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# Fueling Positive Social Change through Research

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Linda Basch, President

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# The National Council for Research on Women

## *Who we are*

**An alliance of 112 leading women's research and policy centers:**

- Two-thirds are university-based including centers at Stanford, Spelman, Michigan, and Harvard.
- Others are **advocacy and policy centers** such as Girls Inc, the National Women's Law Center, Ms. Foundation, the Institute for Women's Policy Research, and The White House Project.



### **Leadership Circles**

**Corporate Circle** of 29 major corporations and law firms.

**Presidents Circle** of 43 college and university presidents.

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# Supporting Equality and Inclusiveness

## *What we do*

- Founded 25 years ago, the Council **strategically marshals** the work of its member centers **to influence public thinking, debate and policy.**
- Uses **research as a tool** to promote social change and create a more inclusive and equitable society and world.
- **Convenes** leaders to strategize and launch initiatives to address inequities confronting women and girls.
- **Champions diversity** and builds bridges across race, gender, class and generational divides.
- **Aggregates data** to help identify the real gains and gaps in the lives of the world's women.

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# Putting Research into Action

## *How we do it*

- Organize **conferences** and major events that promote the advancement of women and girls
- Issue **report cards** and bench marks for women's advancement
- Conduct **public outreach** and web-based blogging
- Hold **Congressional Briefings** on major policy decisions
- Convene **Corporate Forums** on Diversity and Workplace Reform
- Arrange **Media Briefings** and Press Conferences on priority issues, such as the 2006 Elections poll
- Send out e-blasts and **alerts** to its wide network on breaking news, such as the Don Imus scandal, Supreme Court nominations and decisions
- Speak out at **UN meetings**: Commission on the Status of Women; international meetings and conferences

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# Making a Difference for Women and Girls

## *Who we reach*

➤ **Key Stakeholders:**

- The Media
- Policy Makers
- Women's Organizations
- Advocacy and Grassroots Organizations
- Academic Leaders
- Corporate Leaders
- Institutional and Individual Funders
- International Organizations
- The General Public

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# Protecting women's rights

## *Research in public policy*

Research from the Council's network has been key to demonstrating inequality and discrimination and **powering and protecting legal milestones**, such as:

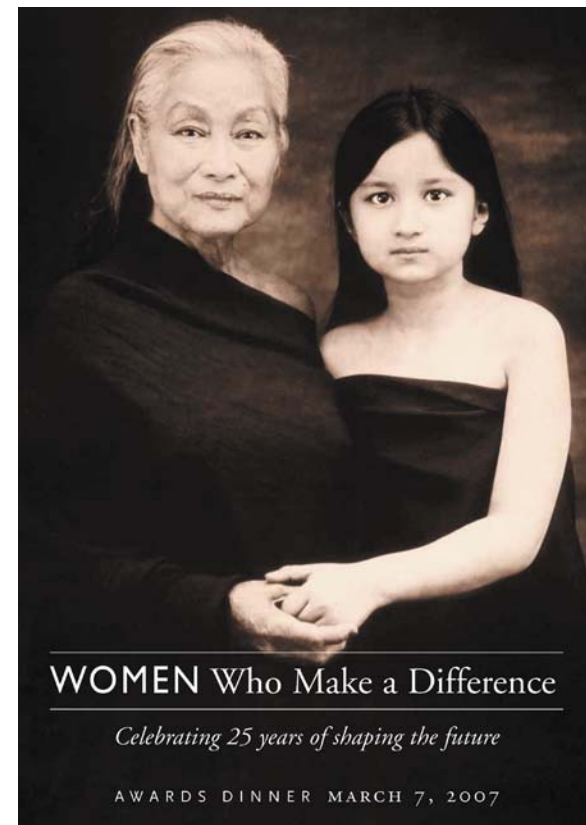
- Safeguarding gender-based data gathering at the **Bureau of Labor Statistics**, 2005
- Responding to recent assaults on **Title IX**, that in 1972 banned discrimination from all federally-funded educational programs.
- Opposing the weakening of **Title VII** of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 that outlawed discrimination based on gender.
- Promoting the 1998 Supreme Court ruling on **sexual harassment**.
- Supporting the **Violence Against Women Act** of 1994.
- Contributing to the **Family and Medical Leave Act** of 1993.

# The Corporate Circle

## *Transforming the Workplace*

**The Council provides thought leadership to make the work environment more hospitable to women:**

- Hosts quarterly meetings which cover the latest research and trends on critical issues: women in corporate leadership, diversity, religion, sexual identity.
- Supports corporate leaders in their efforts to be agents for change.
- Organizes special sessions for its Global Leadership and Diversity Forum.
- Recognizes outstanding women (and men) at its annual Making a Difference for Women **awards dinner**.
- Fields regular research requests from corporate members.
- Connects the business world with academic and policy experts.



