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National Woman’s Party Appoints Zakiya Thomas as Executive Director
Storied organization launches new initiative to inspire advances in gender equality in buildup to the Centennial celebration of women’s right to vote

Washington, DC - The National Woman’s Party (NWP) today announced that Zakiya Thomas will serve as the new NWP Executive Director. A dedicated champion for gender equality and an adept leader, Zakiya joins the NWP at a critical juncture as it prepares for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and reaffirms its commitment to advance full constitutional equality for women.

In 2019, the NWP will launch a nationwide multi-year initiative, using its historic collection of women’s rights artifacts to inspire action toward full equality for women. The initiative, conducted in partnership with local civic organizations, individual and business leaders, and advocates, will bring the NWP’s powerful collection to communities across the country and share the complicated history of the fight for women’s equality. Tied to the exhibitions will be programs that encourage conversations to inspire people to share strategies, tactics and insights and take action in their community.

“Zakiya’s tremendous experience leading initiatives, engaging stakeholders, and building organizations from the ground up will be vital as the NWP enters its second century,” said Susan Carter, President of NWP Board of Directors. “We are thrilled that she’s taking on this leadership role at such a pivotal point in the NWP’s history.”

“I am proud to join the National Woman’s Party, a trailblazer for women’s rights, as we renew our commitment to full constitutional equality for women,” said Zakiya Thomas. “We will harness our past to inform and inspire the modern effort for women’s equality, and seize this critical moment of civic engagement among women. We want to help educate the nation on why the Equal Rights Amendment is so crucial to the future. I look forward to working with partners across the world to make women’s equality a reality. Equality simply cannot wait another 100 years.”

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The National Woman’s Party:
Founded in 1913, the National Woman’s Party played a groundbreaking role in securing women’s right to vote. Following ratification of the 19th Amendment, the NWP fought for full constitutional equality for women, including drafting the still-unratified Equal Rights Amendment in 1923. 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. The nonprofit organization is headquartered at the Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument in Washington, DC, and owns and curates one of the world’s most substantial collections of original suffrage and equality artifacts.

Explore the NWP on Web | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

Zakiya Thomas, MSW. Zakiya Thomas is a change agent; helping businesses, nonprofits, and campaigns transform. For over 15 years, she has worked with organizations in transition to improve processes, develop programs, and meet their goals. In 2014, she founded the management consulting firm, Thomas Consulting Group, on the premise of doing well while doing good to help organizations grow, adapt, and thrive. In 2018, Zakiya managed a successful campaign for Lt. Governor of Virginia, helping to elect only the second African American to the position in the state’s history. She is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown Law, teaching a nonpartisan course on how to run for political office. A licensed social worker, Zakiya actively volunteers with Fairfax County’s Department of Family Services and is on the Board of NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia. Zakiya received a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Science from the College of William and Mary.

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