

Will women on the move turn into a movement?

The energy and hunger expressed in the original Women's March helped to embolden women from outside the establishment to run for office. It helped make them winners at the polls. They brought radical views and a drive to redirect government in favor of the mass of people into state and federal offices.

Can this energy and hunger be organized into a movement that preserves that boldness? Note this reminder from The People's Summit convened by the National Nurses United in 2017: "Movements and electoral politics nourish each other. But electoral politics can also smother movements. The challenge is how to keep the movements alive. Movements flourish when there are politicians in office who have reasons to be afraid of them."

Women on the move

National Nurses United converged at Women's Marches in January to highlight the importance of unions to women and working people. Teachers—women by and large—have emerged to demand quality public education. United Teachers of LA organized in their schools, with parents, and communities for 4 years. When they could not get a contract that supported public schools, their organizing work paid off in a powerful and successful strike.

So, in the third year of the Trump administration, throngs of women showed up on January 19, in Olympia, in Seattle, in cities across the US and across the world, signaling their continued presence. Demanding attention to the issues that affect our day-to-day lives: inequality, poverty, racism, demonization of immigrants and others, greed... Telling everyone that what is at stake is our communities, our families, our future. The task now is to form the energy and hunger into a durable movement.

Photos on these pages were taken January 19 by Ricky Osbourne (in Olympia) and Lindsey Dalthorpe (in Seattle).



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