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# Research Action Groups

## *Strategic expertise*

- **Research action groups** focus on urgent issue areas, such as: economic security, women in the sciences, health, and diversity in higher education.
- Encourage **collaboration** between scholars and policy advocates for action-oriented research.
- Launch rapid response **communications campaigns**.
- Spread knowledge via web Portal to other **researchers, experts, and activists** in the Council's network.

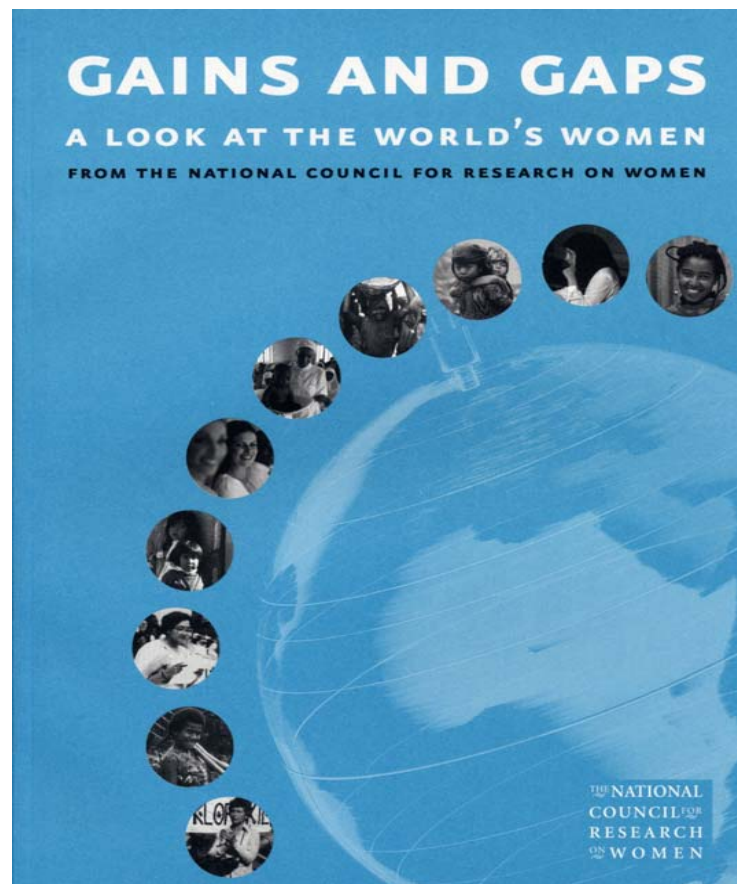


# Research Impacts Change

## *Groundbreaking reports*

➤ Groundbreaking **NCRW reports** are used as tools for policy makers and advocates in areas such as sexual harassment, violence against women, girls programming, and economic justice, and are the basis for sound policies and decision-making.

- **Gains and Gaps**
- **Taxes Are A Woman's Issue**
- **The Girls Report**
- **Balancing the Equation**
- **MISSING: information about women's lives**
- **Women, Human Security and Globalization**



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# Towards 2008: What Matters Most

## *Election poll*

### Findings

- There was nationwide support for a **progressive agenda**, particularly among women.
- There was overwhelming support across genders, party affiliations and generations for fully funding the **Violence Against Women Act**.

### Results

- Generated **widespread media coverage**: more than 200 radio and print outlets across the country, including National Public Radio and specialized media.
  - Led to several **briefings** with **researchers** and **advocates** on **next steps** to monitor Congress and advance a women's agenda moving towards 2008.
  - Inspired Member Centers to continue to **use findings** to delve deeper and develop **strategies** to translate them into action.
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# The Council's Strategic Priorities

## *Strengthening impact*

***With growing support from donors and foundations, the Council envisions:***

- **Translating research into a road map** for women's organizations and funders so that funding is based on current data and the latest strategies and best practices.
- **Transforming its website into an interactive portal** to serve as the ultimate source of information for its member centers and corporate members as well as researchers, policymakers, advocates, the media and the general public.
- Supporting the work of the **Research Action Groups** by funding convenings and promoting their findings.
- **Updating** and expanding its series of groundbreaking **publications** on topics that matter to women and to the nation;
- **Collaborating** with **individuals** and **family foundations** to involve a wider variety of constituencies and expand the impact of the Council's work;

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# Supporting Women and Girls

## *Investing in research*

- Utilize the Council's **up-to-the minute data** about women and girls when making **funding decisions**.
- Strategically identify and support **projects** that matter most to you and **partner** with the Council to make them happen.
- Join a **network** that practices and promotes racial, ethnic, class, and generational **diversity**.
- Invest in projects that have a real **impact** on the lives of women and girls.
- Be part of a vibrant **movement** that expands knowledge and supports positive **societal change**.

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## Why Research Matters

### *Without it:*

- **No factual basis** and evidence for our policy positions.
- **No way** to counter misinformation.
- **No way** to build public support for ending societal disparities and discrimination.
- **No track record** to build trust with the media for using our research as source material.
- **No voice** for the marginalized and underrepresented.
- **No empowerment** of women and girls with the knowledge they need to move forward.

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# Thank you

To discuss the work of the Council, please contact:

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