



the Fierce advocate

Creating Change

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enough to create the change we need to see concrete improvement in our lives. Accordingly, we want to expand our work to build power with AAPI women and girls in chapter locations nationwide, especially where our voting power can make a difference.

We're so excited to already see evidence of the ways we've been building power. As you can read in this newsletter, you all, our members, are rolling up your sleeves to educate, organize and mobilize our community on issues that impact our lives. As a result, we've had more participation in actions than ever. Moreover, we are, for the first time, prioritizing a federal campaign chosen with the input of all of our chapter leaders, with the commitment from our chapters to help lead the campaign: NAPAWF, along with partner organizations, is working to create access to affordable health care for everyone. We believe that access to affordable health care should not be a privilege but rather a fundamental right of all people living in the United States, regardless of one's immigration status.

I want to thank all of you who have been deeply committed and involved in our work, from the bottom of my heart for your incredible leadership. Together, we are changing the tides and working towards creating a world where each of us can thrive.

In solidarity,



Sung Yeon



ON THE GROUND

Statement from Nicole, NAPAWF Atlanta Member

The activities around opposing HB 481 with other reproductive justice activists made me feel that the "democratic" process is more like a game with winners and losers and less like a process that is fair, equitable, or accessible especially those most marginalized (black folks, people of color, the working poor, disabled people, etc). The mechanism used to give constituents access to their Georgia legislators in our "democracy" feels outdated and possibly purposefully difficult and time consuming. Watching a group of white men—who were chosen by people I have nothing in common with—make decisions about my body felt dehumanizing.

Despite my disillusionment with the democratic process, during the whole process of showing up and showing my opposition to HB 481, I felt like a superhero on a powerful team of fighting against injustice. Being there, even though the anti-abortion people did not want us to be, felt like a form of resistance. Even though we did not get what we wanted, we made it difficult for them to take away our human rights.

Get to Know the HEAL for Immigrant Women Act

NAPAWF's Signature Campaign

This year, NAPAWF staff and chapters voted to start a national campaign focused on advancing bold legislation to improve access to health care for immigrant women. Under current law, immigrants are not eligible to receive Medicaid or purchase health insurance from the health insurance marketplace provided by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) until five years after receiving green card status. For many low-income and uninsured immigrant AAPI women, this means that access to no-cost contraception, family planning services, maternal health care, and other routine preventive care such as cancer screenings is out of reach.

The Health Equity and Accountability Under the Law (HEAL) for Immigrant Women and Families Act is groundbreaking legislation that removes the five-year bar so that immigrants can receive basic, affordable health care instead of relying on a patchwork of health care coverage. It also enables undocumented immigrants to access the ACA insurance marketplace to purchase health plans. As we work with members of Congress to reintroduce the HEAL Act this year, NAPAWF will be campaigning and advocating fiercely for this bill both on the ground and in Washington, D.C., alongside coalition partners. Amidst continuous attacks on both access to health care, particularly reproductive health, and on our immigrant communities, NAPAWF members and the policy team are eager to push this proactive bill once introduced this Congress.

Fighting Sexual Harassment Against AAPI Workers

Legal Program Update

Our legal program has continued to bring visibility to the issue of workplace sexual harassment of AAPI women and the ways that AAPI women are impacted intersectionally by harassment and other forms of discrimination in the workplace. AAPI women often face racialized sexual harassment in the workplace, often based on stereotypes about AAPI women. Moreover, AAPI women, particularly immigrant AAPI workers in the low-wage workforce, are particularly at risk of sexual harassment and violence in the workplace and face many barriers to challenging harassment. Given these realities, our legal team has focused on advocacy on this issue.

In February, the legal team developed “Know Your Rights” materials to educate AAPI women regarding their rights when they are targeted for sexual harass-

ment in the workplace and to increase awareness and conversations in our communities around the issue of harassment and how it impacts AAPI women. In March, the legal team teamed up with the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project (DVRP), which serves domestic violence survivors in the Washington, DC, area, to provide a “Know Your Rights” training on workplace sexual harassment to AAPI immigrant women in the DC area, as part of DVRP’s “Peer Champions” program that trains AAPI women in the DC area on workplace sexual harassment so that they can engage their own communities on the issue. The training went well, and we plan to do more trainings on the ground in the near future. Recently, NAPAWF also began providing pro bono legal services to AAPI women facing sexual harassment in the workplace to ensure that AAPI women workers can access the courts in fighting for a safe and equitable work environment where they can thrive.

