

**Subject:** Statement on the future of the military draft

**From:** lauradexterlance@gmail.com

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**To:** info@inspire2serve.gov

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on the future of the military draft.

I stand in solidarity with the joint statement made in 2016 by the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth, AFSC, Jewish Peace Fellowship, War Resisters League, and others:

"The argument that extending the registration requirement to women is a way to help reduce gender-based discrimination is specious. It does not represent a move forward for women; it represents a move backward, imposing on young women a burden that young men have had to bear unjustly for many decades – a burden that no young person should have to bear at all. Even more disturbing, this argument fails to acknowledge or address the pervasive climate of sexism and sexual violence that is the reality of military life for many women who serve. If the argument for requiring registration of women as well as men, often framed erroneously as an argument for 'equal rights,' prevails, our society's already swift move toward normalizing military violence for youth and young adults in general, will gain a particular focus on women's participation in military violence. We believe that ... the push to extend the registration requirement to women is made – at least in part – because it will become a facilitating factor for recruiting more people to fight our current endless wars."

Sincerely,  
Laura Dexter Lance  
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