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Assisting, Resisting and Persisting !

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National Organization for Women Washtenaw County Chapter Michigan

CLEMENCY PLEA TO GOVERNOR RICK SNYDER

I stand with the University of Michigan Women's Justice and Clemency Project in urging clemency for these ten incarcerated women:

1. DELORES KAPUSINSKI 191704 Kent County, Murder I, Life, 1988
2. UIVANNE SZENAY 214992 Bay County, Murder I, Conspiracy, Life, 1990
3. NANCY SEAMAN 520695, Oakland County, Murder I, Life, 2004
4. KAREN KANTZLER, Oakland County, Murder II, Life, 1987.
5. MELISSA SWINEY 205346 Oakland County, Murder I, Life, 1988.
6. MELISSA CHAPMAN 196612 Genesee County, Murder I, Life, 1988.
7. MACHILLE PEARSON 170620 Washtenaw County, Murder I, Life, 1984.
8. SUSAN FARRELL, Oakland County, Murder I, Life, 1989.
9. MELANISE PATTERSON, Washtenaw County, Murder I, Life, 1995.
10. TOWANDA EPPENGER, Wayne County, Murder I, Life, 1994.

These women each acted in self-defense but did not receive fair trials based on the facts. Each is currently serving a life sentence. Their convictions demonstrate a severe lack of knowledge of the impact of domestic violence on the lives of women and children. **Please grant them the clemency they deserve.**

Thank you.

[Handwritten Signature] 49441
Name Zip Code

SEPTEMBER MEET-UP !

Our Thursday, September 14th program will focus on the **University of Michigan Women's Justice and Clemency Project** <http://umich.edu/~clemency/> This project has been evaluating the cases of Michigan women serving life sentences for the murder of a domestic partner. Ten of these women have been identified as being survivors of domestic violence who killed in self defense and did not have a fair trial. **Attorney Lynne D'Orio will join us at the Classic Cup**, 4389 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor to explain the magnitude of the problem, the specifics of these cases and why we need to appeal to Governor Snyder for pardons. **Hundreds of hot pink postcards** were signed during Art Fair asking Governor Snyder's clemency in these cases. Postcards will also be available for signing at the meeting, and we will discuss the most effective way of presenting all of them to the Governor. **Social hour will begin at 6:30PM**, and Attorney D'Orio's talk will begin at 7:30. The Classic Cup would like an estimate on attendance, so please let us know if you plan to **join us**:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMTw01or9793p0f0Plv94BLC2f9oKi03l3eagUnkn1p2lpQ/formResponse>

Pivotal Books on Injustice and Inequality

Tell us about a book that changed your perspective, or your life!

Was it something you read as a child, or to a child? A book assigned for a class, or recommended by a friend? Take a moment to give us the title, author and a short explanation of what this book has meant to you. Washtenaw NOW will compile and share the recommendations we receive (check our website this fall for the full list!). Some of the books and members' descriptions will be put on display in the Ypsilanti District Library .

We will choose one title to read and discuss at our November 9, 2017 meet-up.

Here is the link for the form:

<https://goo.gl/forms/qpHJM8rR60hT6lXs1>



We packed our August meet-up to hear Former State Representative Jeff Irwin talk about the status of legislation to expand Michigan's Elliott Larson Civil Rights Act to include LGBT citizens. Supportive **orange postcards** to Governor Snyder were signed and sent, and Representative Irwin gave us contact information for e-mailing comments to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. It was a great discussion! Thanks, Jeff, and good luck in your upcoming run for State Senator !

Join the Michigan Resistance!

This week's focus was to urge House Republicans to formally condemn Trump's racist statements about Charlottesville. We told them to grow a backbone and formally condemn the President through something called a censure. You can help! Join a "calling party" any Monday evening or Tuesday afternoon right here in Ann Arbor! You will be instructed on the issue of the day and how to make the calls. There will be snacks and camaraderie while you make a difference to the future of our democracy!

Use this link to sign up: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqy7mNIPseY87JQFYt5slbvKXolrFYZPY9IKsPBbyYEoKctQ/viewform>



At our May meet-up Lyssa Alexander explained how **Michigan's voter redistricting process has been rigged through "gerrymandering"** to favor the Republican party. In the past, when Democrats have been in control of re-districting, they also abused their power. This thwarting of the will of Michigan voters can be corrected by putting the power of re-districting into the hands of a non-partisan committee. **A petition drive has just begun to change this through a ballot initiative!** **Can you help circulate petitions** so that in the future voters can choose their politicians instead of politicians

choosing their voters? If so, contact Joe Montgomery
at joemontgomery@gmail.com

Read, reflect and have a great month!

This month's quick learning opportunity is brought to you by **Everyday Feminism**, an independent feminist media site led entirely by people of color:

10 Simple Ways White People Can Step Up to Fight Everyday Racism

http://everydayfeminism.com/2014/09/non-racist-white-person/?utm_content=buffer92b7c&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer.

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