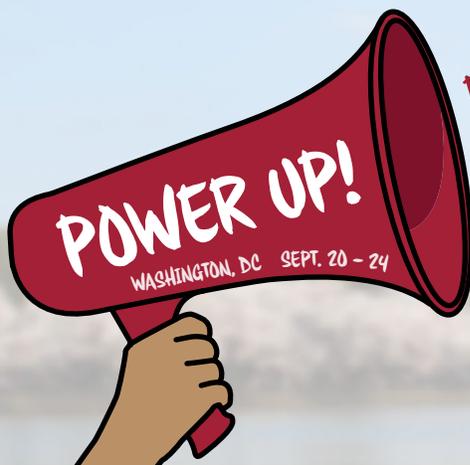
ARE YOU READY TO POWER UP?

Planning for NAPAWF’s annual conference is in full swing! We have formed a staff committee and a member committee, and we have begun to craft the conference around the theme *Be Seen, Be Heard, Be Fierce*.

How is Power Up different from other conferences you may have attended? We ask ourselves, why do we do this work? Why us? Why do AAPI Women matter? What about our lives has importance? We hold Power Up to energize our members and our base, to train leaders, to affirm our commitments, to showcase our shared analyses of our values, priorities, and our work, to demonstrate our collective power to advocate for our priorities, to co-create with communities of color more broadly, to share and showcase our unique skills, and to grow.



A photo from the last Power Up conference held in DC in March 2013.



BE SEEN.
BE HEARD.
BE FIERCE!

REGISTER
ONLINE
TODAY!

napawf.salsalabs.org/powerupregistration

Women of Color Voters Voice Their Intersectional Concerns

Watching Elected Officials for Change

In 2018, women of color voted at historically high levels. A new poll by the Intersections of Our Lives, a collaboration between NAPAWF, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda, and National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, provides valuable insight on the priorities and motivations of women of color voters.

The poll found that women of color voters are overwhelmingly concerned with the direction of the country, and that they believed the stakes were too high not to vote in the 2018 elections. However, nearly one quarter of women of color voters had concerns about whether or not their vote was counted accurately.

Over eight in ten women of color voters agree that candidates should support women making their own decisions about their reproductive health, and 90% of women of color voters think that a woman being able to control if, when, and how she has children provides individual and societal benefits. Access to clean water, affordable health care, and ending discrimination were also top priorities for women of color.

New York Members Push Forward-Thinking Legislative Package

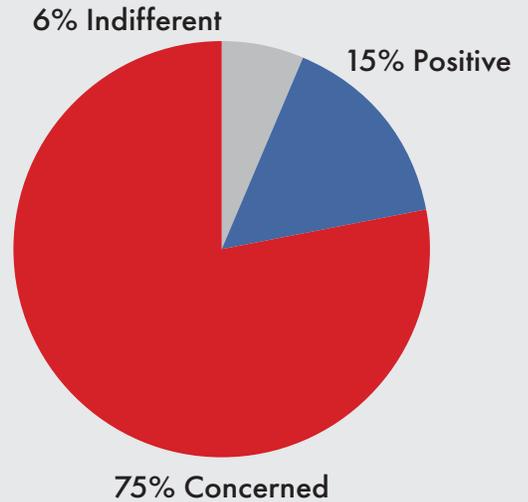
Thwarting Attacks on AAPI Women’s Agency

The New York City Chapter is currently working with NY City Councilmember Margaret Chin and Planned Parenthood of New York to introduce a resolution opposing sex-selective abortion bans and other resolutions in support of state legislations to support women’s rights and health as a part of a bundle with other members of the women’s caucus. The other resolutions in consideration include expanding health care coverage for reproductive health, regulating Crisis Pregnancy Centers, and addressing the maternal mortality crisis among women of color, black women in particular.

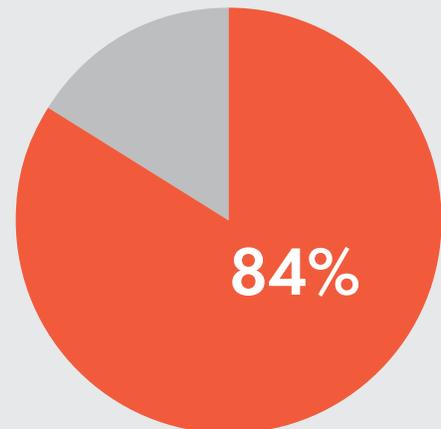


Sung Yeon Choimorrow, NAPAWF’s Executive Director, speaks at a press conference announcing the results of the poll in front of the United States Capitol.

Feeling About the Direction of the Country



84% of women of color say it was important to vote for a candidate who supports women making their own decisions about their reproductive health.



