

Overview of the Feminist Majority Foundation

As an organizer for the Feminist Majority Foundation, you are a part of history in the making. In our reproductive rights work alone, our National Clinic Access Project developed the strategy and tactics for defending and securing abortion clinics. In 1994, the Feminist Majority Foundation initiated, pursued, and won a Supreme Court case establishing the constitutionality of safety buffer zones around clinics.

The Feminist Majority Foundation worked for 11 years to win approval of the early abortion pill, mifepristone (formerly known as RU 486). And we won approval for mifepristone as an early abortion option in 2000. Finally, in 2007, the Feminist Majority Foundation sponsored and began mifepristone clinical trials as a possible treatment for progesterone-dependent ovarian cancer.

In 2002, the Feminist Majority Foundation was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize because of its work on behalf of Afghan women and girls. With the support of literally tens of thousands, our work was key in stopping U.S. and U.N. recognition of the Taliban in 1998 and, in 2003 and 2005, in winning extensive funding for Afghan women's programs, for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA). In 1996, the Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) launched its Choices Campus Leadership Program. FMF was the first reproductive rights and first women's rights organization to invest a substantial budget in campus activist organizing. Today, the FMF campus program is the largest of its kind and the largest pro-choice network on campus.

The Feminist Majority Foundation was founded in 1987 as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, non-profit organization. FMF is the nation's largest feminist research and action organization dedicated to women's equality, reproductive rights and health, and non-violence. To carry out these aims, FMF engages in research and public policy development, public education programs, grassroots organizing projects, leadership training and development programs. Its sister 501(c)(4) organization, the Feminist Majority, focuses on empowering women in public policy-making as well as gender balance in elective and appointative offices.

FMF is organized on a project basis. Currently, FMF has 14 active projects, or programs, each trailblazing and making history in their own right:

Reproductive Health Programs

- 1) Choices Campus Leadership Program
- 2) National Clinic Access Project
- 3) Women's Health and Research
- 4) National Pro-choice Coalition Core Group
- 5) International Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Coalition

Global Women's Empowerment Programs

- 1) Global Reproductive Health Program
- 2) Campaign to Help Afghan Women and Girls
- 3) Global Women's Empowerment
- 4) Girls Learn International

Stop Violence Against Women Initiatives

Feminist Leadership Program

Education Equity Project

Women and Media

- 1) Liberty Media for Women/*Ms.* Magazine
- 2) Documentaries/Videos/CDs
- 3) Publications

Online Organizing, Social Media, and Education Program

- 1) Websites
- 2) Facebook, Twitter, tumblr, Instagram, Pinterest, Flickr
- 3) Action Alerts

FMF hosts four major websites: Feminist.org; Feministcampus.org; Msmagazine.com; Girlslearn.net. FMF also hosts HelpAfghanWomen.com and WomenandPolicing.com.

The Feminist Majority Foundation has organized campaigns around ballot initiatives for many years. FMF organized massive support among college students to defeat two anti-choice ballot initiatives in Oregon in 1990, including a parental consent initiative; to secure support for the state Equal Rights Amendment in Iowa in 1992; and to counter an anti-affirmative action ballot measure in California in 1996. FMF worked successfully to defeat a parental notification state ballot initiative in California in 2005, 2006, and 2008. In 2006 and 2008, FMF organized successfully on all state college campuses in South Dakota to defeat a ballot measure to ban abortion. In 2006, FMF organized to defeat the anti-affirmative action ballot measure in Michigan. Unfortunately, it passed. Very extreme, anti-abortion proposals and measures were placed on November 2008 state ballots also in Colorado and South Dakota; FMF campus campaigns worked successfully to defeat them. In 2011, FMF successfully organized on campuses in Mississippi to defeat a Personhood Amendment, and in June 2012 FMF organized in North Dakota to defeat a religious liberties amendment on the primary ballot, which would have restricted birth control access. In November 2012, FMF organized successfully defeat an anti-abortion amendment in Florida.

