



EVENT CALENDAR **2018**

- **Feb 7** - Charlotte NOW—[ending the sex abuse to prison pipeline forum](#)
- **Feb 10** - [HKonJ march and rally](#) in Raleigh—tens of thousands attend.
- **Feb 17**, [EME screening](#) in Chapel Hill with Durham NOW
- **Feb 20**—[Title IX is topic](#) at Fayetteville NOW meeting
- **Feb 22**—[18th annual Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration](#).
- **March 3 and 10**—Rape Crisis Sensitivity Training in Fayetteville
- **March 6**—LGBTQIA +Bias, Triad NOW Monthly Meeting in WS.
- **March 8**—[International Women's Day Events in Charlotte & Raleigh](#).
- **March 24**—March For Our Lives, Gun Safety—in DC, NC and more!
- **Apr 25** - [Enough Is Enough](#) Summit in Washington DC, 10am-5pm
- **Jun 8** - [Second annual Feminist 5k in Raleigh](#).
- **Jul 6-8** - [National NOW Conference "Forward Feminism"](#) in San Jose CA

Local NOW chapter monthly mtgs

Asheville NOW—second Sundays at 3pm. Email: nowaville@gmail.com

Charlotte NOW—contact them for next ones—email: cltnow@yahoo.com

Durham NOW—7pm, the second Tuesday of each month. Starbucks at 54/55. Email: henryesthe@aol.com

Fayetteville NOW—7pm, third Tuesdays, Quaker House on Hillside Ave. Email: heq57@aol.com

Raleigh NOW—7:15pm, the first Tuesdays, 2912 Highwoods Blvd, in back. Email: president@raleighnow.org

Triad NOW—7pm, first Tuesdays in Winston-Salem, NC.

email: president@triadnow.org

Crystal Coast NOW: starting soon!

Rape Kit Inventory Initiated in Fayetteville, Fayetteville NOW Helped

Many North Carolinians learned that there are 15,160 untested 'sexual assault evidence collection kits' (SAECK) left in North Carolina on February 28, 2018.

These kits, also known as 'rape kits' were inventoried as part of the 2017 state budget, thanks to a bill that was spearheaded by the executive director of a Rape Crisis center in Cumberland County, Deanna Gerdes. Prior to the inventory, no one knew how many untested 'sexual assault evidence collection kits' there were across NC. Gerdes worked with Lt. John Somerindyke, Fayetteville Police Department's Special Victims Unit commander, who discovered the problem in the first place and leads a unit to solve these crimes. Other key supporters were bill sponsor state Rep. Billy Richardson, D-Cumberland; Roberta Waddle, a long time officer of Fayetteville NOW and NC NOW; and Gerdes' daughter, Kathryn.



Attorney General Josh Stein announced the count on 2/28/18, and has great recommendations going forward what to do. NC is finally making progress on untested rape kits, thanks these heroes in Fayetteville.

Gerdes and Somerindyke have talked about their journeys to getting this bill written and passed at a (continued as Rape Kits on pg. 3)

Gailya's voice:

2018 has been rough but full of resistance! The largest and most impressive show of resistance up until January were the second round of women's marches all over the US! In 2018, we knew of [9 women's march anniversary events in NC](#). NOW chapters were involved in many of these. Pg 2 has quotes.

We talk about national events on pg 5—on 3/20/18, join other pro-choice activists at a rally in DC against fake clinics being able to tell lies. The case is NIFLA v. Becerra, and the Supreme Court hears opening arguments. Free bus-ride available with NARAL, stopping in Raleigh and Durham. On 4/25/18, an #EnoughIsEnough Summit exploring the next steps after #MeToo will be held in DC. Also on pg 5.

The movement for gun safety has taken over since the massacre of 17 people at a Parkland FL high school. We are proud of our children for standing up for themselves and for common sense safety measures. Join others [at a March for Our Lives event near you](#) (Raleigh, Durham, Wilm, W-S)-3/24/18.

