January 28, 2025

President Trump,

We, the undersigned organizations that advocate for and support women's rights and gender justice, strongly condemn the cruel and lawless executive order (Executive Order 14168) you issued on January 20 that claims to "defend[] women." The order, which directs the federal government to regulate, control, and police gender, does absolutely nothing to protect women and girls. We know that the true intent of this order is to demonize, stigmatize, and discriminate against transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people and to enforce gender roles and gender stereotypes. It is appalling you wage these attacks in the name of "defending women," and particularly because of your repeated attacks on women's rights.

We reject your false and harmful assertions that cisgender women and girls need to be protected from sharing spaces, such as housing and bathrooms, and activities like sports, with transgender women and girls. As advocacy groups with long histories of advocating for and supporting the rights of women and girls, we unequivocally affirm that transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people, including women and girls, deserve the same basic rights and respect as everyone else.

Far from "protecting" women from any real threat, your order actively endangers women, including both cisgender and transgender women. Through stereotypes and disinformation, it attempts to exploit unfamiliarity with transgender people to promote the myth that the rights and safety of cisgender women and girls are somehow in tension with the rights of transgender women and girls. We know this is untrue, and that the safety of all women and girls indeed depends on reaffirming that transgender women and girls are treated with equal dignity. We are not fooled by your administration's attempts to undermine transgender people's rights, as an invitation to perpetuate wider attacks on sex discrimination protections for everyone.

This is so because the divisive policies espoused by the order would endanger women and girls by aggressively subjecting anyone who doesn't conform to sex-based stereotypes to invasive scrutiny to verify their gender, leading to privacy violations and harassment. Indeed, there have already been numerous, alarming examples of cisgender women in public bathrooms being threatened, or cisgender high school girl athletes being investigated and harassed, because of questions about whether they were transgender after anti-trans policies were enacted in their states.

The executive order's definitions of "women" and "female" as "belonging, at "conception", to the sex "that produces the large reproductive cell" are not only scientifically incoherent; they also reduce women to their reproductive traits and disregard the existence of many women, including intersex women who are born with variations in sex-related traits. And by suggesting that a fertilized egg is a person, the executive order advances the anti-abortion extremist strategy to assign rights and benefits to fetuses and embryos, with the ultimate goal of banning abortion

nationwide and sharply undermining a range of other reproductive health care, from maternal care to fertility care to birth control.

Furthermore, the flagrant hypocrisy of the claim that this order protects women coming from a president who has a long track record of attacking women's rights, is astounding. You have boasted of your role in taking away the federal constitutional right to abortion–a foundational right women relied on for nearly five decades. You have been accused by dozens of women of sexual assault and harassment and found liable by a jury in one case. In both this administration and your previous one, you have nominated men to powerful positions despite reports of their harms to women, including sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and domestic violence. And you have repeatedly demonstrated your hostility to core sex discrimination protections and to programs that mostly women – particularly single mothers – rely on to make ends meet.

We will not let this executive order deter us from fighting for the rights of *all* women. We will strive to ensure that this executive order, the cruel policies it proposes, and the false narrative it tells about our rights will not last.

National Women's Law Center, *joined by*:

9to5
Abortion Action Missouri
Advocates for Trans Equality
Advocates for Youth
AFT Women's Rights Committee
AIDS Foundation Chicago
American Association of University Women
American Atheists
American Humanist Association
Arab American Family Services
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
AWAKE Tennessee
Bans Off Miami
Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice
Bradbury Sullivan LGBT Community Center
CAMP Rehoboth
Care in Action
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)
CenterLink: The Community of LGBTQ Centers

Centre LGBT+
Charlotte Trans Health
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE)
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Cobalt
Collective Futures
Compass LGBTQ Community Center
Council for Global Equality
Detroit Disability Power
Eastern PA Trans Equity Project
EdTrust
Education Law Center Pennsylvania
End Rape On Campus
Equal Rights Advocates
Equality California
Equality Community Center
Equality Federation
Equality Florida
Esperanza United
Family Equality
Fem Alliance Uganda
Feminist Majority Foundation
Florida National Organization for Women
Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center
Gender Equality Law Center
Gender Inclusive Schools
GenderNexus
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality
GLSEN
Grand Rapids Pride Center
Harvard Law School Gender Violence Program
HEAL Plus NM
Her Justice
Hugh Lane Foundation

Human Rights Campaign
If/When/How
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Illinois Families for Public Schools
Illinois Federation of Teachers
Indivisible
interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth
Just Solutions
Justice + Joy National Collaborative
KWH Law Center for Social Justice and Change
Ladder Consulting
Latino Equality Alliance
Legal Momentum
LGBT Community Network
LGBTQ Center of the Cape Fear Coast
LGBTQI+ Rights Clinic, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault
Louisville Youth Group
Maine Women's Lobby
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity
Midwest Access Coalition
Mississippi Black Women’s Roundtable
MomsRising
Montana Chapter of the National Organization for Women
Montgomery Pride United/ Bayard Rustin Community Center
MoPride
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ+ Center
Naples Pride
National Abortion Federation
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
National Black Justice Collective
National Council of Jewish Women

National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Employment Lawyers Association- NY
National Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Organization for Women
National Organization for Women - Pasco County Chapter: FL0365
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women’s Liberation
National Women's Political Caucus
Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
NOW of Marion County
Oasis Legal Services
Omaha ForUs LGBTQ+ Center
one-n-ten
OutCenter Southwest Michigan
OUTreach Denton
OutReach LGBTQ+ Community Center
Partners in Abortion Care
Pensacola Abortion Rights Task Force
People For the American Way
PFLAG National
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
PowHer New York
Pride Action Tank/AIDS Foundation Chicago
Pride At Work, AFL-CIO
Pride Community Center of the Brazos Valley
PRISM FL
Prism United

Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Advocates Inc.
Public Justice
Queer Keys
Red Wine & Blue
Reproductive Freedom Collective Broward County
Reproductive Freedom for All
Reproductive Justice Maryland
RI Abortion Fund
Rocky Mountain Equality
SAGE
Sakhi for South Asian Survivors
San Diego Pride
Serving At-risk Families Everywhere, Inc.
Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
Silver State Equality
SMYAL
Solano Pride Center
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
Southwest Women's Law Center
Spencer Pride, Inc.
State Innovation Exchange (SiX)
Stop Sexual Assault in Schools
Support FHPS Action
The Center for HIV Law and Policy (CHLP)
The Center Project
The GLO Center
The International Partnership for Reproductive Health
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center
The Pride Center at Equality Park
The Pride Center of New Jersey

The Prideful Path Project
The San Diego LGBT Community Center
The Source LGBT+ Center
The TransLatin@ Coalition
The Voices and Faces Project
TransFamily Support Services
Transgender Law Center
Transgender Michigan
Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico
Transinclusive Group
UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health
Union for Reform Judaism
We Are Family
Women Connection Taskforce on Behalf of AFC
Women Employed
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's Law Project
Women's Rights and Empowerment Network
Youth Oasis
Youth Pride Association