



NOW-NYC

PRESS ADVISORY

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**NOW-NYC Urges Women to Leave Work Early to
Demonstrate We're Still Not Earning Our Fair Share
To Commemorate Equal Pay Day, Women Work Only 78% of the Day**

DATE & TIME: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 3:15 PM
LOCATION: NOW-NYC Office; 150 W. 28th Street, Suite #304

New York, NY - If women worked the equivalent of what their work is valued, they'd be clocking out at 3:15 p.m. This is just what NOW-NYC members and supporters will be doing in commemoration of Equal Pay Day, which falls on April 20th of this year.

“Women make 78 cents on the dollar. At the very least, on the day that commemorates the need for equal pay, we should get to leave after working 78% of day,” said Sonia Ossorio, Executive Director of the National Organization for Women in New York City. “At the current rate of progress, today’s working women or their daughters won’t ever earn what their male counterparts earn.”

Since women-headed households are increasing and more single mothers take on the brunt of household costs, equal pay becomes even more critical. For women of color the numbers are worse: African-American women earn approximately 69 cents on the dollar and Latina women only 59 cents. This translates directly to even more staggering gaps for net worth. A recent report by the Insight Center for Community and Economic Development shows that there is a huge disparity in wealth between single white women and single women of color: single Black and Hispanic women have a median wealth of around \$100, while the median for single white women is estimated at \$41,500.

NOW-NYC is kicking-off this annual event to call attention to just how much those hours add up after a lifetime of work. “Professional women stand to lose from \$700,000 to \$2 million dollars over the course of their lives because of pay discrimination,” Ossorio said. “If working class women earned dollar for dollar what men earned, New York families would bring in an average of \$4,000 more per year and poverty rates would be cut in half.”

Yet, the pay gap persists: fields historically dominated by women are underpaid, women are often segregated into the lower paying sectors within their industry, and women are subject to systemic discrimination that places them at a significant disadvantage when it comes to starting salaries, promotions, and pay raises.

Last year, the NYS Fair Pay Act (currently A.03911/S.0095) became a casualty of Senate power plays. The Fair Pay Act is a serious step in the right direction—it will protect workers from retaliation for sharing salary information, and it will require employers to remedy inequities in pay—calling for equal pay for equal and comparable work. The Equal Pay Coalition NYC, of which NOW-NYC is a member, is pushing forward this legislation and working for substantive changes and fair workplace policies.

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.

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