

## Women in Decision-Making - 1971

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Although women comprise 53% of the voting population of the United States, they hold only 1% of the elective offices. This paucity of women in leadership roles is, unfortunately, a fact in many countries. While it may be true that women in general have been reticent about presenting themselves for public office, political parties as well as leaders with the power of appointment have been flagrantly remiss in overlooking women with intelligence, education, political understanding and commitment to public service, which would have made them eminently qualified for consideration as candidates for office. The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in convention assembled in Los Angeles, California, in November 1971 declares:

1. The interests of the world at large as well as the specific interest of women will be better served through substantial enlargement of the number of women in high positions;
2. A better-balanced society will be achieved and desirable changes may be more quickly effected in all areas if women's role moves from political housekeeping to decision making, and if many more qualified women are nominated for and elected or appointed to office;

Therefore, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, aware of these advantages to society at large, as well as to women in particular, of women's unrestricted participation in political decision making, notes and reaffirms:

1. That since the achievement of suffrage by women in 1919 there has been as great and lamentable a political apathy on the part of many women as on the part of many men;
2. Women must become more aware of their own capacity and responsibilities in this area; competent women must be willing to make the effort necessary to qualify themselves for and to stand for political office;
3. Political parties as well as leaders with appointive power should nominate women for offices at all levels.

Furthermore, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods declares in convention assembled:

1. The creative work involved in rearing children and maintaining a stimulating home for the family must be recognized at the same level and for the same reasons as other creative, life-enhancing occupations are recognized and honored;
2. For both the woman who works from economic necessity as for the woman who combines her contribution to her home with service to society either as a volunteer or through continuation or resumption of her educational, business or professional career, there is urgently required and NFTS Sisterhoods and their members should seek:
  1. A system of comprehensive child care services adequately funded by government;
  2. Information and action on pending, current legislation about child care services.
3. The communications media need to reevaluate their stereotyped and often denigrating presentations of women and their activities;
4. The representation of women on boards, commissions and committees at all levels of the Reform movement, as called for in a resolution adopted by the NFTS Executive Committee in the Spring of 1970, should be translated into reality at an ever-increasing pace.

In Addition, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods calls upon all of its members to translate into action the fact that all citizens must be concerned with continuing improvement in an equitable and democratic elective

process whereby:

1. Candidates for office shall have equal opportunities to present their platforms and qualifications for office;
2. Candidates shall have equal access to news and communications media;
3. The public shall receive from all candidates prompt and full disclosure regarding campaign expenditures and the sources of campaign income;
4. Candidates shall receive financial and electoral support regardless of sex.