clearly, when given the opportunity, young women *do* play.

“NOW-NYC is proud to celebrate in this victory for young women athletes, which not only ensures compliance with Title IX’s equity in education law but delivers on the spirit in which that law was made: we are not letting discrimination stand in the way of these girls’ dreams and goals,” says NOW-NYC deputy director, Jean Bucaria.

“Young women athletes should be afforded every opportunity for advancement in their chosen sport as young men,” Bucaria adds. Today’s announced agreement achieves this, by making sure that female soccer players across New York City are not put at a disadvantage by off-season scheduling that prevents them from full participation in their chosen sport.

Young women’s lives and future soccer careers will be immediately and directly impacted by this decision. While the work of securing equal rights lies partly in remaining vigilant, and ensuring that principles are put down on paper, today’s victory is a real-life example of how enforcing these rights will make a difference in young women’s lives. Equality in education means fostering and expanding opportunities for our youth, and this agreement does just that.

NOW-NYC President Sonia Ossorio says, “This was a simple matter of Title IX justice, and the Department of Education responded. As a result, female student soccer players in New York City have a fair shot on the playing field.”

The National Organization for Women is the nation’s largest organization working to advance women’s rights and improve women’s lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is one of the largest chapters in the country with over 5,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to protect women’s reproductive choices, end violence against women and eliminate sex discrimination in our schools, workplaces, and the justice system in New York.

###