



President's
Desk
Sonia Ossorio

After a year of rallies, public forums and meetings with legislators, law enforcement and Governor Spitzer's new team in Albany, NOW-NYC is thrilled to see our hard work pay off with a new law that finally makes criminals of those who make a business out of exploiting vulnerable women, men and children. We applaud Governor Spitzer, the Assembly and Senate leadership for making human trafficking a priority issue this year.

The new law addresses the essential components NOW-NYC and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition were seeking: a comprehensive definition of trafficking, tough penalties for traffickers, services for victims, clearer laws that make operating a sex tourism business illegal, and increased penalties for the men who patronize brothels and drive the demand that leads to commercial sexual exploitation of women.

Thanks so very much to the many of you who came to the rallies, sent letters to your legislators and joined our Trafficking Action Network. Your energy and activism helped make a difference. It was critical because few states have as compelling and immediate a need for a tough anti-trafficking

law as New York. Now, we are no longer lagging behind the rest of the country in getting a law on the books that addresses this modern-day slavery.

This victory gives us the opportunity to change the landscape that makes New York a hospitable place for trafficking. I know a woman

New York is no longer lagging behind. This victory gives us the tools to change the landscape that makes NY hospitable to trafficking.

who within days of being in New York was forced into a brothel overlooking Roosevelt Avenue in Queens. With a timer at her side, she "serviced" 19 men in her first night in the underworld of prostitution. This is the ugly, degrading world of human trafficking in America today, and New York City figures very prominently in it.

In fact, JFK Airport is a top trafficking hub that serves as a point of entry into the U.S., a transit location, and as a final destination for victims. Moreover, the Big Apple has the distinction of

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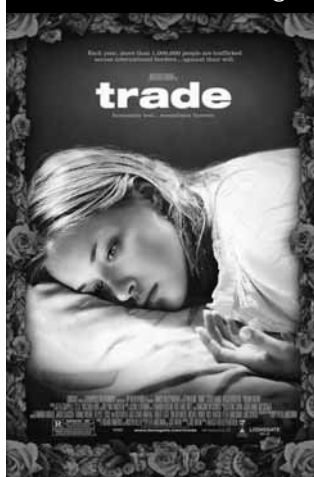


NOW-NYC at
Pride Parade

NOW-NYC members rally thousands of parade-goers for marriage equality while marching in the annual Heritage of Pride March. Turn to page 3 to get the latest on New York State's Equal Marriage bill.
- June 24, 2007



Exclusive Screening



"TRADE"
Q&A with Director
& After Party!

Thursday
September 20th
6:00 pm

Advanced sale for this event: \$15

After Sept. 10th: \$20

Join NOW-NYC in celebrating the passage of New York's Tough Anti-Trafficking Law

See this film before the rest of the nation!

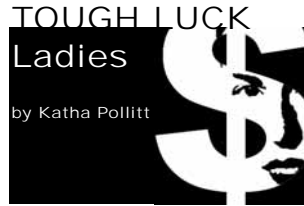
This feature film starring Kevlin Kline is about sex-trafficking. Reviews have been outstanding!

From the slums of Mexico City and the treacherous Rio Grande border, to a secret internet sex slave auction in suburban New Jersey, TRADE is an eye-opening account of human trafficking. Inspired by a New York Times Magazine exposé, the script was written by journalist Peter Landesman and acclaimed "the Motorcycle Diaries" screenwriter Jose Rivera. Check our website for updates and call to RSVP, 212.627.9895.

Complimentary
Admittance

with the Purchase of a \$45 One-Year Membership. Call today! 212.627.9895

Seating limited, so call today!



TOUGH LUCK
Ladies

by Katha Pollitt

Do you know how much your colleagues earn? I thought not. You probably know more about your co-workers' sex lives than you do about what's in their pay envelopes. Unless they volunteer the information, or leave their pay stubs lying out on their desk, it can take years to learn that someone else is being paid more than you for the same work, if you ever do. My lucky break came decades ago at another magazine when I was inadvertently mailed someone else's check. How often do the postal gods help out a worker like that?

...unless you figure out that you are the victim of pay inequity within 180 days...you're too late

But now, ladies—and all of you whose color, religion or national origin leave you open to prejudice—you can just quit your fusing. In *Ledbetter v. Goodyear*, the Supreme Court All-Male Five just ruled that unless you figure out that you are the victim of pay discrimination within 180 days of said discrimination's commencement, it doesn't matter. You're too late.

