

03 - Civil Rights and Human Rights

The inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the foundations of freedom, justice and peace in the world. The strength of our democracy rests on the rights and responsibilities set forth in the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Democrats must continue their traditional leadership in championing the civil rights of all.

We believe:

- Privacy is fundamental; our private lives and personal information must be protected from intrusion by government or others;
- Discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, military service, insurance, licensing or education based on race, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status, disability, size, political affiliation or national origin is wrong; those who face discrimination must be afforded the legal means and economic opportunities to overcome such injustice;
- We have the right to sovereignty over our own bodies, including a woman's right to choose to terminate a pregnancy regardless of age or ability to pay;
- Marriage, as a legal union of consenting adults, should not be restricted by sexual orientation or gender identity.

We call for:

- Honoring the rich diversity of society and efforts to reflect that diversity in our party.
- Respecting the rights of all adults, including seniors and individuals with disabilities, to direct their own lives in housing, education and all other life choices;
- Adding enforcement provisions to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended;
- Ending legalized discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgendered (LGBT) people and seeking repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell" and the federal and state "Defense of Marriage" acts.
- The end of human trafficking for the sex trade or other forms of involuntary servitude;
- Strong legislation, treatment programs and education designed to reduce harassment, intimidation, and domestic or sexual violence.