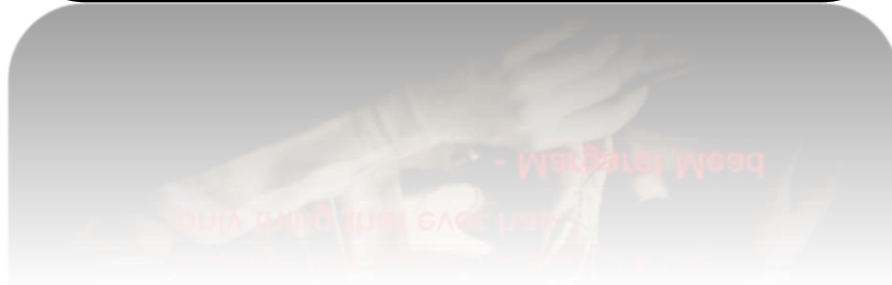
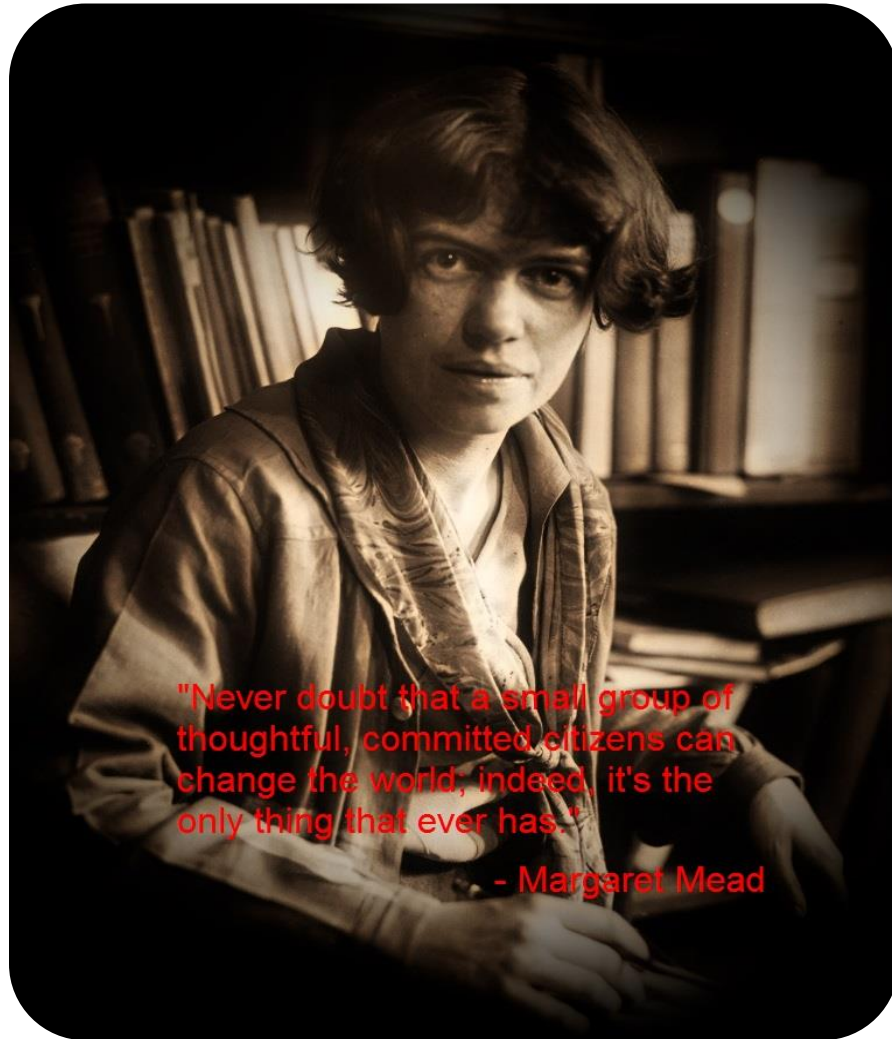


# Let's Pass the Equal Rights Amendment Educational and Advocacy Pack



Let's Pass the Equal Rights Amendment  
Educational and Advocacy Pack  
Hélène de Boissière Swanson, Founder Katrina's Dream  
PO Box 32003, Washington, DC 20007  
April 30, 2019