While decades' worth of previous judgments have always held that each discriminatory paycheck constituted a new act for purposes of meeting Title VII's six-month deadline, the Roberts Court holds that only the original one counts. Six months into being screwed over by your

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CRISIS in the
Court

Staff Report

Supreme Court
Watch 2007



Sometimes there is no satisfaction in saying "I told you so." NOW-NYC was one of the few voices of staunch opposition to the confirmation of Justices Roberts and Alito. NOW's National President, Kim Gandy, warned the U.S. Senate that Roberts' confirmation would pose a "palpable threat to women and people of color and disenfranchised groups everywhere," and that his "disdain for individual rights and liberties would characterize his term as chief justice, casting a long, dark shadow upon the High Court."

It didn't take long for the country to see that we were right. In one short term, the newly constituted Supreme Court has snubbed precedent and handed down decisions that infringe on women's lives and personal choices in the workplace, in the doctor's office and in schools. Just this year, Roberts, Alito, Thomas, Scalia and Kennedy, the five-justice conservative bloc on the court has made sweeping changes in American law to the detriment of women and minorities nationwide. Here are the most controversial decisions you need to know about:

Employment Discrimination

- How much money do your male co-workers make? You probably don't know and that information is probably not accessible. Too Bad. Unless you find out within 180 days of hiring or your last pay raise, there will be little you can do if you've been cheated by your employer. By then,

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6	Spotlight on Girls for Gender Equity The Invisible Majority	8 Women of Power & Influence Awards

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- 1 NOW-NYC Intern sends Viacom a clear message for its role in supporting sexist music. - May 30, 2007
- 2 NOW-NYC rallies at Foley Square with other members of the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition to demand a fair and comprehensive anti-human trafficking law in New York State. - March 2007
- 3 Jane Manning, former Chair of NOW-NYC and key architect of New York State's first anti-trafficking law, celebrates the new legislation. - May 16, 2007

NOW-NYC Streets

- 4 President Sonia Ossorio calls for equal pay legislation. The group wore bright red colors to signify just how much women are "in the red." - April 24, 2007
photo credit: William Alatriate NYC Council
- 5 Undaunted by the cold, protestors demand that Albany legislators make the anti-human trafficking bill a priority. - February 2007
- 6 Former NOW-NYC Reproductive Rights Committee Chair, Acola McKnight, comments on the release of the City Council's report on the wide availability of emergency contraception in New York City. - May 20, 2007
photo credit: William Alatriate NYC Council
- 7 Board member Ebony Edwards-Ellis waves to supporters at the annual Pride Parade. - June 24, 2007
- 8 NOW-NYC calls for an end to sexist and racist lyrics at the March for Decency in Music. - May 3, 2007



NOW-NYC Programs and Events

All meetings held at NOW-NYC, unless otherwise noted. Please remember to RSVP.

Trafficking Action Network
Tuesday, Sept. 4th, 6:30 p.m.

Join us in taking action to bring an end to the modern day slavery of sex trafficking in NYC. We meet the first Tuesday of every month. RSVP by calling our office.

Book Club
Tuesday, Sept. 4th, 6:30 p.m.

Join to discuss exciting feminist literature and make new friends over wine and cheese. We meet the first Tuesday of every month. RSVP to meaghan@nownyc.org

Reproductive Rights Action Committee
Tuesday Sept. 11th, 6:30 p.m.

Join with us on the second Tuesday of each month to protect and expand women's reproductive autonomy. RSVP to mshaw826@gmail.com

Women and Girls in the Media Action Committee
Thursday, Sept. 13th, 6:30 p.m.

We're working to improve the images of women in the media. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. RSVP to e_d_ellis2004@yahoo.com

Divorce/Separation Legal Clinic
Tuesday, Sept. 18th, 6:30 p.m.

A matrimonial lawyer and an accountant will be on hand to answer your questions. The clinic meets the third Tuesday of every month. \$15 suggested donation. Participants must RSVP to reserve a space.

Employment Discrimination Legal Clinic
Wednesday, Sept. 19th, 6:30 p.m.

An employment discrimination lawyer will be on hand to answer your questions. This clinic meets the third Wednesday of every

month. \$15 suggested donation. Participants must RSVP to reserve a space.

TRADE - Exclusive Pre-Screening and Q&A with the Director
Thursday, Sept. 20th, 6:00 p.m.

Location to be announced. \$15 admission. See the front page for details.

