

**Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
Florida National Organization for Women**

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We live in a crucial time. Women are bombarded by misogyny and sexism from all sides. Senator Hillary Clinton's campaign raised women's hopes of breaking the barriers and being perceived as equals. History will show whether the dice were loaded against Senator Clinton by the media, the opposition, and even her own political party, as many women believe.

It is just such a time as this that women need more Women's Studies programs, not the dissolution of them, as is proposed at USF. Women need to understand the history of why there is so much patriarchal animosity against them, to be able to overcome that enmity and create an environment of equality.

Women Studies Departments prepare women for careers in a variety of fields that not only help individual women, but society in general. That the University of South Florida is thinking of abolishing this department, and has been deliberately and systematically diminishing the department, is a travesty and an insult to women.

The National Organization of Women in Florida implores USF to reconsider dissolving the Women Studies Program. Florida NOW President Jessica McCaffrey says "The feminist analysis of social and political events is too important to be dismissed. It is important and necessary to our society to develop future leaders who understand the intersectional qualities of gender, class, sexuality, and the oppression on which they are based."

Women's Studies not only helps women gain their collective voice, it also helps create the paradigm shift that moves this nation towards acceptance of women as equals.