



ACTION TOGETHER SUNCOAST

POLICY PLATFORM ANNOUNCEMENT:

Many of you have reached out to us to express your hope for this group to continue after the March on 1/21/17. We have been in constant discussion as to how to best serve you and the growing movement that you have built with us. We have developed a Policy Platform Overview based on our internal discussions, your comments, views, emails, neighborhood gatherings, and information from the leaders of the Women's March on Washington. This Eight Point Platform is by no means exhaustive, but is meant to serve as a beginning conversation leading us to campaigns, action items, and steps to ensure that our vision and values can continue long after the March. In Florida, we have some specific issues to work on as in our Suncoast area.

We ask that you continue to work with us to effect change. The amount of work you have put in so far has been amazing! You have voiced your concerns and quite literally stopped the presses! You make calls daily to Senators and Representatives, you are visiting our elected officials Offices and demonstrating outside their offices! You Marched in Washington and Sarasota! These Marches reached National and Global acclaim! We stand in awe of you and we hope you continue to stand with us 1/22/17 and beyond. We have a lot of work to do and it begins locally. Thank you for your trust in us.

Healthcare and Reproductive Rights - We fully support safe and accessible healthcare for **All** regardless of insurance, economic, or citizen status. This includes a woman's right to legal abortions, affordable birth control, emergency contraception, disabilities, mental health, veteran's, eldercare, and family planning.

Environmental Protection - We promote environmental sustainability and believe that climate change is real. We pledge to protect and sustain the land, air, water, and creatures that share the Earth with us.

Education - We believe that education is a public good and that all students, of all ages and backgrounds, deserve the opportunity to receive safe, affordable, quality education from the earliest stages of schooling through college.

Racial Justice - We support political, social, legal, economic, and educational equality and access for all races and pledge to dismantle systemic racism and racist violence that threatens the lives and opportunities of black and brown people living in this country and world.

Religious Freedom - We support the principle that an individual or community has the right to express their religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance of the religion of

their choice, privately or publicly. It also includes the freedom to change one's religion, belief or choose to not have religious beliefs.

Immigration Reform - We believe in fair and equitable treatment for all immigrants. We advocate for a more just and modern immigration system that honors and maintains the way immigration strengthens US communities, families, and the economy.

LGBTQIA+ Justice - We are committed to fighting injustice, discrimination, and hate based on sexual orientation and gender and pledge to develop LGBTQIA+ civil rights in all areas including employment, housing, medical care, adoption, and marriage.

Economic Justice - We advocate for each individual to have an equal chance at a dignified, productive, and creative life beyond economics and are committed to fighting for a range of economic justice issues from ending poverty to demanding equal pay for equal work.

Gun Control and Criminal Justice - We believe that criminal justice is intimately connected to social justice. We support renewed gun control measures and a publicly funded system of transformative and restorative justice based on non-violence prevention, healing, and social justice.

OUR MISSION

The rhetoric of the past election cycle has insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us--immigrants of all statuses, Muslims and those of diverse beliefs and religions, people who identify as LGBTQIA, Indigenous people, Black and Brown people, people with disabilities, survivors of sexual assault—and our communities are hurting and scared. We are confronted with the question of how to move forward in the face of national and international concern and fear.

In the spirit of democracy and honoring the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore. The Women's March on Washington and Sister Marches across the country sent a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us.

We support the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities. We call on all defenders of human rights to join us. The march was the first step towards unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up. We will not rest until women and minorities have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all.
HEAR OUR VOICE.

Adopted from THE WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON NATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT and Policy Platform