



Expert Policy Brief by Christian Human Rights Agency Makes Moral and Legal Case for Equal Rights Amendment

*ERA essential to curbing sexual violence, pregnancy discrimination,
child marriage, and other abuses, argues Justice Revival*

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Press Contact:

Mary Grace Donohoe

mdonohoe@justicerevival.org

718-207-0970

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In a [policy brief](#) released this morning, Christian human rights agency [Justice Revival](#) makes a moral and legal case for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), explaining how the reform aligns with central Christian teachings and basic human rights principles. The robustly sourced brief charts the ERA's promise in stemming widespread abuses against U.S. women and girls – including sexual and domestic violence, female genital mutilation, child marriage, pregnancy and pay discrimination, and human trafficking.

Justice Revival submitted its recent brief to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform, which will hold [a hearing on the ERA Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 10:00 am Eastern](#) – the first full congressional committee hearing on the ERA since the 1970s. Last week marked 50 years since Congress sent the ERA to the states for ratification.

Although religious opposition has historically played a key role in thwarting U.S. women's hopes for equality under the constitution, Justice Revival and fellow advocates in the [#Faith4ERA](#) coalition support the ERA as a basic human rights reform that reflects shared religious values. Their [Interfaith Statement for the ERA](#) has garnered over 500 signatures to date, from faith leaders across the country.

Justice Revival's recent brief and the earlier Interfaith Statement echo a shared theme:

“Recognizing the ERA as the 28th Amendment is fundamentally the right thing to do – from the perspective of American democratic values, human rights ideals, and the religious conviction that all people are equal in dignity and worth before God.”



[Allyson McKinney Timm](#), founder of Justice Revival, is a human rights lawyer, scholar, and faith leader who specializes in gender-based rights violations. She commented:

“It is our moral responsibility and civic duty to ensure the Constitution respects the inherent dignity and worth of each American. In the absence of an ERA, our nation has struggled to fight egregious human rights abuses, like the intimate partner violence that claims four lives each day, or the shamefully high maternal mortality rate that is even higher for mothers of color.

As a Christian faith leader, I am struck by how these lethal abuses dishonor a God who created and loves us all equally. As a human rights lawyer, I know they constitute violations of our inherent rights. As a woman in the U.S. whose hopes for equality remain unfulfilled, I know it’s time to recognize the ERA as our 28th Amendment.”

The brief also addresses the intensely debated issue of abortion, explaining that the ERA is fundamentally about equality and ending abuse, not abortion:

“There is no evidence that the Equal Rights Amendment would mandate a new basis for abortion rights... Abortion may continue to be a difficult issue for our democracy, but equality should be an easy one. Greater respect for women’s dignity and rights is the most just, humane, and promising route to reducing the prevalence of abortion, which has divided our nation for the last 50 years.”

The ERA was first proposed in 1923, adopted by Congress in 1972, and has since been ratified by three-fourths of states. But Trump-era legal guidance deterred the National Archivist from publishing the ERA per the normal procedure. Three states have sued in federal court to compel him to do so. Justice Revival and fellow members of the [ERA Coalition](#) have supported Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia as [amicus curiae](#) in the case.

Justice Revival’s recent brief takes issue with a disputed deadline on ERA ratification that has been raised in the case:

“In light of the historical subjugation of women in this country, their intentional exclusion from the privileges of citizenship, and the unabated and myriad forms of gender-based oppression that have long caused serious harm to women and girls, the arbitrary seven-year time limit imposed by Congress on ERA ratification was manifestly unjust and unconscionable from the outset.”

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[Justice Revival](#) is a diverse, inclusive community of Christian faith and a leading voice for human rights in the United States.

[Allyson McKinney Timm](#), founder of Justice Revival, is a human rights lawyer and faith leader with two decades of experience defending the dignity and rights of those on the margins. Timm is available for interviews and further commentary via Justice Revival's press contact.

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