



July 24, 2018

Legislative Governmental Mall Commission  
%Jeffrey Ong, Senate Research Staff  
%Mike Hans, House Research Staff  
1700 W Washington St  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Confederate flags, statues, and monuments.

Dear Mr. Ong and Mr. Hans,

NOW is a multi-issue, multi-strategy organization that takes a holistic approach to women's rights. Our priorities are winning economic equality and the ERA; championing abortion rights, reproductive freedom, and other women's health issues; opposing racism; fighting bigotry against the LGBTQIA community; and ending violence against women. The Central Phoenix Inez Casiano chapter serves the Phoenix metropolitan area.

NOW recognizes that the United States has a long-standing history of deep-rooted racial slavery, oppression, and violence against persons of color. A product of that history has led to Arizona, like other states, creating and glorifying confederate flags, statues, and monuments of historical leaders who actively participated in or glorified oppressive movements such as slavery, segregation, or Jim Crow, and who participated in treason as they sought to dismantle the union. These objects are often on public display at state buildings or roads.

While we acknowledge the historical context, the continued public display of said items has oppressive impacts on people of color and refugees such as but not limited to racial trauma, discrimination, and racially motivated violence. Therefore, we ask that you remove the confederate flags, statues, monuments and road names that glorify oppressive and racist historical leaders from all public spaces. The location for these items should be in historical museums or educational locations where they can be displayed in a transparent context and serve an educational purpose that identifies the structural racism that still exists in the U.S. We look forward to your response. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Dianne Post, Attorney

Chapter Secretary

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