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Joint Religious Statement on Equal Rights

Alliance for Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment

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JOINT RELIGIOUS STATEMENT ON EQUAL RIGHTS

Current attitudes toward women in the United States are the outgrowth of complex social and political forces which have led to a legal system that treats persons discriminately on the basis of sex.

Hundreds of existing state and federal laws regarding domestic relations, employment and educational opportunities, property and business activities, military service, and criminal penalties clearly discriminate against women. Such laws are based on stereotyped ideas of a woman's abilities and proper roles in society, rather than her actual potential and rights as an individual.

The time has come to confront these conditions which prevent women from enjoying the equality of opportunity and exercising the freedom of choice which are the rights of all human beings. If women are to have the opportunity to contribute fully to society, the guarantee of equal rights for both men and women needs to be clearly embodied within the Constitution.

For these reasons, the following organizations support the concept of equal rights and responsibilities for both men and women, especially as that concept is expressed in the unamended Equal Rights Amendment (S. J. Res. 8, 9) now before the Senate

American

American Baptist Convention, Division of Christian Social Concern
American Baptist Women, Board of Managers
American Humanist Association
Board of Directors, Lutheran Church Women
Church of the Brethren
Church Women United
Christian Women's Fellowship, Disciples of Christ
Friends Committee on National Legislation
National Council of Churches
Presbyterian Church in the U. S., Office of Church and Society
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
United Methodist Board of Church and Society
United Church of Christ, Council for Christian Social Action
United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., Washington Office
United Presbyterian Women, National Executive Committee
Women's Division, Board of Missions, United Methodist Church
Task Force on Women, United Presbyterian Church

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