

The Houston Plan of Action & Beijing Platform of 1995

The Houston Plan of Action was drawn up at the National Women's Conference in Houston, TX in 1977. The Beijing Platform was created at the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. Both include advocacy and support for the following issues (H=Houston, B=Beijing):

- **Credit**—equal access for women in their own names (H)
- **Welfare**—state must assume a role in prevention and amelioration of poverty (H)
- **Child support**—adequate financial support for all children and families (H)
- **Education**—prohibit discrimination, provide equal access for all women and girls (H)
- **Training and curriculum**—equal access to training/retraining for gainful employment (H)
- **Insurance**—eliminate discrimination; cover prevention, home care, mental health, etc. (H)
- **Reproductive freedom**—guarantee reproductive freedom to all women including full access to abortion and contraception (H & B)
- **Special health concerns**—provide resources to prevent and alleviate the incidence of AIDS, heart disease, breast and ovarian cancer (H)
- **Athletics**—equal opportunities for women and girls in every aspect of athletics and sports (H)
- **Battered women**—programs to serve women & prevent violence, including gun violence (H)
- **Rape prevention**—revise laws to help, not hurt victims, train police and courts (H)
- **Child abuse**—continued funding for prevention and treatment (H)
- **Elder abuse**—prevent, recognize, and intervene in abuse of older people (H)
- **Prostitution, trafficking, the sex industry**—stop exploitation of women (B)
- **International affairs**—recognize/increase women's role in peace and all areas (H & B)
- **Immigrant and refugee women**—recognize impact on women in war and economic disruption, protect the rights of these women (B)
- **Employment**—ban discrimination in apprenticeship and employment (H)
- **Management and non-traditional careers**—increase representation of women (H)
- **Homemakers**—recognize value to family and society, including unpaid caregiving (H & B)
- **Pay equity**—recognize the value of women's work and eliminate the earnings gap (H)
- **Child care**—government must assume a role in providing for care (H)
- **Business/entrepreneurs**—equal opportunity as owners/all aspects of business (H & B)
- **Pensions & social security**—address inequalities in these & other macroeconomic issues (H)
- **Consumer rights**—recognize women's purchasing power (H)
- **Elective/appointive office**—increase women's participation locally/internationally (H & B)
- **Statistics**—include women and minorities in all data collection and analysis (H & B)
- **Equal Rights Amendment**—support ratification (H)
- **Sexual preference/GLBTQIA Rights**—eliminate discrimination (H)
- **Women of color**—apply the plan equally to women of color, recognize burden of racism (H)
- **Women with disabilities**—access to education, training, employment, all parts of plan (H)
- **Older women**—equal treatment; enable older women to live with dignity and security (H)
- **Rural women**—equal treatment; address isolation, poverty, and underemployment (H)
- **Women offenders/criminal justice**—eliminate discriminatory treatment of women/girls (H)
- **Arts and humanities**—equal access and input by women (H)
- **Media**—equal opportunity and better image of women (H)
- **Girls**—empowerment; inclusion of their concerns in all aspects of the plan (H & B)
- **Natural resources**—eliminate inequalities in management, safeguard women & children (B)

While no organization is likely to take a stand on all of these planks and no groups' members will agree on all these issues, pursuant to the bylaws of the Minnesota Women's Consortium membership cannot be extended to groups actively working in opposition to any of these goals. For a booklet with more details contact: Minnesota Women's Consortium, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55103, 651-228-0338 or www.mnwomen.org.