Walmartopia Special NOW Showing
Thursday, Sept. 27th 8:00 p.m.

Off-Broadway musical at the Minetta Lane Theatre. See page 3 for details.

COMING SOON:
Love Your Body Day
Thursday, Oct. 18th, 6:30 p.m.

Join NOW-NYC in our annual celebration. Details coming soon on our website: nownyc.org

NOW-NYC
150 W. 28th St. Suite 304
@ 7th Ave.
N. R. W. 6, 1 to 28th St.
212.627.9895

Check out our new website!
www.nownyc.org

We are thrilled to show off our new and improved website!

Please visit us for up-to-the-minute news, events, actions and photos.



The Continuing Battle for Marriage Equality

By Thomas K. Duane
New York State Senate, 29th District



On June 19, 2007, the New York State Assembly, by a vote of 85 to 61, passed a same-sex civil marriage bill. It was indeed an historic moment. As I sat in the Assembly chamber watching the debate,

As the voting ended, Democrat Matthew Titone, Staten Island, 61st district, rose and announced: "I have my partner here on the phone and he just asked me to marry him...My answer, Madam Speaker, is 'yes'."

I was incredibly moved by many of the comments, not just those of bill sponsor Daniel O'Donnell and Assemblymember Deborah Glick, who for eight years was the only openly LGBT member of the New York State Legislature, but also those of Republican Assemblymember Teresa Sayward who evoked her gay son in voting 'yes' for the bill, and other less obvious supporters. We have certainly come a long way.

Just last summer, the New York State Court of Appeals struck down the right of same-sex couples to marry. In essence, the high court told same-sex couples that they did not deserve equal protection under the law. Governor George Pataki applauded the decision. The fight for civil marriage looked bleak.

What a difference a year makes. Not only did Governor Spitzer keep his pledge to introduce

legislation legalizing same-sex civil marriage, but the State Assembly passed the measure. The Governor has indicated

he will sign the bill into law. The only obstacle we now face is passage in the New York State Senate. Naysayers maintain that the

passage of civil marriage in the State Senate is "impossible." I have heard that one before—and I do not believe it.

Since I began my tenure in the State Senate we have advanced the causes of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights exponentially. In 2000, we passed comprehensive hate crime legislation and in

2002, we passed the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA). When I came to the Senate there were no statewide protections for

LGBT New Yorkers, and I was told not even to bother trying to get these essential bills passed. They are now law.

I learned a valuable lesson — never give up. That is why in 2001 I was the first person in the New York State Legislature to introduce legislation which would legalize same-sex marriage. At the time, I was ridiculed for overreaching, but it set the course for where we are now, halfway to marriage equality, just six years later.

Today the question is this: how do we get the State Senate to pass the civil marriage bill?

It will not be easy. Yet we are witnessing every day that times are changing. The Senate Republicans, who are holding up the bill, cling to a very narrow two seat majority. There is a very real possibility that in 2008, the Democrats will take back control of the State Senate. If this happens (and I believe it will) I am confident that civil marriage will pass the Senate and become the law of New York State.

But even if the Democrats do not take the majority, I still firmly believe that same-sex civil marriage can pass in the State Senate. A growing number of New Yorkers are in favor of marriage equality. The Senate Republicans can see the writing on the wall and cannot hold out forever. Civil marriage for same-sex couples is not a question of "if" but rather "when."

"We would spend long nights crying together and talking..." one night I said to him, "you have to be who you are: you can't be who people think you should be..." Assemblymember Teresa R. Sayward, 113th District Saratoga County, NY, shares her experience with her son.

I will continue to be outspoken in lobbying my colleagues and fighting to get this bill to the

floor, but I cannot win this battle alone. It will take the ongoing efforts of the many advocacy, labor and religious organizations and individuals who have already worked so hard, so long, and are not about to give up until same-sex civil marriage is a reality in New York State. As

"We obviously have a lot of unfinished business to deal with, and the current conflictual climate in Albany makes it hard to see how we will break the logjam on these issues"-From Assemblymember Liz Krueger's newsletter, 26th District, Manhattan.

—that nothing will be lost and much will be gained by saying "yes" to marriage equality. We have the backing of the Governor, we have the backing of the State Assembly, and it is time to let the State Senate know it is unacceptable to hold this bill hostage. Equal protection under the law means equal protection for all New Yorkers.

Today the question is this: how do we get the State Senate to pass the civil marriage bill?

