



Dear Neighbor,

It's Women's History Month, a time to celebrate the women who carved the path we walk today and support the women who are still fighting to break glass ceilings for future generations.

As Chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus (DWC) and Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Women, Peace, and Security Caucus (WPS), I spent this past week in Congress hearing remarkable stories from women from all over the world and introducing two resolutions to bring attention to women's issues.

I wanted to give you an update on this important work.

On March 8th, International Women's Day, I joined my WPS Caucus Co-Chair, Rep. Mike Waltz, for a special event. We hosted a delegation of Ukrainian government and civil society women leaders, as well as senior U.S. Government officials, for a discussion on how to improve Women, Peace, and Security efforts in Ukraine.

We heard stories of heartbreak, strength, and perseverance from a group of Ukrainian women who have lived through the past year of Putin's war.



They have experienced incredible challenges— losing their husbands, brothers and sons; facing increased gender-based violence; limited access to abortion care and other reproductive health services; a lack of women-specific uniforms, forcing them to wear ill-fitting or even unsafe armor.

They have been stepping into positions of leadership—leading cities, nonprofits, whole regions—and doing it all with unbelievable grit, grace, and tenacity.

Their stories underscored the impact of foreign policy on women and how women play a crucial role in crisis response. As Co-Chair of the WPS Caucus, I will never stop fighting for women like them to be included at all levels of decision making, especially when it comes to discussions of national security, foreign policy, war, and peace.

Why? Because we know that when women and girls are healthy, educated, and safe, their families and communities are more likely to thrive. We also know that the world is more peaceful and prosperous when women have the tools to succeed and operate as equal members in their societies. That's why I also introduced a new resolution that would urge the United States to adopt a feminist foreign policy.

The resolution calls for gender equality to be a core consideration of foreign policy decision making. In fact, ten other countries, including our neighbors Canada and Mexico, have already adopted this approach!

You can read more about that resolution [here](#).

Also last week, I was joined by Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Whip Katherine Clark, and Democratic colleagues for a press conference recognizing March 14th as Equal Pay Day. That's the day the average woman must work into 2023 to finally earn what the average man earned in 2022.

We heard from our special guests, Wendy Chun-Hoon, the Director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor (DOL) about new actions the DOL is taking to encourage pay fairness, as well as from KJ Spisak, former professional soccer player and former assistant coach of the Washington Spirit, the D.C. National Women's Soccer League team, about the struggles of fighting for equal pay.



[Click here](#) to watch our remarks and you can read about the Equal Pay Day resolution I introduced [here](#).

Achieving equal pay is not only a matter of fairness and justice—it's

essential for creating a more equitable and prosperous world. For generations, women have received unequal pay for equal work, been pushed into lower-paying jobs, and penalized for taking time to take care of their loved ones. This means that by the time they retire, women do not always have enough money to meet their needs. I will continue to put people over politics, fight to close the gender wage gap, and ensure women are paid what they are owed.

It was a busy week focused on my work that I'm doing to support women at home and abroad. I look forward to continuing my work in Palm Beach County this week and seeing some of you in-person.

Happy Women's History Month!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lois Frankel".

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress