

Women Coming Together:

Claiming the Law for Social Change

February 25th - 27th

University of Cincinnati Tangeman Student Center

what is women coming together

At this two-day gathering, diverse women will articulate and activate an inclusive, progressive agenda for all women to help lead this nation in a positive direction.

Women Coming Together will provide opportunities to develop new strategies, expand and enhance coalitions, and share ideas about how to "claim the law" as a vehicle for social change.

Our main focus will be women's health and well-being, taking a holistic approach to examining the many different factors affecting the ability of women to lead healthy lives. Among the issues we plan to address include: reproductive health, access to quality health care, media images, civil rights enforcement, immigration, and criminal justice.

Please join us—activists, academics, advocates, people committed to social justice—at the University of Cincinnati for this exciting event.

PRESENTED BY
UC College of Law
and the
Joint Degree Program in Law and Women's Studies

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Accommodations • The conference will be held at the University of Cincinnati, Tangeman Student Center. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Marriott Kingsgate Conference Hotel at a special conference rate of \$99 plus tax, single or double. Please make your reservation by calling 888.720.1299 or 513.487.3800 by February 4 and identifying yourself as a participant of the Women and the Law Conference. After February 4, rooms may be reserved on a space and rate available basis only.

Fees • The conference registration fees (\$200 regular registration and \$75 student) include conference materials; continental breakfast, lunch, and the banquet at the Freedom Center on Saturday; and continental breakfast on Sunday.

Refunds • If you register for the conference and find you are not able to attend, you will receive a full refund by calling 513.558.1810 or e-mailing univconf@uc.edu by February 21, 2005. No refunds will be processed after this date. Substitutions may be made at any time.

For further information • Please contact University Conferencing at 513.558.1810 or e-mail univconf@uc.edu

WCT Claiming the Law for Social Change—AGENDA

Friday, February 25

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Welcome Reception

Marriott Kingsgate Conference Hotel

Saturday, February 26

7:30 am

Yoga/Walking

8:45 – 10:30 am

Welcome Plenary

A. New Women's Movement: Claiming the Law for Social Change

A recent study by the Center for Advancement of Women found that 60% of women believe the time has come for a new women's movement. This session explores the implications of that finding, focusing on the following issues: the role law has and should play in the women's movement, developing and implementing a human rights framework to effect change, and possibilities for forming alliances across movements to broaden and strengthen the fight for all women's rights.

10:45 am – 12:15 pm Concurrent Sessions

A. Health Care as a Human Right in the U.S.

In the U.S., health coverage is available only to those who can pay, those deemed the "deserving poor," or those with "non-objectionable" health needs or conditions. Unfortunately, the health care safety net is continuing to shrink, making needed care even less accessible. This panel explores how a human rights framework can help activists craft strategies to ensure that health care is a right, available equitably and fairly to all.

B. Creating Better Lives: Improving the Environment and Living Conditions of Low-Income Women

The panel will focus on efforts to improve the environment and living conditions of low-income women, with particular emphasis on issues related to environmental justice, trafficking, and housing. Participants will discuss the value of collaborative approaches and outreach strategies to improve the environment and living conditions of women by coordinating with social service organizations, activist groups, churches, professional societies, community clinics, and other institutions.

C. Ask the Funder

Have you ever wondered how foundations make decisions about whom to fund? A panel of representatives from foundations will field questions from participants on the most effective ways to build relationships with funders. Participants are asked not to pitch their individual programs or organizations during the session.

D. When Poverty Becomes Personal: Family Policy, Social Controls, and Finding Real Solutions to Economic Inequality

The panel will examine selected policies impacting the economic security of and supports for families, particularly low-income families. We will discuss flaws in how current family economic security policies are developed, the effectiveness of existing policies, unique barriers facing families of color or non-traditional families, the impact of the current phenomenon of linking access to public benefit programs with policies designed to shape social behavior, and how to craft a new, inclusive policy framework for addressing family economic security issues that incorporates the needs of diverse families.

12:30 – 2:30 pm Lunch and Plenary

Listening and Speaking to Women of Color: Research and Messaging on Women's Health

Through focus groups conducted in four U.S. cities, the Pro-Choice Public Education Project recently examined the health

care issues and concerns of young African American women and Latinas. During this session, PEP will share the sometimes surprising, always interesting results of their research, as well as the implications for reaching out to young women of color.

2:45 – 4:15 pm Concurrent Sessions

A. Emerging Issues in Reproductive Health: The Impact of Ideology and Technology on Women's Access and Rights

The panel will explore the relationship among religion, technology, and public policy in the context of reproductive health and rights. Presenters will discuss religious restrictions adopted by the government and the health care system, the fetal rights movement, and reproductive technologies. Panelists and participants will explore the strategies advocates can take to address more nuanced attacks on reproductive rights.

B. It Is Better to Speak: Making Our Voices Heard in the Media

Too often the media demeans low-income women, depicting them in familiar, stereotypical ways. This panel spotlights the Welfare Radio Collaborative, an innovative program designed to let low-income women speak for themselves. Panelists will discuss this project's success in building messages, educating the public about long-neglected issues, and empowering the project's participants to work for social change.

C. The Erosion of Civil Rights Enforcement: How Do We Fight Back?

The Supreme Court, led by its most conservative judges, has severely narrowed the scope of critical civil rights protections by limiting private law suits against states and tying Congress's hands in attempting to pass laws designed to defend civil rights, among other things. This panel will provide an overview of these recent Court decisions and what they mean for access to health care. In addition, speakers and participants will discuss avenues for vindicating one's rights and strategies to fight back in the current political context.

D. "All of Us or None": The Feminization of the Criminal Justice System

Women are filling the nation's prisons at a growing rate. This panel explores the impact of the criminal justice system on women and their families. Among the issues to be examined include strategies for providing incarcerated women with access to necessary health care and the special issues affecting re-entry for women.

6:00 – 8:30 pm

Reception and Dinner at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Sunday, February 27

7:30 am

Yoga/Walk

8:30 – 9:00 am

Buffet Breakfast

9:00 – 11:00 am

Plenary

Organizing for a More Diverse Movement

Building a new women's movement means learning the lessons of the past—both the successes and missteps. An important challenge as we look forward in this respect is how to be more inclusive. Participants in this plenary will brainstorm about how to diversify the women's movement: not only in terms of race, age, sexuality, and other characteristics, but also how we organize, prioritize our issues, and support one another.

11:00 – 11:30 am

Conference Wrap Up: What Are Our Next Steps?

WCT Claiming the Law for Social Change

WOMEN COMING TOGETHER

REGISTRATION FORM Please print; duplicate as necessary.

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first last

Title _____

Department _____

Organization _____

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E-mail _____

If you have special needs to accommodate a disability, please call 513.558.1810 by February 14, 2005.

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FEES

- \$200 Conference Registration (includes banquet)
- \$75 Student (includes banquet)

Guest Tickets

- \$50 Banquet at Freedom Center # _____

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Total amount due: \$ _____

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