



FIX OUR CONSTITUTION

**MISSING RIGHTS: WHAT'S SEX GOT TO DO WITH IT?
AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM AND INTERNATIONAL LAW**

Unlike the majority of countries in the world, the U.S. does not protect against sex discrimination in our Constitution – it has fallen behind its peers and now ranks in the bottom 2/3 of countries for gender equality.

Join us for a lively discussion with the experts on where the U.S. stands on gender equality among other countries, application of international law in the U.S. and why it matters, and how the fully ratified 28th Amendment (Equal Rights) could bring the U.S. in line with our international obligations and help close the gender gap.

FEATURED PANELISTS

SHELBY R. QUAST, ESQ.

Moderator

Co-Founder, VoteEqualityUS & Human Rights Attorney

JODY HEYMANN, MD, PhD

Founding Director, WORLD Policy Analysis Center

ANTONIA KIRKLAND, ESQ.

Global Lead for Legal Equality and Access to Justice, Equality Now

MELISSA UPRETI

Vice Chair of the UN Working Group of the Human Rights Council on the issue of discrimination against women and girls

Senior Director, Program and Global Advocacy, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University



SHELBY R. QUAST, ESQ.

Human Rights Attorney
Co-Founder, VoteEqualityUS

Shelby Quast is a visionary leader and change-maker working internationally, regionally and locally on a broad range of issues intersecting the private and public sectors, academia and civil society, with a strong emphasis on equality and gender justice, especially for adolescent girls; human rights; rule of law and dismantling barriers to justice.

She is a human rights attorney and Co-Founder of VoteEquality.US, an inclusive, diverse, non-partisan grassroots effort to promote gender equality for all Americans. Shelby is also the Principal and CEO of Robertson, Quast & Associates, a consulting firm working with organizations, regional and international bodies and NGO networks to promote and protect the rights of women and girls. Previously, Shelby was Americas Director at Equality Now, a global human rights organization. She co-founded the International Legal Assistance Consortium, a global consortium of legal and non-governmental organizations working in post-conflict legal development, representing over 3.5 million judges, prosecutors and lawyers worldwide. She founded the Partners for Gender Justice, a global network of partners (countries, United Nations, NGOs) advancing gender equality in the justice sector. She served as Team Leader, Administration of Justice Unit in Timor Leste, for the United Nations' first Integrated Mission.

Shelby is a Fulbright Scholar and has taught at CUA Columbus School of Law, American University School for International Service and internationally at Jagellonian University in Poland the Indian Institute of Management in Lucknow, India.





JODY HEYMANN, MD, PhD

**Founding Director, WORLD Policy
Analysis Center**

Jody Heymann, MD, PhD, is founding director of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center (WORLD) and served as dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health from 2013-2018. As director of WORLD, Heymann leads an unprecedented effort to improve the level and quality of comparative policy data available to policymakers, researchers and the public. WORLD examines health and social policies and outcomes in all 193 UN countries. WORLD's mission is to strengthen equal opportunities worldwide by identifying the most effective public sector approaches, improving the quantity and quality of globally comparative data available, and working in partnerships to support evidence-based improvements in countries worldwide. WORLD has worked with global bodies (WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO and others), civil society, research groups, private sector leaders and other global change agents. WORLD's launches on policies affecting children reached people in 190 countries, as did their No Ceilings partnership with the Clinton and Gates Foundations on equal opportunities for women, men, girls, and boys.

Heymann is leading initiatives on the role of constitutions in all 193 UN countries in realizing equal rights and improving social and economic conditions; legislative and policy approaches to advancing equality and full inclusion in education and at work of youth with disabilities in 193 countries; and increasing transparency around what countries are doing to address the needs and rights of refugees and migrants in 150 countries. Heymann previously held a Canada Research Chair in Global Health and Social Policy at McGill University where she founded the Institute for Health and Social Policy. While on the faculty at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health, she founded the Project on Global Working Families.





ANTONIA KIRKLAND, ESQ.

Global Lead for Legal Equality and
Access to Justice,
Equality Now

Prior to becoming the Global Lead for Legal Equality & Access to Justice, Antonia Kirkland was Equality Now's Legal Equality Program Manager, the Legal Advisor, and a Program Officer. Antonia has over 15 years of experience working across all of Equality Now's program areas, contributing to many of its major advocacy reports and campaigns and leading its work at the United Nations, including by serving on the Global Programme Advisory Committee of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. Antonia has spoken on high-level panels with government and UN officials and been quoted in leading outlets such as The Guardian, Reuters, Inter-Press Service, and The New York Times as well as on radio and TV.

Previously, Antonia was the coordinator of the Next Generation Leadership program at the Rockefeller Foundation; a consultant for Equality Now on an amicus brief for a case before the US Supreme Court; and an intern at Shearman & Sterling, LLP in Paris. Antonia holds a J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law, an M.Sc. in Gender Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a B.A. in International Relations from Brown University, USA.