"Tuesdays with Tillis" highlight a different topic every week. NC NOW is a consistent presence and helps organize some of the topics, including #MeToo and Defending the ADA. Read about the protest on pg 2 and [on website](#).

There are many ways you can make a difference. Joining and staying a member of NC NOW is the easiest—membership form on pg 6. Join an existing chapter or make your own chapter and start learning together and planning education or protest events. Stay up to date through email, our [NC NOW website](#) and facebook pages, [NC NOW](#) and chapters. It is helpful for you to share your email address when join or signup online.





the \$20 bill.

At this event, Charlotte NOW collected donations for Changed Choices, an organization that supports incarcerated women. They've been collecting supplies at each of our monthly meetings – like cleaning supplies, towels, twin sheet sets, paper goods, shelf stable foods, detergent and grocery cards. So keep that in mind when you attend the next one!

This following article relates to the Trauma to Prison pipeline event. These same women experience more trauma in our prisons that are suppose to be rehabilitating. Charlotte NOW heard these horror stories and worse from women who had been in prison and spoke at the NOW national convention last July. Female products are being taken away from them as punishment.

[12 Pads Per Month? Arizona Legislature Will Vote on Restrictive Menstruation Rules](#), Global Citizen, 2/7/18.

Trauma To Prison Pipeline Report, 2/7/18

Charlotte NOW had a great turnout for a very informative and inspirational meeting on the "Trauma to Prison Pipeline." The groups speaking, "Changed Choices" and "Safe Alliance", inspired Charlotte NOW with the work they are doing and made attendees realize how much work still needs to be done. The Title IX Coordinator for Charlotte/Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) gave a report on what is being done in our schools for girls experiencing trauma.

Prior to the speakers, attendees enjoyed a dramatic reading of Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I Woman" speech and an update on Harriet Tubman becoming the first woman on

Some Quotes from the Women's Rally On Raleigh

(More quotes on northcarolinanow.org website)

10,000 -15,000 determined, compassionate, and resilient North Carolinians poured into the state capital for the Women's Rally on Raleigh on Sat., 1/20/18. The Raleigh event was done in conjunction with events in [at least 9 cities around NC](#). All these people in all these cities were celebrating women's rights and raging against bad policies, against dangerous votes, against vicious political maneuvers, against terrible tweets and worse behavior! In Raleigh, women leading the resistance sang, recited, & spoke about voter suppression, sexual assault, domestic violence, access to affordable quality healthcare, immigrant rights, Islamophobia, LGBTQ rights, public education, more. [Our rally cries rang across NC: the resistance is here to stay!](#)

"When I hear the word justice/freedom/resistance, it makes me think about women." – Performer Randa McNamara

"Don't call me baby. It's CEO, director, president. Change is coming—that's evident." – MaryBe McMillan, delivering [a poem that she wrote for our event!](#) [@marybemcmillan](#), President of the [@NCStateAFLCIO](#)

"If there is not justice for you, there is not justice for me." – [Monika Johnson-Hostler](#), Speaker, Women's Rally on Raleigh.

Here are some quotes from our speakers and performers. See more on the NC NOW website at ["Quotes from the Women's Rally On Raleigh."](#)

"Things I resist – oppression, discrimination, poverty!" – Performer Lena Jackson.

"Tuesdays With Tillis" - When Deportation Is A Death Sentence—3/6/18

What many Americans don't understand is that [deportation can be a death sentence](#) as article on website is named.

According to "[When Deportation Is A Death Sentence](#)," 1/15/18, New Yorker, "Hundreds of thousands of immigrants in the U.S. may face violence and murder in their home countries. " What about "the U.S. government's duty to protect prospective deportees who plead for their lives?"

"Before Laura crossed the McAllen-Hidalgo International Bridge into Mexico, she turned to the Border Patrol agent supervising her return to Mexico. "When I am found dead," she told him, "it will be on your conscience.""