The Feminist Majority Foundation's reproductive health and rights programs are extensive. Our programs involve public education; media outreach and advocacy work; direct services, including legal, security, and direct financial support to besieged women's health clinics that perform abortions. Our reproductive health programs are organized into three main projects:

- **Choices Campus Leadership Program**: The largest pro-choice network on college campuses includes over 600 campus chartered, affiliated, working, underground, and outreach groups in 45 states and the District of Columbia on a wide range of public and private, two- and four-year colleges and universities. The program provides young women and men with organizing tools to counter threats to reproductive rights and increase access to reproductive health services. In total by field and online organizing the program reaches some 1,954 campuses. After a successful fight to win FDA approval of over-the-counter Emergency Contraception, our campus program leads five campaigns: (1) Expose Fake Clinics, (2) Increase Access to Birth Control, (3) Adopt-a-Clinic, (4) Global Reproductive Health, and (5) Get Out Her Vote.
- **National Clinic Access Project** – Our project, now 24 years old, conducts nationwide clinic defense, direct service, and organizing efforts to keep women's health clinics open in the face of violence and intimidation, and works to bring anti-abortion terrorists to justice.
- **Campaign for Mifepristone and Women's Health** – After a successful twelve-year fight to make mifepristone available to American women, our *Campaign for Mifepristone and Women's Health* is now working to expand public awareness of and research funding for mifepristone's potential uses for serious illnesses affecting primarily women; to provide Mifepristone for compassionate use to seriously ill patients; and to sponsor clinical trials for mifepristone's potential use as a treatment for progesterone-dependent ovarian and uterine cancers.

Each of the Feminist Majority Foundation's reproductive rights and health programs builds upon the knowledge, research, and action of one another as well as the work of other reproductive rights organizations. Together the programs work as a whole – each made stronger because of the others. Our programs have been able to identify and respond to critically needed unmet services, mobilize direct action on behalf of reproductive rights, counter attacks from the anti-abortion movement to restrict reproductive rights and services, and train the next generation of pro-choice leaders.

Reproductive rights have been under attack by Congress, the courts, and many state legislatures. Neither house of Congress has a pro-choice majority. With the appointments of two justices during the Bush Administration to the Supreme Court hostile to abortion, reproductive rights have been narrowed. In its first major decision on reproductive rights, the Roberts Court upheld in 2007 a federal abortion procedure ban, despite the fact that it lacked an exception to protect women's health. The Court decision was an invitation to the states to pass more restrictive legislation. Challenges to abortion bans in several state are

working their way to the Supreme Court. The current Court's 5 - 4 majority for reproductive rights is believed to depend upon Republican-appointed Justice Anthony Kennedy's vote.

Access to birth control itself is being threatened and dramatically restricted. At the expense of proven and effective comprehensive sex education programs, the federal government directed hundreds of millions of federal dollars to abstinence-only programs from 1996 - 2008. Funding for abstinence-only programs has been significantly reduced under the Obama Administration in favor of medically effective programs. But federal funding of abstinence-only programs still persists. In addition, millions of federal and state family planning program dollars have been diverted to fund so-called "Crisis Pregnancy Centers" that use free pregnancy tests, misleading ads, and other gimmicks to draw in young women, frequently providing false information.

Previously, the price of birth control on college campuses had increased dramatically – in some cases doubling, tripling, or even quintupling – since January 1, 2007 because of changes in Medicaid pricing rules under the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. But with the new contraceptive mandate that requires birth control be made available to women without co-pay or deductible, and students being able to stay on their parent's health insurance plans until the age of 26, students will have more resources to access birth control. A new goal of FMF is to help students understand new healthcare policies that increase their access to birth control and ensure that their college campuses are complying with federal laws.

