



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **It's Time for a Real Pay Day for Women**

### **NOW-NYC Calls on City and State Leadership to Deliver on Equal Pay for Women**

**WHAT: Pay Equity Rally**

**WHEN: Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.**

**WHERE: City Hall**

New York, NY – April 16, 2008 – NOW-NYC, a member of the Equal Pay Coalition, will be calling for the City and State leadership to support pay equity on April 17<sup>th</sup>. NOW-NYC President, Sonia Ossorio notes, “Pay inequity between men and women is not news for working families. Women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar men earn. For women of color this gap is even wider. We need to pass the Fair Pay Bill, sponsored by State Senator Craig Johnson. The bill will have a tangible impact on ensuring fair pay for New Yorkers.”

Across industries, similar work that is dominated by women is clearly undervalued. For example, most New York school districts pay cleaners, an occupation dominated by men, more than the women-dominated jobs of teacher assistant or secretary. Over the course of a lifetime, this type of discrimination adds up: women stand to lose anywhere from \$700,000 to \$2 million, depending on their level of education. Equal pay is not only a woman's issue but a family issue that impacts everyone.

At the federal level, pay equity took a major hit last year when the Supreme Court severely restricted the ability to challenge discriminatory pay. Federal legislation to address the problem has not yet passed the U.S. Senate. This makes it even more important for New York State and City to act to support pay equity.

**A Pay Equity rally and press conference will be held on the steps of City Hall on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. It will be followed by a City Council hearing on pay equity. NOW-NYC, a member of the Equal Pay Coalition, asks that the City council pass a resolution in support of the NYS Fair Pay Act and Federal legislation. Councilwoman Helen Sears is sponsoring the day's events and the City council resolutions.**

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 the largest chapter in the country with 7,000 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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