On 3/6/18, the Tuesdays With Tillis protest is for a Clean DREAM Act and Justice For Immigrants. It will include a 'die in' naming some of the immigrants who died when sent back to dangerous countries by the US Government.

The [facebook event can be found here](#). El Centro and El Pueblo organized the program. They gave us some statistics on how deportation is a death sentence, and new cruelty the Trump Administration is doing.

- Since 2013, 165 people have died in immigration detention centers.
- Some deported people are being murdered soon after being forced to return.
- Some children are being separated from their parents.

Photo: "Die In" in light rain at Thom Tillis' office in Raleigh. Photo Credit: Gailya Paliga



Rape Kits! (From Page 1)

few events with NC NOW and the Fayetteville NOW chapters in the past 6 months. On Feb 22, 2018, the Fayetteville chapter of the National Organization for Women held their 18th annual Susan B. Anthony (SBA) Birthday Celebration, where they honored Gerdes and Somerindyke for their work on the passage of this bill. Some of their journey is captured in "[Fighting for statewide sexual assault survivor justice: Gerdes and Somerindyke honored at Fayetteville NOW event](#)," which was the cover story in the 2/6/18 issues of Up and Coming Weekly, a community paper in Fayetteville. Gerdes and Somerindyke also did a workshop at NC NOW's state conference last October on grassroots work to pass the auditing of the Sexual Assault kits. More about their workshop and the conference at "[Mobilizing Women NOW – Totally Worth It! Summary](#)."

Somerindyke discovered the backlog of untested rape kits and also that hundreds had been thrown away. He contacted Gerdes looking for funding to text the shelved rape kits. At the SBA event, Gerdes talked about getting Waddle involved in deciding what to do and how, and getting her daughter Kathryn's help in writing the text of the bill! Somerindyke talked about his discovery that hundreds of rape kits had been thrown away, his efforts to contact all of the victims associated with those rape kits, and efforts to prevent that from happening again. As one of the victims told him, "There is a piece of my body in the rape kit that was thrown away." Also, to the credit of the Fayetteville Police Department, rather than covering up that untested rape kits had been thrown away, [the department held a press conference informing the public](#). Meanwhile, Gerdes found grant money to pay for rape kit testing in Fayetteville. In Fayetteville alone, Lt. Somerindyke's cold case task force found and arrested 25 rapists.

Somerindyke also said repeatedly, "Rape is a serial crime."

It is great to get these rapists off the streets, and to know that Fayetteville has invested resources into it.

Because of their work on HB 731, "The State Crime Lab contacted every law enforcement agency in the state to

collect its data, and 92% responded. Prior to the inventory, the lab and the North Carolina Department of Justice led by Stein did not know how many untested kits there were."

Stein, representing the state Department of Justice, has some great ideas what to do now. According to "[A count turned up more than 15,000 untested rape kits in NC. Here's what might be next](#)," 2/28/18, News & Observer, "Stein is now recommending the General Assembly create a committee to determine how best to handle the sexual assault evidence collection kits and how to prevent such a backlog from occurring ever again. He wants lawmakers to approve a tracking system that would allow the victim, police officer or prosecutor to check the status of the kit to see if it has been tested or where it's located." Somerindyke had mentioned at the SBA event that none of the rape victims knew what happened with their rape kits (and nothing did).

You can see what each site around NC reported in the [SAECK-Report-Final.rapekits](#). Even though we hear what a terrible problem rape is at universities, none of the campuses showed untested rape kits. Also, even though Fayetteville had hundreds, Cumberland County reported no untested rape kits. One assumes theirs had been thrown away. Hopefully this bill and related will prevent other rape kits from being thrown away.

Waddle said the success of the bill "shows effectiveness of NOW, shows the value of maintaining ties to other organizations in the community, brings awareness to all the untested kits in the state." What a win for NC!

