



Resolution: Regarding the critical importance of promoting civil discourse

Ratified: November 2016

WHEREAS, the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) has established that political discourse has become increasingly disparaging, voters are frustrated, and there has been a dramatic shift away from bipartisan collaboration that pervades national politics.

WHEREAS, informed by research from The National Institute for Civil Discourse, NFWL has established that most people think mocking or making fun of a political opponent, making disrespectful or demeaning statements, refusing to listen to arguments of different points of view, or making exaggerated statements that misrepresent the truth are all uncivil behaviors

WHEREAS, a public demand for civil discourse and a government that works in the best interests of the country as a whole.

WHEREAS, democracy will fail unless society treats issues and ideas as serious questions that require critical thinking and wide, respectful discussion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of the National Foundation for Women Legislators

- (1) act as models of proper dialogue in all of our communications including our discussions with one another;
- (2) continue to speak out against all forms of incivility, including rhetoric and ad hominem attacks;
- (3) we uphold a high standard of conduct to be respectful of others in speech and behavior; take responsibility for personal behavior, speech, and actions; speak the truth and act with integrity; promote civility in political discourse; run positive campaigns by focusing on supported and opposed policies;