Growing up, Antonia was inspired by a poster in her fifth-grade classroom, which showed people from all over the world and the United Nations with an inscription of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Antonia views international law as an example of countries aspiring and committing to do their best, and our job is holding them accountable for promoting and protecting all women's and girls' rights including through legal reform, the foundation for equality.





MELISSA UPRETI

Vice Chair of the UN Working Group of the Human Rights Council on the issue of discrimination against women and girls

Senior Director, Program and Global Advocacy, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University

Melissa Upreti is Vice Chair of the UN Working Group of the Human Rights Council on the issue of discrimination against women and girls. Her work as a human rights lawyer and feminist activist spans over two decades during which she has led fact-finding missions, undertaken strategic litigation, built the capacity of civil society organizations, authored publications and advised governments.

Ms. Upreti started her career at a grassroots feminist legal advocacy organization in Nepal followed by The Asia Foundation. She spent 16 years at the Center for Reproductive Rights where she was founding attorney of the Asia Program and, among other things, participated in the first CEDAW Special Inquiry focusing on women's reproductive rights in 2012 and was co-petitioner in the landmark case, *Lakshmi Dhikta v. Nepal*, which recognizes access to abortion as a constitutionally protected right. As Senior Director of Program and Global Advocacy at the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), she currently leads multidisciplinary initiatives at the intersection of gender, labor, human rights and macroeconomic policy, with a strong focus on feminist movement building, and oversees the Global 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-based Violence Campaign that was initiated by CWGL in 1991.

She has an LL.M. from Columbia Law School where she was a Stone Scholar and a law degree from India. Ms. Upreti is also a Fellow in the International Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Program at the University of Toronto.





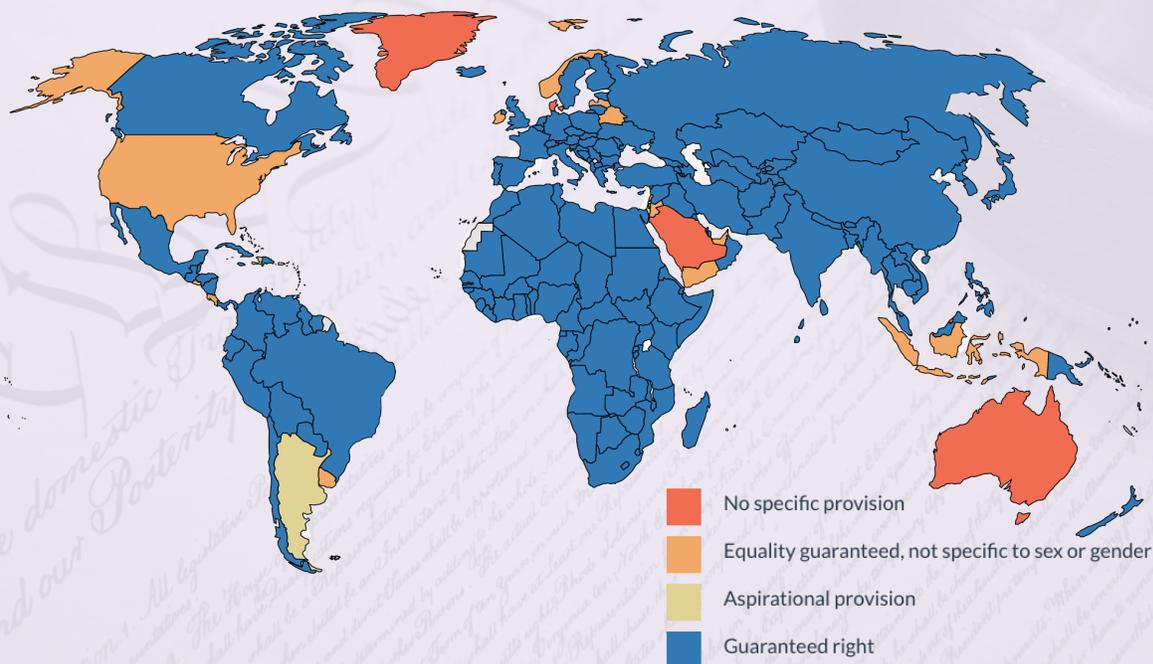
RESOURCES

[Advancing Equality](#), a freely downloadable set of resources examining the effects of constitutional guarantees of equality worldwide

A [summary of the amicus brief](#) filed by Equality Now in support of the ERA

[Report](#) from the UN Working Group on Women and Discrimination in Law and Practice

Map from [WORLD Policy Analysis Center](#): Does the constitution explicitly guarantee equality or non-discrimination across sex and/or gender?





RESOURCES

over 200 years

TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY IN THE U.S.
UNLESS CHANGE IS ACCELERATED

Source: World Economic Forum

The most recent [UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review](#)

["When it Comes to Constitutional Equality, the U.S. Lags Behind the Rest of the World,"](#) Antonia Kirkland

Equality Now's page on [taking action to eliminate the ERA deadline](#)

[Maps on gender equality](#) from the WORLD Policy Analysis Center

[More resources](#) on equal rights in constitutions around the world

Information from VoteEqualityUS on [the ERA in an international context](#)