Visit IntersectionsOfOurLives.com for the full results of our poll.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Naomi Cho*

Anchorage, Alaska Chapter (*Pseudonym)



When I first joined my local NAPAWF chapter I was excited. I am constantly searching for places where I belong and this group is that place for me. As a Korean American bisexual woman I find it difficult to navigate through life without justifying myself, my struggles and my identity. To me, NAPAWF helps me be more comfortable with myself. My initial excitement turned into passion and drive after our AAPI Equal Pay Day of Action event back in March. That event made me truly realize the need for AAPI women to have a space to themselves and for a group to be there as support and family. In my home state, we may have diverse pockets scattered around but we still have a lot of work to do when it comes to uplifting minority groups. I know that my NAPAWF chapter will be a major player in that work.

Mina Parmar

Chicago, Illinois Chapter



My name is Mina Parmar, and I am an Indian American. I immigrated to the U.S. in 2006 and became a citizen in 2015. My friend Anar told me about NAPAWF last year and I was excited to join. As a community member at the Indo American Center in the Navigator program, I was able to learn about immigrant issues and government. My favorite parts about working with NAPAWF is meeting other women and working to protect people's choices over their bodies. When we canvass my Indian and Pakistani neighbors in West Ridge, I feel empowered to use my native language, Gujarati, as well as Hindi and Urdu. I like to practice my English at NAPAWF too and help other South Asian youth practice their native languages too. Sometimes it can be difficult to work with other people who don't speak the same language, but I love that NAPAWF members can learn from each other anyway.

Canvassing to Defeat Illinois' Parental Notice of Abortion Act

PNA is not okay!

The Parental Notice of Abortion (PNA) Act is a 1995 Illinois state law that requires minors to notify their legal guardians 48 hours in advance to get an abortion. Not only does PNA harm youth who may not have a close or good relationship with their legal guardians, but it denies young people agency over their own lives. Our members have been hitting the streets to engage community members, building power with AAPI youth across the Chicago area from Chinatown to Skokie to oppose this unjust act, and pushing our elected officials to #StopPNA and to #TrustYouth!

Did You Miss AAPI Women's History Month?

For the last few years, NAPAWF has featured a historic AAPI woman on our social media every day for Women's History Month in March. Asian American and Pacific Islander women have made powerful contributions to history, and they deserve to be celebrated.

Innovative scientists have changed our understanding of the world. Dr. Jane Luu, a refugee from South Vietnam who became an astronomer, co-discovered the Kuiper Belt and reshaped everything we know about the Solar System. Dr. Isabella Aiona Abbot, the first Native Hawaiian woman to earn a PhD in science, discovered nearly 200 unique species of algae and was considered a foremost expert on ethnobiology.

Our list of historic AAPI women wouldn't be complete without some of the many activists who have fought for our agency and civil rights. Grace Lee Boggs was a legendary activist who fought for organized labor and the Civil Rights movement in Detroit. Patsy Mink, the first woman of color elected to Congress, co-authored Title IX, federal legislation that provided equal opportunity for women in higher education.

We also recognized the important achievements of lesser-known AAPI women. For example, Tye Leung Schulze became the first Chinese American civil servant when she was hired as a translator at Angel Island Immigration Station and led a storied life on the West Coast in the early 20th century. There are countless extraordinary women like Tye whose stories deserve to be heard. Our histories, our heritage, and our lived experiences matter. To our supporters, our members, and our chapter leaders, thank you for being in power with us.

Visit www.napawf.org/WomensHistoryMonth2019 to see all the incredible AAPI women we featured.

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Tye Leung Schulze became the first Chinese American woman to cast a ballot in a primary election when she voted in San Francisco in 1912.

NAPAWF Leads Opposition of AAPI Judicial Nominees Who Do Not Represent Our Values and Priorities

In the wake of the nomination and confirmation of Neomi Rao to the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, President Trump has nominated two more AAPI people to the circuit courts: Michael Park to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and Kenneth Lee to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Similar to Neomi Rao, both nominees pose serious threats to the AAPI community. As a result, NAPAWF has drafted two letters in opposition to Michael Park. NAPAWF, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, and National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) drafted a letter to the Senate in opposition to Michael Park utilizing a reproductive justice framework.

Additionally, NAPAWF, the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC), and the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) wrote a letter to the Senate in opposition to Park's nomination using an AAPI lens. Sung Yeon Choimorrow and the executive directors of SEARAC and APALA also drafted an op-ed explaining why Trump's Asian American judges are harmful to the AAPI community. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted to approve Park and Lee's nominations, both of which currently await a full Senate vote.



napawf
NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN WOMEN'S FORUM

P.O. Box 13255
Chicago, IL 60613

Our mission is to build collective power of all AAPI women and girls to gain full agency over our lives, our families, and our communities.

Read this issue of the Fierce Advocate online:
www.napawf.org/fierceedvocatesummer2019

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