In 1996 and 2000, the Feminist Majority Foundation held national Feminist Expos, drawing thousands of feminists to Washington, DC (1996) and Baltimore (2000) to learn from and speak with feminist leaders from all sectors of society. Feminist Expo '96 was attended by some 3,000 feminists, despite a blizzard. In 2000, over 7,000 feminists of all ages from throughout the United States and the world took part in Feminist Expo 2000 for Women's Empowerment, to ignite the feminist movement for the 21st century, including delegations from 45 countries and 170 colleges and universities. Both Expos featured major leaders in the feminist movement, such as FMF President Eleanor Smeal, Ms. co-founder Gloria Steinem, author bell hooks, *Roe v. Wade* Attorney Sarah Weddington, author Betty Friedan, FMF Board Member and United Farm Workers co-founder Dolores Huerta, former Congresswoman Bella Abzug (1920-1998), and former Senator and Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun.

The Feminist Majority Foundation has produced award-winning educational videos on topics ranging from gender apartheid under the Taliban in Afghanistan to reproductive rights, both domestic and global. "Abortion for Survival," which featured an actual abortion at 6 weeks, was awarded the prestigious Cine Golden Eagle award in 1989. "Abortion Denied: Shattering Young Lives" also won the Cine Golden Eagle Award in 1990. The video showed the impact of parental consent and notification laws on young women, featuring the story of Becky Bell, a 17-year-old victim of an Indiana parental notification law. Becky died in 1988 after undergoing an illegal abortion rather than tell her parents and risk disappointing them. Other videos produced by FMF Board Member Lorraine Sheinberg include "Danger Personhood 2012" on state personhood amendments, "No More Excuses: TEST rape evidence! (Part 1)" and "No More Excuses: What ISN'T Rape?" on the lack of testing of rape kits and an out-dated definition of rape used by the federal government, "Shroud of Silence" on Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan, "Killing in the Name of Life" on anti-abortion violence, "Never Go Back: The Threat to Legalized Abortion," "Revelation: Exposing the Radical Right," and "The Global Majority... Again," on the intersection of global abortion restrictions, environmental degradation, sweatshops, and human rights abuses.

The Feminist Majority joined with the music group L7 to launch Rock for Choice in 1991, a series of concerts organized in dozens of cities over the past 15 years across the United States and Canada featuring popular artists such as Pearl Jam, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Salt-N-Pepa, No Doubt, the Offspring, Fugazi, Liz Phair, Bikini Kill, Joan Osborne, Rage Against the Machine, the Foo Fighters, Sarah McLachlan, Rancid, Melissa Etheridge, the Bangles, Joan Jett, Stone Temple Pilots, Paula Cole, Iggy Pop and many others. Rock for Choice raises critical resources to help fund the Feminist Majority's vigilant Campaign to Save *Roe* and to raise public awareness about the threats to abortion rights in the United States.

FMF maintains a close working relationship with other feminist organizations and the progressive community. FMF President Eleanor Smeal is on the executive committee of the National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO), which brings together over 200 of the major groups in the U.S. working for the rights of women and girls, representing over ten million women; and on the national board of the National Council on Research on Women, a consortium of the leading academic and independent feminist research centers in the U.S. FMF is represented on national coalitions working on issues ranging from domestic and international reproductive rights and health, to grassroots organizing, to judicial nominations, to the drive to ratify the United Nations Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Innovative FMF Programs for Women and Girls

National Reproductive Health Programs

1. *Choices* Campus Leadership Program

Launched in 1997 to train the next generation of feminist leaders, our *Choices* Campus Leadership Program has reached more than 1,954 two- and four-year colleges and universities in 45 states and the District of Columbia and an additional 409 campuses in 149 countries worldwide. Our program provides feminist, pro-choice students with the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge feminist issues, to develop their leadership and organizing skills, and to be connected with the larger pro-choice and feminist movements. Our national network of over 600 groups participate in FMF's *Choices* Campus Program, which broadly defines "choices" to include reproductive choices, leadership choices, career choices, as well as saving these choices - fighting the backlash. Through the *Choices* Campus Campaign, FMLAs educate their campuses and organize to effect change at both local and national levels. Current *Choices* campaigns include the *Birth Control Access Campaign*, *Campaign to Expose Fake Clinics*, *Adopt-a-Clinic*, *Global Reproductive Rights*, and *Get Out Her Vote 2013-2014*.

