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Equal Means Equal

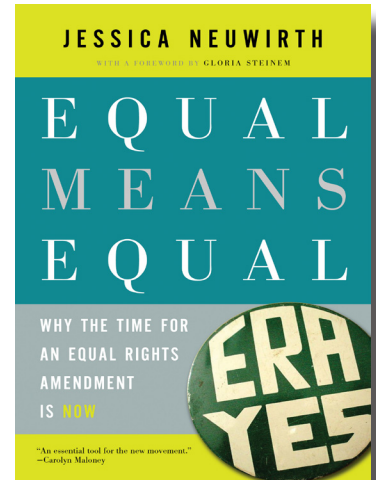
Why the Time for an Equal Rights Amendment Is Now

By Jessica Neuwirth

Foreword by Gloria Steinem

“*Equal Means Equal* clearly articulates why we still need the ERA. It’s high time we put women into the Constitution once and for all, and I support the efforts of the ERA Coalition to make that happen.”—Meryl Streep

“I would like in my lifetime to see women get fired up about the Equal Rights Amendment.”—Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



As a global leader the United States is poised to be an example for women’s rights. And yet the U.S. is one of only a handful of countries in the world that does not have a constitutional provision guaranteeing equal rights for women under the law. After years of campaigning, the Equal Rights Amendment was pronounced dead in 1982 after an onslaught of anti-ERA activism rooted in a fear of women in combat, gay rights and marriage, and women operating outside the domestic sphere. Now, *Equal Means Equal* makes the compelling case that the time for an ERA has come.

Jessica Neuwirth, founder of Equality Now, catalogs the myriad ways in which sex discrimination persists in American society—in wages, hiring, and pensions, and in healthcare, politics, the military, and issues of domestic violence. Neuwirth documents the Supreme Court cases and lower court cases of brave women who have legally challenged sex discrimination and have been denied rights that should be fundamental. Though laws like Title IX and the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 are meant to protect women, these legislative endeavors do not protect everyone, they can be rolled back by a simple congressional vote, and they do not provide the firm, lasting protection of a constitutional amendment.

The rise of strong young feminist activists online changed the face of media; they have laid the groundwork for a robust new ERA campaign. *Equal Means Equal* is a stirring call to action to finally amend our Constitution and recognize that all people are created equal in dignity and in rights.

The founder of the international women’s rights organization Equality Now, **Jessica Neuwirth** is the former director of the New York branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She lives in New York City. **Gloria Steinem** is an American feminist, journalist, and social and political activist who became nationally recognized as a leader of, and media spokeswoman for, the women’s liberation movement in the 1960s and 1970s.

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