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### I. INTRODUCTION

### II. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- a. Katrina's Dream Letter to US Congress Dated April 30, 2019
- b. Press Release – Bishop Musonda Mwamba urges international community to call upon US Congress to pass the ERA.
- c. Groundswell Petition
- d. Katrina's Dream Part 1
- e. Katrina's Dream Part 2

***“If I could choose an amendment to add to the Constitution, it would be the Equal Rights Amendment. I think we have achieved that through legislation, but legislation can be repealed, it can be altered.***

***So I would like my granddaughters, when they pick up the Constitution, to see that notion – that women and men are persons of equal stature – I’d like them to see that is a basic principle of our society.”***

## **Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

### **Introduction**

Since 1923, when the “Lucretia Mott Amendment” crafted by Crystal Eastman and Alice Paul and then later became known as the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), it has been introduced into every session of Congress to this present day. On March 22, 1973, the United States Congress adopted a resolution to amend the U.S. Constitution to provide equal rights for men and women. The 1972 United States Senate voted on H.J. Res. 2008 was 84 to eight. The House had already approved of the resolution in 1971 by a vote of 354 to 24. In order for the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to become part of our constitution it required that three fourths of the states, a total of 38, must ratify the amendment.

At the beginning of 1979, 35 states had rapidly ratified the amendment. Then process stalled out. Following the passage in 1992 of the “Madison Amendment”, which took no less than 203 years to be ratified, the introduction of the “Three State Strategy” legislation in our U.S. Congress has resultant in significant resurgence on both the state and federal level and in society. Both S.J. Res. 5 and H.J. Res. 52 remove the Congressionally imposed deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, so that if the bill passes Congress, the states will have no deadline as they did in 1982.

On March 22, 2017, 45 years to the day after Congress passed the ERA, Nevada became the 36<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the ERA in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. On May 30, 2018, Illinois followed suit becoming the 37<sup>th</sup> state to ratify. Leaving only one more state to ratify.

ERA bills have also been introduced in the legislatures across the country Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Utah, and Virginia. Leaving only one more state to ratify.

Women and human rights proponents argue that the Equal Rights Amendment is needed because discrimination on the “the basis of sex” is firmly imbedded in our legal system. It is their position that any system of dual rights and responsibilities lead to one group’s dominance. Ones’ sex and or gender identification is not a permissible factor in determining women and human rights that such classification denies individual rights.

ERA proponents state that at present, state and federal legislation has not eliminated sexual discrimination in many aspects of life and varies from state to state costing million in tax dollars to address the systemic issues arising from inequality under the law of the sexes. A constitutional amendment would provide the necessary mandate for legislation in litigation. The Equal Rights Amendment is both a symbolic and a practical instrument for change.

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# KATRINA'S DREAM

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

THE FULL INCLUSION OF WOMEN  
IN THE CHURCH AND IN SOCIETY

ON JANUARY 2, 1942, AT THE BEGINNING OF A GHASTLY WAR THIS PICTURE WAS ON THE FRONT PAGE OF NEWSPAPERS AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE HEADLINE: LITTLE GIRL MEETS ROOSEVELT AND CHURCHILL. HOWEVER, KATRINA WAS TELLING EVERYONE, "I MET MRS. ROOSEVELT ON MY BIRTHDAY!"

April 30, 2019

Honorable Senators of the U.S. Senate  
Honorable Representatives of the U.S. House of Representatives  
United States Capitol  
East Capitol St NE & First St SE  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Honorable U.S. Senators and Representatives:

I write to you our most honorable statespersons of the United States of America with the expressed purposed of asking for your support in the removing of the deadline imposed on the Equal Rights Amendment some odd 45 plus years ago. I am asking that you vote Yes to move it out of committee expediently and again Yes when the resolutions come to the floor for a vote.

On August 2005, on the eve of a Hurricane bearing the name Katrina, The Rev. Katrina Martha Van Alstyne Welles Swanson died. It was Women's Equality Day. Katrina was one of the Philadelphia Eleven, the first group of women to be ordained and retroactively recognized as the first women priest in the Episcopal Church. Katrina knew that the county she loved would one day treat all people with dignity with respect and that all would be equal. That America that would welcome her all people with Equal Rights. In the months following her death the Welles, Swanson, de Boissiere, and von Rudl families came together to promote her dying request, the passage of Equal Rights Amendment and Katrina's Dream was founded.

There are a large number of Americans, both the living and the dead, for whom I speak. *A cloud of witnesses* who have been waiting for the Equal Rights Amendment to be ratified by one more state and become a part of our U.S. Constitution.