2. National Clinic Access Project

The FMF National Clinic Access Project engages in public education, advocacy work, and grassroots organizing to increase public awareness of anti-choice extremist violence. As the oldest and largest clinic defense project in the nation, the FMF provides assistance to some 587, independent or non-affiliated clinics that provide the majority of abortions in the U.S. Our project team researches and monitors anti-abortion extremists and works with law enforcement to improve responsiveness to clinic violence. When necessary, we provide direct assistance to abortion and family planning clinics in the form of legal, security, and support services as well as financial aid to independent abortion providers. Since the inception of NCAP in 1989, we have provided community-organizing support to clinics besieged by anti-abortion violence, training over 50,000 clinic defenders in 26 states in non-violent clinic defense techniques. For more information visit: <http://www.feminist.org/rrights/ncapabout.asp>

3. Campaign for Women's Health

a) Mifepristone Compassionate Use Program

Following a 12-year nationwide public education campaign led by the Feminist Majority Foundation, in September 2000 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) finally approved mifepristone (formerly known as RU 486) for early abortion. The FMF is currently working to ensure that anti-choice forces do not succeed in having mifepristone removed from the market as a safe early abortion option.

Our campaign has also worked to expand public awareness of and research funding for mifepristone's potential use as a treatment for serious, life-threatening illnesses that predominantly affect women.

In an historic breakthrough, the Feminist Majority Foundation has sponsored clinical trials for patients with progesterone-receptor positive ovarian cancer. This type of cancer makes up some 77-85% of uterine cancer and 26-45% of ovarian cancer! We assembled a team of prestigious clinical researchers, attorneys, and FDA specialists for the Phase II clinical trials.

Since December 1998, FMF has had the sole responsibility of providing mifepristone for compassionate use. To date, we have provided mifepristone to over 150 patients with serious illnesses.

b) **Making Health Care Available for All**

FMF will be working in 2013-2014 to provide information on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and expansion of Medicaid, and how it benefits, students women and men.

Global Feminism

4. UN Participation

The FMF global programs are dedicated to the principle that women's rights are human rights, and the FMF has participated in numerous United Nations conferences and meetings for the empowerment of women and girls. The Feminist Majority Foundation supports the International Criminal Court, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and ending trafficking of and violence against women and girls. FMF has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, which includes Committees on the Status of Women and Population and Development. For more information visit:

<http://www.feministcampus.org/know/global/>

5. Global Reproductive Health Campaign

FMF is active in the International Sexual Rights and Reproductive Health Coalition. We promote universal access to reproductive health and family planning. We education on the need to increase the funding of international family planning programs; make abortion safe, legal, and accessible; repeal the Helms Amendments which prevents the U.S. from funding abortion services "as a method of family planning;" and to provide comprehensive reproductive health services, including abortion.

6. Campaign for Afghan Women and Girls

FMF's Campaign for Afghan Women and Girls (formerly the Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan), and its chair, FMF Board Member Mavis Leno, were nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. Our campaign, the first of its kind to build a U.S. women's grassroots foreign policy constituency around an issue of the rights of women and girls, successfully brought the Taliban's violence against women and girls in Afghanistan to the attention of the United States and the world. We built a co-sponsoring network of some 250 organizations for the Campaign, and over 100 film, television, and musical artists and celebrities endorsed the Campaign. Our work was key in stopping U.S. and U.N. formal recognition of the Taliban in 1998 and in winning \$60 million for Afghan women's programs and \$5 million earmarked for the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. Our Afghan Women's Scholarship Program has helped 78 Afghan women pursue their educational goals in the United States, helping them secure more than \$2.4 million in scholarships, room and board, and fee waivers since the program began in 2000.