Deanna Gerdes addresses the full room at the SBA Birthday Celebration on 2/22/18. Fayetteville NOW President Sharon Johnson and Roberta Waddle at front table with honorees. This table with the purple runner is part of one of 4 or 5 long tables of attendees.

Photo Credit:
Gailya Paliga



Title IX Coordinator Addresses Fayetteville NOW Chapter, 2/20/18

By Jenn Alexander, Fayetteville NOW

Attorney Patricia Bradley introduced her talk on Title IX to the Fayetteville NOW chapter by asking if we knew the only sport women could receive scholarships for prior to 1972. Field hockey? Nope. Gymnastics? Not that either. Only cheerleading!

Title IX is a comprehensive federal law which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex for any educational institution that receives federal funding, and requires compliance across any opportunities offered, from sports to classes to admission and scholarships. Bradley expounded on her role as Title IX Coordinator at Fayetteville State University, the process a claim goes through, and cited examples on claims and how the university responded.



The coordinator looks at every aspect of sex discrimination and that includes sexual/dating violence or harassment, as well as unequal access to resources or properly maintained facilities. A recent example of the latter includes a transgender student who could not use any of the gym showers without everyone present knowing they were trans, because all the showerheads were in a central open area. Another example was the poorly maintained tennis courts. FSU only has a women's team, and their courts were so overgrown and uneven that the school could not even host tournaments on campus - even as the football program was robustly funded. We also discussed what due process looks like and how to protect victims from alleged perpetrators without infringing on either's rights while the case is ongoing. Ms. Bradley has been pleased with the encouraging responses by the university to fix these issues.

Photo Credit: Sharon Johnson

She lastly discussed potential dangers to this progress by federal leadership, such as by no longer mandating that universities report and make public the amount and types of crime on campus, and that we can combat it by encouraging universities and university systems to uphold transparency and responsibility by posting them even when not federally required. I'm sure everyone in our chapter had at least heard of Title IX, but Ms. Bradley gave us wonderful insight into the many ways it protects against discrimination, how the reporting and prosecuting systems work, and actions we can take.

Feminist 5K Run/Walk/Roll – 6/8/18

The Feminist 5k returns in 2018!

Sign up before May 9th for an early bird rate!

This is a fun run/walk/renunciation of the patriarchy.

It's been quite a year, dealing with a federal administration in chaos, and with our own legislative leadership in NC. On the other hand, women are rising up! Joining existing organizations doing the work, like National Organization for Women to make change. Women are leading groups all over. And the #MeToo movement has been a catalyst for long overdue recognition of how widespread Sexual Harassment is.

You can [sign up now and save](https://app.racereach.com/event/feminist-5k/register) at [https://app.racereach.com/event/feminist-5k/register!](https://app.racereach.com/event/feminist-5k/register) Better rate if you sign up by May 9th.

The [facebook event is at www.facebook.com/feminist-5k/](http://www.facebook.com/feminist-5k/).



Click the link below, or email feminist5k@gmail.com for a paper form. (Online registration requires a gender selection; the paper form does not.)

Proceeds benefit the Women's Center of Wake County, Inc.

Upcoming National Events

#EnoughIsEnough Summit In DC on 4/25/18

Activists, survivors, advocates and lawmakers are taking part in a pivotal moment when communities are saying "Enough Is Enough" to sexual harassment & violence.

The Enough Is Enough campaign is holding a one-day summit and congressional briefing on April 25, 2018 in DC to bring together activists and allies to discuss strategies and craft initiatives to combat sexual violence.

The Enough is Enough Summit brings together problem-solvers and activists from across the country in the movement to develop survivor-centric solutions on the ground, in the courts, and in Congress. Through panels and discussion, we hope to shine light on what the issue of sexual harassment looks like for different communities and industries, and how we can craft informed solutions that address these specific barriers.

