

## Equal Rights Amendment - 1973

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The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, like the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, has consistently favored equality of opportunity without discrimination as to race, religion, national origin or sex. Indeed, the equality of women in religious life is a principle which distinguishes Reform from other branches of Judaism.

State legislatures throughout the United States either have been or presently will be called to vote on ratification of the proposed 27th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States—the Equal Rights Amendment. This Amendment states that equality of rights under law shall not be denied nor abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex and gives Congress the power of enforcement.

The Equal Rights Amendment recognizes the inherent rights and concomitant responsibilities of women as co-equal with men. If adopted, it would rectify long-standing injustices which have deprived women of education, employment and financial opportunities equal to those of men, as well as end discriminatory public laws which have contributed to a second-class status for women in American society. Illustrations of such discriminations are innumerable.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods supports the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which would make unconstitutional discrimination on the basis of sex, and we urge our United States affiliates to press for adoption of this Amendment. At the same time we urge members of the non-U.S. Sisterhoods to study the legal restrictions against women in their countries and to seek their abolition.