FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 29, 2018
Contact: Kelsey Millay
(202) 546-1210 ext. 19
kelsey.millay@nationalwomansparty.org

Justice Ginsburg & Women’s Rights Leaders Discuss the Path Forward

**Marking Women’s Equality Day at National Woman’s Party Headquarters, Justice Ginsburg stated, “The idea of the feminist movement is that we are all equal in the rights the government should give us.” **

Washington, D.C. -- The National Woman’s Party (NWP) hosted U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and leaders in the women’s rights movement on August 26th to mark Women’s Equality Day and discuss the current state of women’s equality.

The event, held at the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., included a conversation, moderated by Jill C. Morrison of Georgetown Law, on why the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is still critically important; inclusion, intersectionality and diversity in today’s equal rights movement; and the past, the present and the potential of the future of the movement.

Reflecting on her first visit to the NWP headquarters in 1975, the night preceding oral arguments in the Wiesenfeld case before the Supreme Court, Justice Ginsburg recalled, “I just wanted to touch base with this National Woman’s Party that valorously introduced the Equal Rights Amendment...what we were doing in that series of cases was to attempt to use the equal protection clause to get us almost to the same place we would be if we had an Equal Rights
Amendment. That was my first visit here, and after the visit, I was sure that I would prevail in the Wiesenfeld case.”

Speaking about the use of the word “male” in the second clause of the 14th amendment, Justice Ginsburg stated, “It’s that history that makes the 14th amendment not as satisfactory as the Equal Rights Amendment, which is designed specifically to make women people of equal citizenship stature in all aspects of human activity.”

Justice Ginsburg explained, “Every constitution in the world written since the year 1950 has a provision that men and women are persons of equal citizenship stature. Our Constitution should have explicitly such a provision…If I take out this pocket Constitution and show it to my granddaughters, I can’t point to a provision that says explicitly men and women have equal rights and obligations under the law. I would like to be able to.”

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage. In honor of the Centennial and the fight for women’s equality, the NWP is renewing its work to achieve full constitutional equality for women.

“We are honored to host Justice Ginsburg and the amazing leaders of today’s women’s rights movement for a discussion on the current state of women’s equality,” said Zakiya Thomas, Executive Director of the National Woman’s Party. “In honor of the Centennial and our brave and diverse predecessors, the National Woman’s Party is renewing its commitment to achieve full constitutional equality for women. We will harness our past to inform and advance the modern effort for women’s rights in this critical moment of civic engagement among women as seen in today’s Resistance, #MeToo, and #TimesUp movements.”

Attendees represented organizations leading the charge for women’s rights.

Founded in 1913, the National Woman’s Party played a groundbreaking role in securing women’s constitutional right to vote. Following ratification of the 19th Amendment, the NWP fought for full constitutional equality for women, including drafting the Equal Rights Amendment, which has yet to be ratified. After 1920, the NWP strategically used legal, lobbying, and mobilization campaigns to advance equal rights in the United States and internationally, including drafting legislation to end labor discrimination and pay inequity, researching and fighting unequal laws related to marriage, citizenship, and property rights, and organizing international women’s rights campaigns.

###