

UNITEHERE!

275 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001 • TEL (212) 265-7000 • FAX (212) 265-3415
WWW.UNITEHERE.ORG • facebook.com/UNITEHERE • @UNITEHERE

May 11, 2015

Dear Member of Congress,

As leaders in labor, women's, and LGBT organizations we stand together in opposing "Fast Track," otherwise known as Trade Promotion Authority. Under Fast Track, Congress would cede its constitutional power to amend trade agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) to ensure agreements work for our jobs, our environment and communities.

We are further concerned about the inclusion of anti-gay, anti-woman Brunei as a negotiating partner in the TPP. Last year, Brunei began a phased implantation of a new penal code which will impose the death penalty by stoning for same-sex sexual relations and adultery¹. Additionally, the penal code calls for the jailing of women that have abortions and fines and imprisonment for women who give birth out of wedlock. In June of last year, 119 members of Congress wrote to the US Trade Representative asking that Brunei be suspended from TPP talks. Yet, Brunei remains a member of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership. Under Fast Track, Congress would lose its power to exclude Brunei from the TPP and future trade agreements.

We urge you to vote against Fast Track. Please see our attached Fact Sheet, co-written by UNITE HERE, Feminist Majority, Pride At Work, and National Organization for Women's California affiliate for more information on how Fast Track will be a disaster not only for workers, but for women and LGBT people around the world.

Thank you,



D. Taylor
President, UNITE HERE



Eleanor Smeal
President, Feminist Majority



Terry O'Neill
President, NOW



Jerame Davis,
Executive Director, Pride At Work



Patty Bellasalma
President, California NOW

¹ Brunei Penal Code, Section 75; UNITED STATES DEP'T OF STATE, HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT: BRUNEI, 2013, <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/220391.pdf>; Int'l Commission of Jurists, *Submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in Advance of the Examination of Brunei Darussalam's Initial and Second Periodic Reports under Article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, Oct. 4, 2014, http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/BRN/INT_CEDAW_NGO_BRN_18687_E.pdf.

D. TAYLOR, PRESIDENT

GENERAL OFFICERS: Sherri Chiesa, Secretary-Treasurer • Peter Ward, Recording Secretary
Jo Marie Agriesti, General Vice President • Maria Elena Durazo, General Vice President for Immigration, Civil Rights and Diversity

