



Following an election process of unprecedented vitriol, as well as years of seeing young black men and women killed by police; Muslim Americans and institutions attacked; and transgender and queer people threatened and assaulted, we now face uncertain prospects. We do not know what will happen in our legislative bodies, our courts, and our communities.

But we do know some things.

- White supremacy is real, and dangerous; the official institution of slavery may be gone, but the remnants persist and continue to oppress
- Misogyny exists in all corners of our society and within ourselves
- Native American people and tribes continue to be marginalized, and their ancient lands and ways threatened
- Women – and particularly women of color – are prosecuted and incarcerated at an ever-accelerating rate, even as:
- Men of color – especially Native American and African-American men – remain vastly more likely to be arrested, prosecuted, and incarcerated compared to every other group of people
- Immigrants are as much a part of the fabric of our society as people born in the U.S., and yet are targets of hate, xenophobia, and policies that exploit workers and tear families apart
- Women living with disabilities are twice as likely to experience gender-based violence as those living without
- Class oppression grows exponentially as income inequality widens

While this may sound like a litany of woe, it also points us forward. Indeed, we can find hope and strength in unceasing efforts to combat all these ills. The people and communities threatened by these truths have an opportunity to stand together, and to jointly demand change. Just as important, people who have power and the privilege of race, class, and ability must act as allies, with a full understanding of their roles in dismantling—or perpetuating—unjust systems and institutions.

In our diversity lies our strength. Together, we demand an immediate end to reviling, dehumanizing, and criminalizing people of color. We commit to standing up to and speaking loudly against hate, oppression, and violence, wherever we see it. Failure to act has always been dangerous; now, it can be life-threatening, if those observing evil acts fail to step forward, prevent, and denounce them.

Legal Voice was founded on the principle that the law is one of the most powerful tools in our society, and that we are obligated to use it for good. We do our best to live up to that principle. Throughout our nearly four decades of work, we have tried to focus on the legal rights of society's most vulnerable people: low-income women, LGBTQ people, survivors of gender-based violence, incarcerated women. For example, we worked in coalition to pass a Washington State law banning the shackling of incarcerated women during pregnancy and birth, an injustice now addressed in Black Lives Matter policy demands. We recognize, however, that we are not always aware of the ways in which our own privilege affects how we approach our work. Therefore, we are resolved to learn, reach out, and always strive for improvement—and to do so with openness, humility, and curiosity.

Rights for women means rights for *all* women, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, or ability. When we say **Women's rights. Nothing less.**, we mean it. And we will continue fighting for change – tirelessly and fearlessly – until we can all live our lives with dignity, autonomy, and power.