



younger women's task force  
**A Project of the National Council of  
Women's Organizations**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Younger Women's Future at Stake:  
Judge Alito Opposes Basic Rights to Equality**

Washington, DC - January 5, 2006: Judge Samuel A. Alito's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court is a troubling development for younger women across the nation. The Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF), a project of the National Council of Women's Organizations, is the only national grassroots movement representing almost 1,500 women in their 20s and 30s across the United States. Our membership urges younger women to be aware of the following issues on which Judge Alito has shown a tendency to rule against the rights of younger women.

Access to Abortion: The U.S. Constitution recognizes an individual's right to privacy, and several court rulings including the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* hold that a woman's right to abortion is protected under her constitutional right to privacy. Judge Alito's court decisions and memos from his position as Assistant United States Attorney under Reagan demonstrate his opposition to abortion rights and the right to privacy.<sup>1</sup>

"Judge Alito has not only come out in favor of statutes that would require married women to inform their husbands of any intent to have an abortion," notes Claire Cole, YWTF NY Metro Director, "he was also central to the Reagan Administration's legal strategy to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and re-criminalize abortion. His writings even support restrictions on birth control methods he deems 'abortifacients.'<sup>2</sup> Younger women should be aware that his nomination means their access to abortion and birth control is at stake."

Equality in the Work Place and at School: In cases tried under Title VII, which protects against hiring and on-the-job discrimination based on sex, race, and ethnicity, Judge Alito has argued for a higher standard of proof to be placed on the plaintiff and for shifting the burden of proof from employer to employee in proving not only discrimination but also the intent to discriminate. Judge Alito's position towards Title VII could render it nearly impossible to prove work place discrimination.

While Judge Alito has yet to decide a case under Title IX, which protects against discrimination in higher education, both his record regarding Title VII discrimination cases and his narrow reading of such statutes serve as a warning that his decisions could afford less protection from sex discrimination at college than we saw under Justice O'Connor.

Additionally, as Deva Kyle, former YWTF DC Metro Director and member of YWTF's Board points out, "Judge Alito's hostility toward affirmative action could impact numerical redress in certain fields of employment and study for women as well as people of color."

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<sup>1</sup> "Alito Helped Craft Reagan Era Move to Restrict 'Roe'", Goldstein, Amy and Becker, Jo, The Washington Post, p. A01, December 1, 2005

<sup>2</sup> Memorandum to the Solicitor General from Samuel A. Alito, May 30, 1985, Subject Thornburgh v. ACOG & Diamond v. Charles, p. 9.



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Don't wait to make your opinion heard. Judge Alito has ruled against laws that protect a woman's equality in the work place and openly opposes a woman's right to bodily integrity by coming out against abortion. "Younger women are aware of the power of the courts and the ways that judicial decisions and interpretations affect their lives," says Alison Stein, Founder and Director of the Younger Women's Task Force. "We aren't going to let Judge Alito take our freedoms away from us."

As younger women, we know that Alito's appointment could last our lifetimes. YWTF urges you to contact your Senators and let them know that you oppose the nomination of Judge Alito. For women, and particularly younger women, the confirmation of Judge Alito to the Supreme Court would be a serious threat to our most basic rights.

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*The Younger Women's Task Force, a project of the National Council of Women's Organizations, is a nationwide, diverse and inclusive grassroots movement dedicated to organizing younger women and their allies to take action on issues that matter most to them. By and for younger women, YWTF works both within and beyond the women's movement, engaging all who are invested in advancing the rights of younger women.*

*Through chapters across the country, YWTF members are working to:*

- 1. Provide a stronger voice in the policy making process for women in their 20's and 30's;*
- 2. Increase the impact of younger women activists through the articulation of, and collaboration on, a common agenda;*
- 3. Create a culture of inclusion where decision-making and power are practiced collectively, and members from diverse backgrounds participate in all levels of YWTF;*
- 4. Define and develop the next generation of women leaders;*
- 5. Create a local and national network for peer mentoring, networking and sharing resources.*