



The Younger Women's Task Force \* The National Council of Women's Organizations

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MEDIA CONTACTS  
Alison Stein  
alisons@ncwo-online.org  
203-494-1295

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

1050 17th Street NW Suite 250  
Washington DC 20036  
202.293.4505 voice  
202.293.4507 fax  
www.ywtf.org  
ywtf@ncwo-online.org

## THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF A WEEKEND THAT LAUNCHED THE MODERN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

**Washington, DC, January 30, 2006-** This week marks the one-year anniversary of the founding of the Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF) and the Younger Women's Issues Agenda. The YWTF is the only national grassroots movement dedicated to organizing younger women in their late 20s and 30s to take action on issues that matter most to them.

### **Younger Women from 42 States**

On January 28th, 2005, 150 younger women from 42 different states gathered in Washington, DC to change the typecasting of feminism, bring women's issues to the masses, and to establish the relevant goals of the next generation. Participants at the Meet-Up included a younger woman running for state senate in a district that has never elected a woman; a mother on welfare with two young children who is trying to start a local welfare advocacy group; a student trying to break into the male-dominated science world at her graduate university; and an investment banker who has seen her male colleagues promoted instead of her. All believe in advancing the rights of younger women. At the Meet-Up, YWTF drafted the Younger Women's Issues Agenda — instrumental in communicating the needs of younger women to the nation's representatives — and launched the YWTF's first six regional chapters across the country.

### **YWTF Today**

Just one year later, YWTF boasts a dedicated membership of over **2,000 talented and inspiring women. Our eleven chapters nationwide are on the ground and organizing with members in over 30 states**, whose efforts are proof every day of just how much is possible. YWTF members are creating change in their personal lives, in the lives of women in their communities, and in the lives of women nationwide through the innovative, grassroots programming that is the touchstone of this organization. YWTF remains the only national movement organizing women in their late 20s and 30s. We have indeed filled the gap between youth organizations and the aging organized women's movement.

YWTF is actively organizing to better younger women's lives in Massachusetts, Florida, Washington, California, Pennsylvania, New York, Washington D.C., Wisconsin, and Illinois. From younger women's political participation to childcare, equal pay and work/life balance, YWTF is connecting younger American women with the issues they care about as they build this important movement.



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## Defining Our Own “Women’s Issues”

Over its first year, YWTF chapters have not focused on picketing, protesting, and letter writing and have instead embarked on youthful and inventive ways to make a difference—ways that appeal to the Younger Women who make up our membership, activists and non-activists alike. Moreover, YWTF members are discovering and acting on the issues that effect younger women’s lives everyday. Just a few examples:

- YWTF NYC launched *The Real Hot 100*, bringing young American women into the fight for fair, just, and accountable media in the U.S. by combating the popular notion that young women’s best assets lie in their appeal to men. *The Real Hot 100*, scheduled to publish in 2006, will feature younger women from around the country who are breaking barriers, fighting stereotypes, and making a difference in their communities. To know more, visit the *Real Hot 100* site: [www.therealhot100.org](http://www.therealhot100.org).
- YWTF Washington, DC is planning a “SafeTrip” a public awareness campaign that will raise awareness about the issues facing younger women’s safety on public transportation. The campaign will address the recent issues of younger women being assaulted in taxicabs and on the DC Metro. Through the campaign, YWTF DC hopes to build a constituency of younger women who will advocate for their rights to the DC government.
- YWTF Miami organized a series of events between younger women and reproductive and fertility health specialists in the Miami area to discuss a variety of younger women’s health concerns. These discussions have allowed the chapter to draw a greater variety of younger women members who might never have otherwise joined YWTF.

On their first anniversary, YWTF celebrates their successful work that has sparked the confidence, optimism, and conviction in younger women across the nation that change is possible. For more information on the Younger Women’s Task Force, and for a variety of upcoming media opportunities, please contact YWTF Founder and Director Alison Stein at 203-494-1295 or [alisons@ncwo-online.org](mailto:alisons@ncwo-online.org).

*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.*