VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Perpetrators have sexually or domestically assaulted more than 1 million Oregon women and girls. That’s more than half the female population.

“[Assault] is something that follows you your whole entire life. You never get over it. The after effects are so, so hard to deal with. I’m 68 years old, and I’m still dealing with it. And I think I always will.”—Carolyn, Newport

WHY IT MATTERS IN OREGON

Violence against women is a(n) . . .

Housing
Transportation
Racial Equity
Economic
Workforce
Public Health
Education

Lack of economic security, stable housing, and reliable transportation can trap women in abusive relationships

In 2015, requests for emergency shelter from more than 10,000 domestic violence survivors went unmet due to lack of funding.

Assailants attack women of color at the highest rates.

Almost 50% of female survivors in the U.S. are raped before age 18.

The aftermath can push girls behind in, or out of, school.

COST OF THE STATUS QUO

$50 million cost each year of domestic violence in Oregon in medical costs and lost days of work.

$122,000 lifetime cost of rape per survivor.

PROMISING POLICIES from experts, advocates, and other states

PREVENT VIOLENCE

Invest in primary prevention beyond just college campuses to also include K-12 education.

Keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.

SUPPORT SURVIVORS

Sufficiently fund the statewide network of confidential shelters, safety planning, and support services for survivors and their children so no one in danger is turned away.

Prioritize access to safe, stable, and affordable housing and transportation for abuse survivors and their families by protecting survivors against housing discrimination, retaliation, and displacement.

Ensure sufficient services to the communities most affected—including tribal nations—with disparity-reduction targets and accountability measures.

80% of voters in Oregon support education in public schools about healthy relationships, consent, and personal boundaries.

1 in 5 Oregon homicides is related to intimate partner violence.

Half of these deaths involve guns.
GOOD POLICYMAKING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS REQUIRES...

UNDERSTANDING SYSTEMIC RACISM
The “Eight That Can’t Wait” Issue That Intersects with All Others

For an Oregon where all women and girls thrive, all women and girls need to have equitable access to the opportunities it takes to thrive. But right now, many of Oregon’s women and girls of color do not.

Addressing these inequities requires looking at our state’s history of systemic racism—in particular, the policies and practices that benefited white people and harmed people of color. Throughout the years, laws and practices fostered discrimination in housing, healthcare, education, employment, and pay.

The 2015 Oregon Racial Equity Legislative Report reminds us that the cumulative effect of these policies and practices is the root cause of the economic, social, political, and health disparities identified in Count Her In.

Therefore, public policy must play a major role in correcting these disparities. And as the Women’s Foundation of Oregon develops its own capacity to advocate on behalf of all Oregon’s women and girls, we will continue to lift up the voices of those that have led the way for racial justice in our state.

EMBRACING INTERSECTIONALITY

Good policymaking incorporates an understanding of the multiple, overlapping factors that play a large role in the life of every Oregonian.

Gender and race are important components of identity, but there are many others. Age, location, disability status, income, religious affiliation, sexuality, gender identity, citizenship status, and primary language are just a few of the many elements that come together to shape our experiences and needs.

WE’RE HERE TO HELP

The Women’s Foundation of Oregon is a member-supported, statewide foundation dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in Oregon. w-for.org

Count Her In is the first report on the status of Oregon’s women and girls in 20 years. CountHerIn.org

Sources
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Coalition of Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile, 2010; State of Black Oregon, 2015