It is my great honor to ask that you remove the deadline so that all are equal.

Love and Light in Christ,

Hélène de Boissière Swanson, Founder  
Katrina's Dream

Board of Directors

Bishop Musonda Trevor Selwyn Mwamba † Rev. Robert Tytus Coolidge † William Ross MacKaye † Hélène de Boissière - Swanson

P.O. Box 32003 † Washington, DC † 20007

# WOMEN IN THE CHURCH AND IN SOCIETY

## PART I: KATRINA'S STORY THE REV. KATRINA MARTHA VAN ALSTYNE WELLES SWANSON

On January 2, 1942, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor the United States of America joined as an Allied Power in a ghastly war, this picture was on the [front page of newspapers](#) around the world with the caption: Little Girl Meets Roosevelt & Churchill.

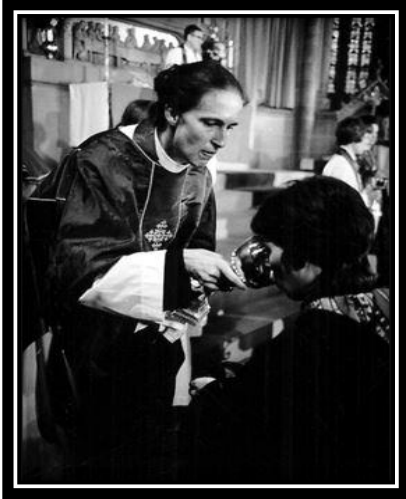


However, Katrina was telling everyone, **"I met Mrs. Roosevelt on my birthday!"** Mrs. Roosevelt is just behind Churchill. This young feminist picked the winner out of the pack she met on January first! However, as the daughter, granddaughter, and great granddaughter of traditional minded Anglo-Catholic priests and bishops, she accepted the fact that if she had been a boy she would have become a priest. But as a woman she planned to be a social worker.

Working in Botswana, Africa, Katrina, her husband George, and their sons Olof and William often stayed with Mrs. Lekgaba, a business woman and church leader when the Swansons visited Sabinas. Mrs. Lekgaba came from a clerical family like Katrina: Her father and brother were priests in Rhodesia. She ran a fleet of large British lorries which moved passengers and goods throughout her district on the edge of the Kalahari Desert. Although she was the de facto pastor and leader of the Anglican congregation in her town, the Anglican Church would not allow women to lead any public worship. They had to hire abusive, alcoholic men to lead their prayer services.

After returning home, Katrina began to see that God must want women to be priests, as well as men. She called her father to make an appointment. "When does my daughter need an appointment to see me?" "I need an appointment for this."

She told him that she believed she had a vocation to priesthood. Katrina had no idea how he would receive the news. He had been a leader among traditional clergy and laity who defeated the proposed merger with the Presbyterian Church in the 1940's. His grandfather, the first Bishop Edward Randolph Welles, had encouraged the building of cathedrals across the country, welcomed Episcopal monks and nuns, and helped write the Chicago Lambeth Quadrilateral defining traditional Episcopal and Anglican requirements for any future church unions. Her father surprised her by saying he had approved of women's ordination since reading "Women and Holy Orders" by Charles Raven in 1928. Katrina and George republished Raven's book in 1975.



One of the “Philadelphia Eleven,” Katrina and her father helped organize the 1974 irregular ordination of the first eleven women priests in the Episcopal Church USA. Katrina’s seventeen year bi-lingual ministry as rector of St. John’s Parish in Union City, New Jersey, was an uphill struggle filled with love. She celebrated the Eucharist bilingually in Spanish and English and founded and led a bilingual afterschool program for over a hundred children ages 5 to 18. She served on the board of a hospital and a homeless shelter. Katrina retired to Manset, Maine in 1996.

After being diagnosed with inoperable colonic cancer Katrina was cared for by Hospice at home in Manset during her sixteen month illness. She looked forward to the other side of death.

Her college roommate, Jean Maryborn, said, “For years you have taught us how to live. Now you are teaching us how to die.”

She told friends of the eight books that “have influenced the way I live my life.” They are:

“A Town Like Alice” by Nevil Shute, “Black Elk Speaks” by John Neihardt, “Man’s Search for Meaning” by Victor Frankl, “The Healing Light” by Agnes Sanford, “The Hiding Place” by Corrie ten Boom, “The House of Prayer” by Florence Converse, “The Power and the Glory” by Graham Greene, and “The White Witch” by Elizabeth Goudge.

