

A photograph of Joe Biden speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark blue suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is gesturing with his right hand, pointing upwards. Behind him is a large, circular seal with a gold border and a blue center, set against a light-colored wall. The photo credit "Photo credit: Shutterstock" is visible in the bottom left corner of the image area.

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Biden's Agenda For Women

The return of women to the workforce is on its way to recovery, but there are still obstacles ahead — and President Biden is looking to help more women make ends meet through his Agenda for Women.

Targeting equal opportunities and rights for women when it comes to healthcare, the economy, education and security is the goal of the agenda, but there are many policies at play that disproportionately affect women.

The agenda calls for four big initiatives to improve the quality of life for women in the United States:

- Fight for equal pay and invest in women-owned businesses.
- Provide affordable healthcare for all women.
- Make affordable childcare and care for older people and people with disabilities more accessible while providing paid leave and other benefits and protections in the workplace for women.
- Put an end to violence against women.

President Biden started putting these efforts into action on his first day in the White House by making sure many of his political appointees were women. Kamala Harris was sworn in as the first woman, Black and South Asian American Vice President. Recent key women appointees include:

- **Heather Dowdy, Member, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board**
- **Hannah Raissa Ibañez, Member, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board**
- **Alexis Ander Kashar, Member, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board**

- **Madeline Rose Ruvolo, Member, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board**
- **Adm. Michelle Janine Howard, USN (Ret.), Member, Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy**
- **Lt. Col. Amy McGrath, USMC (Ret.), Member, Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy**

Another item on Biden's agenda is to "level the negotiating playing field" for women. This would entail the enactment of the Paycheck Protection Act, which would "ban the use of salary history to set wages and make hiring decisions, so employers have one less false justification for under-paying women and people of color."

The administration is also making progress on promoting gender equity. Biden signed two executive orders last year on International Women's Day. The first established a Gender Policy Council and the other, directed at the Department of Education, reversed protections that were given to those accused of sexual assault or harassment under a Title IX regulation by former President Trump's education secretary, Betsy DeVos. It was a controversial move made by DeVos that upended guidance from the Obama-era that DeVos said denied due process to the accused.

The executive order signed by Biden ordered the Department of Education to look at all existing regulations to guarantee educational environments did not discriminate based on sex, which includes discrimination in the form of sexual harassment or sexual violence. It also ensured schools would not discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

While there's still much to be done in terms of guaranteeing equal rights for men and women, this agenda may be the first steps in the right direction.