



The Board of Directors of AAUW New York State on February 7, 2024, approved the following Resolution in support of AAUW Open Membership.

Resolution: Amendment to the AAUW Bylaws

WHEREAS it is the mission of AAUW to promote equity for all women; and

WHEREAS the educational requirements for AAUW membership discriminates against AAUW's mission; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of AAUW New York acknowledges that AAUW NY State complies with AAUW's mission to promote equity for all women.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of AAUW New York approves a proposed amendment to the AAUW Bylaws eliminating educational requirements for membership.

Rationale for Approval of AAUW Open Membership

Empowering Inclusivity: Why Approving AAUW Open Membership is Essential

In the ongoing journey toward gender equity, AAUW stands as a beacon of hope and progress. However, to truly fortify our organization and amplify our impact, it's time to embrace a more inclusive approach to membership. Here's why approving AAUW Open Membership is not just a step forward, but a leap towards a brighter, more equitable future:

1. **Strengthening Our Foundation:** At the core of AAUW's strength lies our commitment to advancing equity for women and girls. Our power emanates from the unwavering support of our members who champion our mission through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. By shifting our focus away from restrictive membership criteria and towards a more inclusive model, we open the doors to a broader coalition of changemakers ready to stand with us in solidarity.

2. **Enhancing Credibility:** Insisting on a degree requirement risks undermining our credibility in the very advocacy work we're striving to advance. Equity knows no academic boundaries, and our advocacy efforts must reflect this truth. By embracing open membership, we send a powerful message that our commitment to equity transcends educational backgrounds, resonating more deeply with the diverse communities we aim to serve.

3. **Practicing True Inclusion:** Higher education is undoubtedly valuable, but it should not serve as a barrier to participation in our movement. Just as one doesn't need to be a woman to champion women's rights, one shouldn't require a college degree to advocate for education. Our commitment to inclusion extends beyond mere rhetoric; it's a tangible expression of our belief in the inherent worth and potential of every individual, regardless of their educational journey.

In conclusion, approving AAUW Open Membership isn't just about expanding our membership base; it's about embodying the principles of inclusivity, credibility, and strength that lie at the heart of our organization. Together, let's take this bold step forward and usher in a new era of empowerment and equity for women and girls everywhere.