In the year before her death Katrina and her daughter-in-law, H el ene Patricia nee Carpenter de Boiss iere-Swanson, spoke often about the absence of women’s rights under U.S. law. Like Alice Paul, Katrina and H el ene knew women’s rights would only be realized in U.S. law by amending the U.S. Constitution.

Katrina died peacefully while a hurricane bearing her name was showing Americans how much liberty and justice poor folk had in New Orleans and in America. She had learned this years before. When the Equal Rights Amendment failed to pass, Katrina realized that she was a second class citizen like every other woman in America.

Her 17 years as an inner city Episcopal priest taught her that poverty limited how much liberty and justice one could get. In the Pledge of Allegiance Katrina always said, “With Liberty and Justice for Some. Justice was important in her family. Her great great uncle had been run out of antebellum Vicksburg for preaching abolition. Her grandfather founded an inner city mission in Cincinnati and was later run out of Chelsea, Oklahoma for giving Holy Communion to a Black priest at the altar rail.

H el ene de Boiss iere-Swanson, William Gaines Swanson, Rev. George Gaines Swanson, and Rev. Robert T. Coolidge founded [KatrinasDream.org](http://KatrinasDream.org) to carry on the ministry of Katrina Swanson: the full inclusion of both women clergy and lay leaders in the church, the rights of women upheld by the law, and other social justice issues.

In the years following Katrina’s death, the organization Katrina’s Dream has celebrated a yearly service at churches across the country. These included a service celebrated by Canon Noelle Hall at St. Martin’s Church in Canterbury, England during the 2008 Lambeth Conference using a service created by Katrina when she celebrated at St. Saviour’s Episcopal Church, Bar Harbor, Maine, on August 8, 2004.

# WOMEN IN THE CHURCH AND IN SOCIETY

## PART II : KATRINA'S DREAM EMPOWERING WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

### EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The U.S. Constitution does not guarantee equal rights for women. The only right guaranteed women in the United States have is the right to vote. The **Equal Rights Amendment** states:

**“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex.”**

It is a simple statement that would define the meaning of “We the people” to include the majority of the population — women.

### HERSTORY

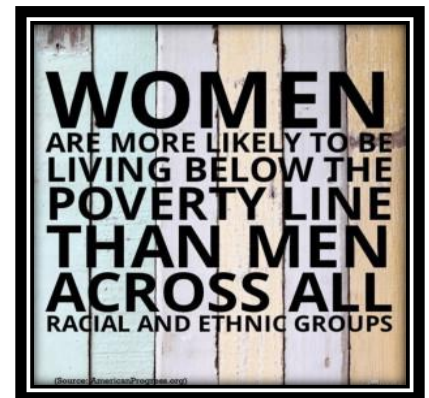


Seneca Falls nourished abolitionism and feminism in the 1840s. Abolitionist Abby Kelly spoke against slavery at an outdoor rally there in 1843. One of her followers was later convicted of “*disorderly and unchristian conduct*” for arguing with the local Presbyterian minister about abolition. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Coffin Mott helped organize the first Women’s Rights Convention in 1848. Frederick Douglas’ impassioned support helped the convention pass the Women’s Declaration of Sentiments which proclaimed: “*All men and women are created equal.*”

In 1923 the National Women’s Rights party celebrated the 75th anniversary of the 1848 convention. Alice Paul, imprisoned, beaten and force fed for protesting President Wilson’s for not supporting women’s rights proposed the Equal Rights Amendment at the 1923 meeting in Seneca Falls. Since 1923, activists have been trying to pass the **Equal Rights Amendment** (E.R.A.). U.S. Congress first approved the E.R.A. and sent it to the states for ratification in 1972. Within a year, 30 states had ratified. By the end of the seven-year deadline though, only 35 states ratified — three states short.

### WITHOUT THE ERA

Women fighting for equal pay have no consistent judicial standard for deciding legal cases, with women earning 78 cents for every dollar earned by a man, with African American women and Latinas making even less, 64 cents and 53 cents. The racial gender pay gap remains stalled. According to The Shriver Report (2014), 1 in 3 American women, 42 million women, plus 28 million children, either live in poverty or are right on the brink of it. (The report defines the “brink of poverty” as making \$47,000 a year for a family of four.) Two-thirds of American women are either the primary or co-breadwinners of their families. One out of every four women is a victim of domestic violence and one out of every five has been or will be raped. The E.R.A. would help ensure fair consideration in court cases concerning the wage gap and also in cases about domestic violence, rape, forced prostitution and sexual slavery. Finally. The gaps in poverty rates between men and women is wider than anywhere else in the western world with 75 percent of elderly Americans living in poverty which are women.



