

WHO WE ARE

CWEALF is a statewide, nonprofit that uses a justice and equity lens to advocate for under-resourced, marginalized women and girls in Connecticut. We work to close the civil legal justice gap and to create policy that advances women's economic security.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE

Decades of systemic racism, sexism and economic injustice have burdened the lives of Connecticut women and prevented our state's economy from operating at its fullest potential. As we move forward from the COVID-19 pandemic, now more than ever we must work with urgency to center and trust the lived experiences, needs, and wisdom of Black women, women of color and women living with poverty in all policy decisions.

We are committed to advocating for policy change that is explicitly anti-racist and anti-sexist, with a justice and reparations lens.

SUPPORT WOMEN, WORKERS AND FAMILIES

Improve Access to Paid Sick Days:

Connecticut was the first state in the nation in 2011 to require certain employers to provide service workers with accrued paid sick days. Twelve years later and as the impact of COVID-19 continues, we urge passage of legislation that strengthens current law and ensures access to paid sick days for all workers, regardless of their job title or size of their employer. Legislation should also remove the waiting period to use paid sick days and align the definition of who a worker can care for with our state's landmark paid family and medical leave program.

Enact a Fair Work Week:

Hourly workers too often have no voice in their schedules and work unpredictable hours that prevent them from securing child care, attending doctor's appointments or earning a degree. We support the Fair Work Week Coalition and legislation to provide a fair and stable work week to hourly workers, who are disproportionately women and people of color.

Establish a System of Universal Child Care:

We support policies that increase investments in the child care industry to make care universally available for every family in the setting of their choice, regardless of a child's age or household income, and increases the wages of child care providers.



BUILD A MORE EQUITABLE ECONOMY

Close the Gender Wage and Wealth Gap:

Lost wages due to the gender wage gap have long-lasting impacts on women's housing, childcare, education, retirement and health care decisions, especially for women of color. We support legislation to continue to increase pay transparency and prohibit gendered pricing.

Gender and racial wage gaps exacerbate student loan debt and make it more difficult for women, especially women of color, to repay their loans. As a result, women carry nearly 2/3 of student loan debt in the U.S. We support the leadership of The Student Loan Fund to support borrowers and end student loan debt.

Create a Recovery for All:

We support the Recovery For All coalition's efforts to create greater transparency and build equity into our state's current tax structure. We must ensure that state and federal dollars are dedicated to erasing inequities by increased investments in pre-K through 12 public education, affordable housing, public higher education and job training programs, and access to affordable healthcare. We also urge legislative leaders to create a permanent child tax credit and fully fund Connecticut's landmark Baby Bonds program.

ENSURE BASIC NEEDS ARE MET FOR ALL

Strengthen Access to Health Care and Reproductive Freedom:

We support policies that advance health equity and justice and ensure all Connecticut residents have access to quality and affordable health care regardless of gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, immigration status, race, ethnicity, income, or disability. This includes measures that remove barriers to accessing abortion and reproductive health care.

Improve Justice and Safety:

Eliminating violence against women and marginalized communities requires passage of legislation that strengthens protections for victims of domestic and sexual violence and also ensures their rights are represented in laws related to custody, child support, and divorce. Our policies should also provide more inclusive housing opportunities that are equitable, accessible, affordable and safe for all, especially for families in the communities where they want to live.

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