

BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW NEWS



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BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW CHAPTER CALENDAR-2013



Chapter meetings take place the first Monday of the month at 7pm, unless otherwise noted. Inclement weather may force the rescheduling of a chapter meeting, so be sure to RSVP to the number provided Or call 718 769-0101. Call the numbers below for exact location and directions. Check for Calendar updates on our website: www.brooklynqueensnow.org.

- Apr 1 Chapter meeting in Howard Beach, Queens. Call 718-843-7978.
- May 6 Chapter meeting in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn Call 718-891-8590
- May 8 Mayoral Forum with NOW-NYC. Schimmel Center @ Pace University, 7pm (6pm cocktail reception).
- Jun 3 Chapter meeting in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Call 718-769-8901
- Jul 8 Chapter meeting in Howard Beach, Queens. Call 718-843-7978.

WOMENS' EQUALITY ACT

At the 2013 State of the State address Governor Cuomo announced plans to promote a 10-point Women's Equality Act. . This groundbreaking, comprehensive legislative agenda will level the playing field and break down barriers so women can fully and equally participate in society.

1. **Protect Reproductive Health and Choice:** This measure ensures that every woman in New York State can get the health care she needs.
2. **Achieve Pay Equity:** This measure strengthens existing laws and enforcement measures to close the wage gap.
3. **Stop Sexual Harassment in All Workplaces:** This measure closes loopholes in existing law to protect employees of any business, large and

small, from sexual harassment.

4. **Allow for Attorneys' Fees in Employment, Lending and Credit Discrimination Cases:** This measure amends state law to include a provision for reasonable attorneys' fees for successful litigants, and ensures that discrimination victims have an opportunity to vindicate their rights.
5. **Strengthen Human Trafficking Laws:** Sex-trafficking victims are almost always women. This measure creates an affirmative defense in prostitution prosecutions for defendants who are sex-trafficking victims.
6. **End Family Status Discrimination:** This proposal prohibits employers from denying work or promotion to workers

simply because they have children.

7. **Stop Source-of-Income Discrimination:** Many landlords will not rent to people who need low-income housing assistance, the overwhelming majority of whom are women. This measure prohibits discrimination against tenants based on lawful sources of income.

8. **Stop Housing Discrimination for Victims of Domestic Violence:** State law does not protect domestic violence victims from housing discrimination, meaning landlords can evict them under zero tolerance policies. This measure protects victims of domestic violence from discrimination when they attempt to purchase, rent or lease housing.

9. **Stop Pregnancy Discrimination Once and For All:** Too often, women are fired or forced to take unpaid leave because employers are not required to make minor job modifications for pregnant women. This measure requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations for pregnancy-related conditions.

10. **Protect Victims of Domestic Violence by Strengthening Order-of-Protection Laws:** Getting an Order of Protection can be difficult. This measure lifts some of the requirements of the process to make it less burdensome.

Let New York’s legislative leaders know your position on the Women’s Equality Agenda! **CALL** legislative leaders: Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver: 518-455-4100, Senator Dean Skelos: 518- 455-3171 and Senator Jeffrey D. Klein: 518-455-2800

HERE'S A SAMPLE MESSAGE WHEN YOU CONTACT LEGISLATIVE LEADERS:

Dear "Lawmaker,"

I support the Women's Equality Agenda. This initiative contains important protections for women to improve the health, safety and economic wellbeing of every woman and her family in this state. The Women's Equality Agenda is not just the right thing to do, it builds a stronger economic foundation for all of us. The Women's Equality Agenda has broad and diverse support, from Governor Cuomo to some 500 groups—

labor groups, business leaders, civil rights organizations, women’s groups, medical associations and religious groups. I urge you to work toward passing the Women's Equality Agenda into law this year. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

"Guns make women safer" ??

That's what Gayle Trotter, a conservative gun advocate, said at Wednesday's Senate hearing on gun violence.¹ At the hearing, one conservative witness after another argued vehemently against background checks, against limiting high capacity ammunition clips, and for assault weapons.²

But here's the inconvenient truth: **The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the chance that a woman will be murdered by 500%.**³ And here's another: In states that require a background check for every handgun sale, 38% fewer women are shot to death by partners.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR NOW-NYS

This past November, Zenaida Mendez was elected as president of the New York chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW-NYS), It is the largest women's political action organization in New York, representing over 14,000 women and men in 24 chapters.

In addition to serving as president of NOW-NYS, Mendez is the Director of External Affairs at the Manhattan Neighborhood Network; the president and founder of the National Dominican Women’s Caucus, and a mother of three daughters. She is also the first Dominican woman to be elected to the executive leadership post at NOW-NYS.

ADVERTISING

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NOW is the time.
Keep up the good work!

Councilman Lew Fidler

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VAWA REAUTHORIZED

You did it!! Your phone calls, your emails, your tweets, your petitions, your Facebook posts, your visits to your Members of Congress, your absolute determination and dedication to victims and survivors did it!

VAWA is a hugely important law that has a tremendous impact. It helps train 500,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges, funds countless services for survivors including shelters and hotlines and since it was passed it has helped reduce partner violence by almost 67%.²

Now, native women, who endure much higher rates of rape and domestic violence than the general population, will finally have more avenues to justice.³ LGBT people, who experience domestic abuse at a similar rate to straight couples, will no longer be discriminated against when they seek help from shelters and other services.⁴

BQ NOW PAC NEWS

Our Political Action committee is very busy with all the many hotly contested races this fall for Mayor, Public Advocate, Borough President and City Council. We'll be interviewing candidates at our chapter meetings (see Calendar) so if you would like to meet and ask them a question come to these meetings.

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Non-profit Rate: \$40 per issue, \$145 per year

Business Rate: \$50 per issue, \$165 per year

ACTION ALERTS

PRO-CHOICE IN QUEENS

Clinic Escorts Needed!

On a typical Saturday at CHOICES, anti-choice protesters outnumber pro-choice volunteers 5 to 1. Escorts provide a buffer zone from the lies and harassment coming from the anti's.

Join us on Saturday mornings from 7 to 11am at the CHOICES health clinic in Jamaica, Queens. Located at 147-32 Jamaica Ave, the clinic is close to the E, J, Z and LIRR trains.

**BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW
LEADERSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS**

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GOOD LAW FOR WOMEN

U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-12) reintroduced legislation to protect a woman's fundamental right of access to legal contraception. Lautenberg's and Maloney's bill, the **Access to Birth Control (ABC) Act**, would prevent pharmacies from denying the sale of contraceptives because of a pharmacy employee's religious beliefs. Because of the importance of birth control for women's preventive health care, new health insurance requirements under the Affordable Care Act now make birth control available to women without copays.

**National Organization for Women
Brooklyn-Queens Chapter**
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Address Service Requested