### STEPS TAKEN



The Swanson Family founded Katrina’s Dream in memory of her late mother-in-law, Katrina Swanson. Katrina was one of the eleven first women priests who were irregularly ordained in 1974. When the E.R.A. was voted down in the United States Katrina would say the Pledge of Allegiance, “*with Liberty and Justice for SOME!*” When questioned, “*Why ‘some’?*”, Katrina would say, “*Because the E.R.A. was voted down retired women are more likely to live in poverty than men.*”

[label pin design created by William Swanson for the 2008 Lambeth Conference, Canterbury, England]



In July 2007, a team was sent to the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury England where they distributed label pins bearing the saying, “God is Beyond Gender” to show their support for the LGBT community and women’s rights. William and Helene Swanson received a blessing from Archbishop the Canterbury Rowen Williams for the ministry of Katrina’s Dream. Rowen Williams sought out and engaged Helene Swanson regarding her work on women’s issues at the Katrina’s Dream Exhibitor’s Booth at the 76th General Convention in Anaheim, California. There Katrina’s Dream was instrumental in the passage of **Resolution 2009-D042**, which called for The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America’s to renew its historic support of passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. On March 8, 2011, citing support and including Katrina’s Dream Letter of Endorsement, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) chose International Women’s Day to introduce legislation / Resolution HJ 47- the “Three State Strategy” to speed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution.



On July 19, 2012, Helene made her first pilgrimage walking 500+ mile from the Women’s Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, NY, on July 19, 2012. The morning of the pilgrimage Helene, William Swanson and the Rev. Robert T. Coolidge took time to have morning prayer at Trinity Episcopal Church. She arrived in Washington DC on August 26, 2012, the 92nd anniversary of the 19th Amendment – the right for women to vote, the only right guaranteed women by the United States Constitution. Swanson walked from parish to parish, as an expression of her faith, to bring attention to the need for an Equal Rights Amendment for the full inclusion of women in society and for LGBTQ Rights.

Helene Swanson, made her second pilgrimage, a 7,000 mile/10,000 kilometer pilgrimage, across the United States promoting the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Helene started her journey on International Women’s Day Bridgewalk at the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, CA on March 8, 2014. She slept roadside, at the occasional good Samaritan’s home, and in churches along her route. Helene made her way across Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia all 15 of the 15 non-ratifying states. While on her pilgrimage on March 8, 2015, Helene made an excursion to attend the United Nation’s 59th Commission on the Status of Women/Beijing Platform 20. She met up with Lynnaia Main, Global Mission Officer of the Episcopal Church and participated in the United Nations International Women’s Day – March and Rally at Times Square, New York City, New York.



Following a prayer service celebrated by Bishop Joe Morris Doss, Swanson and a large group of people held a Women’s Equality Day Rally on August 26, 2015 walking the last four miles of her pilgrimage in solidarity to the Upper Senate Park, National Mall, Washington DC to promote Women’s Rights. In the days that followed they held a Call To Action Lobby Day where they met with this nation’s leaders to demand the passage of the federal Equal Rights Amendment. Both Molly Fishman of US Representative Jackie Spier’s office and William Van Horn from Senator’s Bill Cardin’s Office read a letters in support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

On March 22, 2017 the Nevada Legislative Assembly became the first state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Helene Swanson’s pilgrimage was cited in the Nevada Legislative Record as being the spark that light the fire for the resurrection of the Equal Rights Amendment and rebirth of the Women’s Rights Movement. The following year Katrina’s Dream and a number of other organizations rallied and supported efforts and Illinois ratified on May 30, 2018, leaving just one more state to go!



Katrina’s Dream along with One Rural Women and Public Eye Reports hold THE CALL, a Sunday nationwide program where activist, advocates, elected officials, enthusiasts, lobbyists, and organizations come together to meditate, educate and promote the passage of the E.R.A. The concept behind the program is to provide a space where **folks** build friendships and networks, support wanderings, share wisdom, identify complexities, listen to frustrations, and celebrate