Date: Thursday, 4/25/18

Time: 10am to 5pm (EST)

Place: The Congressional Visitor Center, First St NE, Washington, DC 20515

Cost: Free

RSVP: action.now.org/p/dia/action4/common/?action_KEY=13176

Do you or does someone you know need help with sexual assault or sexual harassment?

Here are some resources compiled by <https://visionsforequality.com/enough-is-enough/support/>

As we advocate to dismantle the culture of sexual assault and harassment—we must also address the direct needs of victims and survivors. Below are links to direct services, legal resources, and guides for survivors of sexual assault and harassment. More resources with Virginia NOW, at www.novanow.org/enoughisenough/

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Fake women's health centers (also known as crisis pregnancy centers or CPCs) are deceptive, anti-abortion/anti-choice, unlicensed and unregulated centers that pretend to be full-service clinics, but really exist to push an anti-abortion agenda, and to shame, force and coerce women into making decisions that may not be right for them.

Supreme Court Takes Up [NIFLA v. Becerra](#) case on 3/20/18

"What's more important? The right to spread lies, fear and shame under the guise of free speech? Or the right of people seeking health care and counseling during pregnancy to receive accurate, unbiased, and comprehensive information from a licensed medical facility? An upcoming Supreme Court case may decide just that."

- Lynne Walter, Naral Pro-Choice NC

[The US Supreme Court \(SCOTUS\) said in November 2017](#) that it would decide whether California violates free speech guarantees to require "crisis pregnancy centers" (CPCs) to tell patients the truth about access to contraception services and abortion assistance.

On Tuesday, 3/20/18, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in (National Institute of Family and Life Advocates) [NIFLA v. Becerra](#), a case that fake women's health centers brought to the court to overturn a California law (California Reproductive FACT ACT) that provides people with access to full and accurate information about their reproductive health options. Activists from many organizations will be there protesting.

The anti-abortion organizations have been waiting for a case like this, and now they have Justice Neil Gorsuch on the bench. According to [Slate.com in June 2017](#), "Justice Neil Gorsuch revealed himself to be everything that liberals had most feared: pro-gun, pro-travel ban, anti-gay, anti-church/state separation. He is certainly more conservative than Justice Samuel Alito and possibly to the right of Justice Clarence Thomas. He is an uncompromising reactionary..." Meanwhile, [Justice Anthony Kennedy has announced retirement this summer](#), foxnews.com, 3/11/18. "Kennedy, the 81-year-old swing vote appointed to the court by former President Ronald Reagan, has served on the bench for 29 years."

In North Carolina, the CPCs get taxpayer money to push their extremist ideology. In fact, [the NC General Assembly Budget Gives \\$2.6 Million to Crisis Pregnancy Centers](#) over 2 years/\$1.3 million a year (Indy.com, 6/26/17)! The CPCs often set up very close to real abortion clinics and trick women into going to the fake clinics instead, or set up in low wage communities with less access to transportation.

Raleigh NOW
National Organization for Women
PO Box 25331
Raleigh, NC 27611

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Feminist 5k in Raleigh
June 9, 2018

northcarolinanow.wordpress.com/ www.now.org email: president@raleighnow.org

Be sure to "Like" NC NOW National Organization for Women on Facebook!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Count me in! I want to join NOW and commit myself to take action: to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities in a truly equal partnership with men. Mailing label says if it's time.

Name: _____
(Former/Returning member, different name/city?) _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____
*(Important!) E-mail: _____

I want to affiliate* with my local NOW chapter. (signature) _____
*Affiliation with a chapter assures that you will receive local newsletters and special notices.)
Annual Dues: \$35 (\$15-\$34 -- student / limited income.
NOW does not wish to exclude members because of income.)

(Annual dues include membership in NOW, at the National, State and local Chapter levels)
 I want to make a donation to Raleigh NOW _____ or NC NOW _____ (check which)
Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Mail this form and dues to: Raleigh NOW, PO Box 25331, Raleigh, NC 27611