"This is about ... protecting family. This isn't about forcing other people to change their religious beliefs..." Assemblymember Deborah Glick, 66th District, Manhattan.

TELL SENATOR BRUNO TO WALK A MILE IN YOUR SHOES!

IT'S A DOUBLE BONUS: CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET AND MAKE A STRONG STATEMENT FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY. SEND BRUNO AN OLD PAIR OF YOUR SHOES WITH A NOTE ON WHY YOU SUPPORT MARRIAGE EQUALITY.

Senator Joseph L. Bruno
Room 909
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Please ask Senator Bruno to allow the marriage bill to be heard in the Senate.

SPECIAL NOW SHOWING

It's Mom vs. Mart in *Walmartopia*, a rollicking new Off-Broadway musical. What happens when Vicki, a single mom, and her daughter take on the corporate behemoth?

Thursday, September 27th, 8:00 pm
Minetta Lane Theatre
18 Minetta Lane in the West Village

Featuring a "talk back" after the show with **NOW's National VP, Olga Vives**, originator of the Wal-Mart "Merchant of Shame" campaign.

Join us for drinks afterwards, Location TBD. Special \$45 ticket price (regularly \$65)

Simply purchase tickets online at www.ticketmaster.com or call 212.307.4100.

Use the special NOW discount code NOW0927



NOW-NYC board member, Gaby Moreno, talks to the press (left), and intern, Emelle Bailey, marches for marriage equality (below) at the annual Pride Parade. - June 24, 2007



LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP by Lauren Estevez and Jean Bucaria

The 2007 New York State legislative session has come to a close. Here's the rundown of our victories and challenges.

Victory!

Anti-Human Trafficking Law
NOW-NYC's campaign reached a milestone this June, when Governor Spitzer signed this critical legislation into law. The new law addresses all the concerns of our anti-trafficking campaign: a comprehensive definition of trafficking, tough penalties for traffickers, comprehensive services for victims, clearer laws on sex tourism operations, and increased penalties for patronizing prostitution.

Child Prostitutes Continue to be Criminalized

The Safe Harbor Act would ensure that child prostitutes are sent to safe houses with counseling and medical services instead of the juvenile equivalent of prison. Although separate versions of the bill were passed unanimously in both the Senate and the Assembly, the legislative leadership did

not make the bill enough of a priority to get it to the Governor's desk for his signature. Now these children will have to wait another year before they are adequately protected from pimps and prosecution.

Put pressure on Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno to stop blocking critical legislation from reaching the floor for a vote! The New York State Senate leadership continues its tradition of blocking the advancement of gay rights, reproductive healthcare, pay equity and sexual education by preventing these bills from making it to the Senate floor for a 'yes' or 'no' vote. Call Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno (518.455.3191) to let him know that he is not addressing issues that are critical to New Yorkers.

New Yorkers Still Waiting for Equal Marriage

Advocates for Equal Marriage celebrated a milestone when the Equal Marriage Bill A.08590 passed in the Assembly on June 19th, following moving and impassioned

speeches from its supporters. Despite this strong showing in the Assembly, the bill did not make it to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

Reproductive Rights Protection On Hold

The Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act (RHPPA) would secure the "fundamental right to choose contraception and the right of a female to determine the course of a pregnancy, authorize abortion prior to viability, define terms, and decriminalize abortion." This is New York State's opportunity to codify abortion access into law, protect reproductive freedom from the politics of the Supreme Court and lead the way for the rest of the nation. The legislation was introduced by Governor Eliot Spitzer and has not been voted on.

Senate Leaders:

Equal Pay Can Wait
The Fair Pay Act: A.2712/S.3936 makes it illegal for an employer to pay different wages on the basis of sex, race and/or national origin. The bill passed the Assembly by an

overwhelming majority but was not presented for a vote in the Senate.

EC too expensive? Too Bad (for now)

The Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act A.5669 would expand access to Emergency Contraception, especially for those on Medicaid. The act requires insurance plans that cover contraceptives to also cover the cost of EC. The Act was introduced by Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Westchester). The bill passed the Assembly but was not voted on in the Senate.

Sex-Ed Resources Blocked in NYS

New York currently has no requirement to teach comprehensive sex ed. In fact, the only programs that are federally funded in the state are "abstinence-only" programs. The Healthy Teens Act would make resources available to fund age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education in New York State. Despite overwhelming support from residents and the Assembly, the State Senate ignored the bill.