The Campaign is continuing its work to urge the U.S. to do everything in its power to restore the rights of Afghan women and girls, to provide sufficient funding for the reconstruction of Afghanistan; to ensure leadership of Afghan women and women's organizations in rebuilding Afghanistan; and to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghan women and children who are internally displaced or are refugees. For more information visit:

<http://www.feministcampus.org/know/global/featured-country.asp>

7. Girls Learn International

Girls Learn International (GLI) educates and incorporates U.S. middle and high school students in the global movement for girls' human rights and access to education. Using a human rights framework, GLI students learn about the obstacles girls face to attaining education, and how educating and empowering girls is key to breaking the cycles of injustice

for women and girls. GLI students share what they learn with other students at their schools and community members, presenting programs at school-wide assemblies, in community forums and at conferences and events. There are over a 100 GLI Chapters in 23 states and Canada.

GLI middle and high school-based Chapters in the U.S. are paired with Partner Schools in countries where girls still lag behind boys in access to education. Through exchanges and communications, U.S. students deepen their understanding of girls' lives in the Partner School countries and provide social and financial support to their Partner Schools.

Media and Communications Programs

8. Ms. Magazine – More than a Magazine, A Movement

On December 31, 2001, the Feminist Majority Foundation became the sole owner of Liberty Media for Women, LLC, the publisher of *Ms.* magazine. Founded by Gloria Steinem and other feminist thought leaders in 1972, *Ms.* is the voice of the movement for women's rights, nationally and globally. By promoting feminist viewpoints, research, education, and organizations as well as fearlessly investigating and reporting on critical issues in the struggle for equal rights, *Ms.* aims to inform, inspire and empower feminists to take action to achieve justice and equality.

- a) **Ms. App**
- b) **Ms. in the Classroom**
- c) **Ms. Blog**

9. Feminist Majority Foundation Online

In 1995, we launched our award winning Feminist Majority Foundation On-Line (or the Women's Worldwide Web), www.feminist.org. Our website features domestic and global feminist news and a take action center. Feminist.org also offers a Feminist Career Center, a Feminist Research Center, a Breast Cancer Center, and much more. The site is the single largest feminist website on the Internet. The feminist.org website works in tandem with the Feminist Majority Foundation's other major websites. The FMF runs several websites with more than 300,000 sign-ups on our Action Alert and Update networks, which in combination generate hundreds of thousands of emails last year to opinion makers in support of women's rights. Each website enhances and feeds traffic to the others.

10. Media Archival Program

The preservation of the presentation of women's issue in television and print media from 1967 through the present.

11. Violence Against Women Initiatives

The Choices Campus Program will undertake a project in 2013 -2014 to help implement the 2013 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, Title IX, and the Clery Act as they pertain to reducing and the handling of incidents of sexual assault of students and public reporting of such incidents. We will provide a new tool kit and video on sexual assault on campus and what students can do to reduce it. In addition, FMF is also actively working to end military sexual assault and reduce abuses of power in the reporting process.

12. Education Equity Program

FMF's Education Equity Program works to protect Title IX, the landmark federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in federally funded educational programs, including athletic programs. In

addition, the Program produced a *Handbook for Achieving Gender Equity in Education*, bringing together some of the leading experts in education across the country as contributors.

For more information visit: <http://www.feminist.org/education>

13. Feminist Leadership Program

FMF participates actively in many coalition efforts to advance women's rights, civil rights, and social justice including the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, International and National Sexual Rights and Reproductive Health Coalitions, Marriage Equality Coalition, Equal Rights Amendment Education Coalition, Anti-violence such Military Sexual Assault Coalitions, and the Women's Economic Agenda Project. FMF also co-sponsors many events of allied groups and coalition members.

14. Internship in Feminism and Public Policy

The Feminist Majority Foundation internship is listed as one of the nation's leading internship programs by the Princeton Review's *America's Top 100 Internships*. Interns benefit from a challenging atmosphere and substantive projects, and gain experience working on the most pressing women's rights issues of our time. Internships are available at both national offices in Washington, DC and Los Angeles, CA. For more information visit:

<http://www.feminist.org/intern/>