

FIST Proposes Feminist Amendments to the Equality Act

What is the Equality Act? The House passed this civil rights bill (HR 5) extending protection on the basis of sexual orientation and “gender identity.” The Equality Act is positive in that it protects lesbians and gay men from discrimination and eliminates the use of religious freedom claims to challenge civil rights obligations. But the bill also equates gender identity with sex, thus eroding women's rights.

Why Feminist Amendments? FIST aims to support the claims of lesbian, gay and transgender people to freedom from discrimination without compromising the fight against oppression based on sex.

FIST's Feminist Amendments eliminate “gender identity” and instead establish two new categories for civil rights protection: sexual orientation and sex stereotyping.

“Sex” is defined as: reproductive structure and function that may be accurately observed at or before birth with rare exceptions. (continued on back)

Feminist Amendments to the Equality Act (cont.)

The Feminist Amendments preserve female-only facilities, services and programs for privacy and safety reasons as well as for women's and girl's advancement. The Feminist Amendments allow for the establishment of “gender neutral” facilities so long as the availability and access to single-sex facilities for women/girls is not diminished.

Sex stereotyping includes: the expectation that individuals will manifest behaviors, dress, appearance, grooming, etc. typically associated with their sex and refrain from exhibiting those associated with the other sex. However, sex stereotyping discrimination *does not include* merely recognizing or referring to the sex of an individual.

The Feminist Amendments thus protect transgender people, lesbians and gay men, and all gender non-conforming people from discrimination *while preserving the sex-based rights of women and girls.*

Feminists in Struggle (FIST)



<https://feministstruggle.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/feministsinstruggle/>

@feministstruggle on Twitter

Who We Are:

Feminists in Struggle (“FIST”) is a national female-only radical feminist network, democratically run, and composed of individuals born female and affiliated female-only feminist organizations. We aim to bring together women from diverse radical and revolutionary feminist traditions.

FIST welcomes women of every racial, ethnic, and class background, all ages and abilities/disabilities, whether lesbian, heterosexual or bisexual, who share a common set of feminist principles. **We are committed to organizing a serious fight-back against the attacks on our rights from multiple quarters.**

Sisterhood is powerful!

Join us!



FIST 13 Principles

1. We affirm that women and girls are oppressed based on our biological sex, i.e., the female capacity to bear and birth children.
2. We fight for all females, not just the privileged few, and oppose not just male supremacy but also white supremacy and class hierarchy.
3. We are gender role abolitionists seeking an end to socially-imposed roles based on sex that enforce male supremacy.
4. We demand an end to all forms of discrimination and harassment based on sex, including the wage gap and de-facto job segregation. Pass the Equal Rights Amendment now!
5. We fight to end racism and the system of white supremacy that oppresses women of color.
6. We struggle against all forms of male violence against women whether it takes place in the home, on the street, at work, or in colleges or universities.
7. We work for the abolition of prostitution and pornography; we support the criminalization of traffickers, pimps, and sex buyers and the decriminalization of prostituted women and girls (“Nordic Model”).
8. We support complete sovereignty over our bodies and reproductive lives, including free unimpeded access to safe, legal abortion and birth control and no forced sterilization.
9. We defend our fundamental right to female-only spaces, programs and organizations that allow us to collectively resist our sex-based oppression against serious challenges by forces within the transgender movement.
10. We call for free childcare, paid parental leave, and other community supports needed to end the double day and empower women to live independent lives. Fund human needs, not war.
11. We demand an end to discrimination and stigma against lesbians and other women who have intimate relationships with women.
12. We reject any alliances or collaboration with the male supremacist religious Right or the white supremacist, anti-immigrant Right.
13. While the mission of FIST is to build a women’s liberation movement to oppose that which oppresses women because of male supremacy, we recognize the existential threat that the capitalist-induced climate crisis and risk of nuclear war pose not only to the possibility of women’s liberation, but to the whole of humanity, and life on this planet.