

**Representative Alma Adams**  
**2018 Charlotte Women's March Remarks**  
**January 20, 2018**

Good morning-

I'm Congresswoman Alma Adams and I'm glad to be here with you today on the one year anniversary of the Women's March!

As I look out over this crowd I'm proud to see each of you here, standing up for what you believe in.

Last year, thousands of us took to the streets to protest the injustices women face and to tell the world: **"I AM WOMAN AND I RESIST."**

One year later, it's more important than ever that we stand up, speak up, and cut up if necessary to fight for our rights.

Throughout the morning you've heard from exceptional women from all facets of our community.

They've spoken passionately about the need for equal pay for equal work; access to comprehensive healthcare; and the record number of women who are stepping up to run for office and lead our community.

We've come a long way since the days when Susan B. Anthony and Sojourner Truth fought for our right to vote, but we are still fighting to crack the glass ceiling.

I'm here today to tell you that like Fannie Lou Hammer, I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired!

And have come to tell you to stop worrying about cracking the glass ceiling my sisters, because it's time to bust that thing wide open!

As I look out on you and reflect on my journey from School Board to Congress I suspect my sisters, our paths have been similar and your story is much like mine.

I grew up inspired by a sisterhood of support—the women in my family, my church and community always took the lead and showed me what it meant to be strong and independent.

Throughout my 40 years in the classroom and 32 years in government, I've strived to pass that same determination and independence onto the women around me.

It's important for each of us to be thy sister's keepers.

**SISTERS, TOGETHER WE ARE A FORCE!**

We are mothers, daughters, friends, and neighbors.

And we are also leaders, representatives, and CEOs.

If we set our mind to something, nothing can stand in our way.

Last year, **The Me Too** movement created a call to action—shedding light on the issues of sexual assault and misconduct and demanding that we do more.

In Congress and here at home- **TIME IS UP!**

As Margaret Thatcher said “**In politics, if you want something said, you ask a man, but if you want something done, ask a women**”.

Truer words have never been spoken.

Women, we are doers, and today, we're marching through the streets of Charlotte and cities across our nation to take action and protect our rights.

As you march shoulder to shoulder today, remember our work does not end here.

We must take the spirit of this march with us through every day of 2018.

Whether you're angry, inspired, or a combination of the two-- it's time to put those feelings into action.

Volunteer for a local cause.

Call, email, write, and tweet your representatives.

And if you don't hear from them, **don't stop because they need to hear from you.**

And run for office and Vote!

I often say, "If good people don't vote for good people, bad people get elected and bad people do bad things that hurt good people.

"You can't change policy until you elect good policymakers."

In Washington and here at home, women (*and a few good men*) are fighting hard for: Paid family leave, Equal pay, and Access to Comprehensive healthcare; Resources and support for Women Entrepreneurs and more.

But we need more strong female voices to make our case.

As Lillian Exum once said: **"You just have to start a thing"!**

**Well, we've started a movement and there ain't no stopping us now!**

You see, women are like tea bags—you really don't know how strong we are until we get into hot water.

Well my sisters the temperature is rising today; and as a matter of fact it's pretty hot right now and we've got work to do and yes we're strong enough to get it done.

My sister's tomorrow will be up to us!

It's more important than ever before for women to be engaged, empowered and involved today.

In the final analysis my sisters, it's all about power.

And power is what makes the difference in lives and communities;

And the first thing you have to understand about power and how to get it is;

You don't ask someone how to get it, where it is or can you have it—

You take it!

And once you've taken it my sister's, You Use It!

March on-- Ladies—it's 2018.

**This Is Our Year!**

**AND I APPROVE THIS MESSAGE-**

**SO LET'S TURN THIS MOTHER OUT!**