



## **A Statement from the AAUW Racial and Social Justice Working Group**

As members of this working group, we are passionate about ensuring that AAUW become more diverse and inclusive. Eliminating the educational requirement for membership is an essential step toward that goal: If we are truly committed to advancing equity for all, we need to become more equitable ourselves. While the requirement may have made sense early in our history, by today's standards it is perceived as elitist, exclusionary and out of touch.

To remain relevant, every organization must evolve. It is essential that we send a loud and clear message that we welcome all who share our values and goals — regardless of whether or not they hold a college degree.

Education remains a top priority for AAUW, of course, and we continue to advocate for opening doors to schooling, training and career opportunities to advance economic security for women and girls. But we will be better positioned to do our work by welcoming a more diverse membership, not turning people away.

We urge you to initiate robust discussion about this proposal within your branch and state organizations. Please share your **comments** with this working group and with the national Board. And we encourage you to weigh in on this important proposal by casting your vote this spring.

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Sandy Bernard, Former National Board President  
Joe Bertolino, National Board Member  
Patricia Fae Ho, Former National Board Chair  
Lisette Garcia, Inclusion & Equity Committee Chair  
Carolyn Garfein, Former National Board President  
Elizabeth Haynes, National Board Member  
Karen Kirkwood, National Board Member  
Dot McLane, Former National Board Member  
Nancy Rustad, Former National Board President  
Ruth Sweetser, Former National Board President