

For Immediate Release

October 14, 2008

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Younger Women's Task Force Calls on Candidates to Focus on Issues Important to Women

Washington – Today the Younger Women's Task Force calls on the presidential and vice-presidential candidates to discuss issues that are important to younger women. At the top of the list are ending the war in Iraq, the rising cost of education, access to healthcare, pay equity, and jobs.

"Younger women are an essential demographic in this election, but they need to hear the candidates' positions on issues important to them to make informed decisions," said YWTF Director Shannon Lynberg.

According to Page Gardner, President of Women's Voices. Women Vote., in 2004, 20 million unmarried women did not vote and 15 million of that 20 million were not registered. Although registration among these women has increased – because of a targeted campaign – the turnout at the polls is what everyone is waiting for. If the candidates continue to avoid these conversations, they risk losing nearly 26 percent of the eligible voting population.

In a survey completed by YWTF, fifty-seven percent of working YWTF members made less than \$40,000 a year. This in combination with the current economic conditions, raising cost of oil and either no health insurance or poor coverage, puts a strain on women between the ages of 19-35.

"Younger women are paying attention now," Lynberg said. "Although these issues are particularly important to younger women, they are important to everyone and up until now they have scarcely been discussed."

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.

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