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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEMINISTS DIVIDE OVER ISSUE OF ABORTION

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Feminists Choosing Life of New York (FCLNY), an educational and advocacy human rights group, along with other human rights coalitions, claim the Seneca Falls Women's Equality March, set to occur on January 20th, may further fuel the divisiveness within feminism and the divide between women's groups, potentially destroying the opportunity for New York women to unite for equal rights.

The Seneca Falls event which starts in the First Amendment Park at the Women's Rights National Historical Park, includes numerous speakers. Concerns, however, are brewing over whether any pro-life feminist voice will ring from the platform, espousing equal rights. The march, organized by per-Sisters, has been promoted as 'non-partisan' and 'inclusive,' but feminists that oppose abortion, according to FCLNY, have not yet been invited to speak or even comment from the podium at the public forum.

According to Michele Sterlace-Accorsi, Executive Director of FCLNY, "Feminism contains diversity, hence the need for inclusivity. All feminists believe in equal opportunities for women and oppose discrimination, but an ever growing population of feminists view abortion as a tool of oppression rather than empowerment." The group invokes Governor Cuomo's call, in his 2018 State of the State Address for New Yorkers to recognize diversity as an "asset," not a "liability," and to "find common ground."

The pro-woman/pro-life group praises per-Sisters for their focus on abolishing unequal pay for women, as well as workplace sexual harassment, along with a myriad of other issues plaguing women. The group, however, claims a more expansive definition of 'reproductive rights' and 'self-sovereignty,' one that includes the eradication of socio-economic constructs that impede women's ability to equally participate as potential parents, without the need to end a human life which violates a human right.

Sterlace-Accorsi says, "The early American feminists, who fought and won for women the right to vote, did not agree on every issue, but rather than ignore or silence diversity, they embraced it. That was the secret to their success."