

## Marching Together to Support Human Rights

Lydia Gonzalez won't be able to vote for another five years, but that's not stopping the 13-year-old from standing up for what she believes in and taking action to have her voice heard.

Lydia and her mom, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence Executive Coordinator Teresa Gonzalez, plan to be among the hundreds of thousands Saturday in our nation's capital supporting human rights during the first-ever [Women's March on Washington](#).

"The results of this election basically knocked the wind out of our sails," Teresa said. "My family felt hopeless and discouraged about the future of our country. We had to come to terms with facing opposition to all that we respect and value as human beings."

"How do we pick up the pieces? How do we move forward?" These were questions the Gonzalez family had to grapple with, as did many others in our country.

The guiding principles of the march are that women's rights are human rights, regardless of a woman's race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, sexual identity, gender expression, economic status, age, or disability. Organizers are hoping to follow Friday's inauguration by making a strong statement of unity, "recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us."

Can't make the Washington D.C. march? There are dozens of organized events worldwide on Saturday, including several in Pennsylvania. According to organizers, nearly 700,000 people have expressed interest in 370 satellite marches around the world.

Social and political activist Gloria Steinem, who was a keynote speaker at PCADV's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in November, is an honorary co-chair of the march. Joining her as co-chair is Harry Belafonte, a singer, songwriter, actor, and social activist. Other high-profile attendees include America Ferrera, Amy Schumer, Uzo Aduba, and Zendaya.

In Pennsylvania, there are marches in Beaver, Doylestown, Erie, Harrisburg, Indiana, Lancaster, Lewisburg, Philadelphia, Reading, Selinsgrove, and Sharon. To find other sister marches, click [here](#) and enter your zip code.

Sally Jo Bronner and her 16-year-old daughter, Shula, will also be attending the Washington D.C. march.

Like the Gonzalez family, the Bronners felt like they needed to take action following the presidential election.

Among her concerns, she said, are the future of women's health care, a woman's right to choose, and regression in advances made with childcare that allow women to balance work and family life.

The Bronners are also worried about the president elect's statements toward and about women and the potential normalization of sexism affecting children. They are also concerned about the issues and rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ) community.

"We are looking forward to being among the thousands of people who feel the same way we do," Sally Jo said. "We need something positive and we hope this can restore our faith in humanity."