

# Congresswoman Alma Adams

January 25, 2019  
Women United March

Good morning Charlotte.

Welcome to the Queen City.

Distinguished speakers, special guests and organizers I bring cordial greetings from 830,000 residents of the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional district.

I am delighted to be with you on this beautiful morning for uniting, empowering and engaging women.

MORE power to all of my sisters AND power to my brothers too.

Thank you all for the power you bring

In the last 12 months or so, women have become the most powerful force in America.

Born out of agitation, Women's marches have evolved from a demonstration to determination.

Women feeling their power in a brand new way.

It's energizing --- exciting!

It is the Women's Wave --I call it Pink Power!

Women are rising up, stepping up, speaking up, telling their stories, asserting their roles as leaders and as valued members of their communities.  
It is really a natural progression--because women are doers

Margaret Thatcher said ***"in politics if you want something said ask a man, but if you want something done ask a woman"***.

A woman's place is in every place, in every office, in every house-- from her house to the Court House, the state house and yes, the White House too.

I am proud to be among this sister-hood of strong women stepping out, stepping up, speaking out—working together to empower our communities.

Our power is in our strength and our strength unites us

So let us celebrate that!

Eleanor Roosevelt summed up a woman's strength perfectly.

She said: "A woman is like a teabag".

You can't tell how strong she is, until she gets into hot water.

My sisters and brothers, we gather today because these are hot water times.

**Scorching times right now!**

The Equal Rights Amendment passed in 1972 to guarantee equal rights for women across this country.

Although we have made progress, we have not done enough and we have a long way to go.

We still need equal pay for equal work, paid family and sick leave.

Affordable childcare and health care too

We need a living wage.

Working hard is not enough if you don't make enough.

If we're truly a nation of family values, we wouldn't put up with the fact that many women can't even get a paid day off to give birth.

We should guarantee paid maternity leave and paid paternity leave, too.

That is how you value women and families.

It is critical as well that we talk about the Economy, national Security, Health Care, Education, Criminal Justice Reform, Climate Change, ALL of these things-- because the truth is- All issues are our issues!

If you are a woman trying to raise a family you know a good paying job is a woman's issue.

If you are an immigrant and don't want your family torn apart, then immigration reform is a women's issue.

If you are a young woman working off college loans, you know the crushing blow of student debt is a woman's issue.

If you are a black mother trying to raise a son, you know Black Lives—is a woman's issue.

If you are a woman--you know we deserve a country with equal pay, access to health care-- including the right for women to make their own reproductive decisions-protected as a fundamental, constitutional right.

Women United as you gather to empower and march today--as you climb jacob's ladder (rather Jennifer's ladder); with every round going higher and higher make sure to reach back and bring your sisters and brothers along.

STAY WOKE, Be inclusive so every-one has a seat at the table.

If there is no seat at the table, Shirley Chisolm said: Bring in a folding chair".

I am so very proud to stand with Women United today for the collective power we bring.

My sisters --You got this!

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 somebody how to get it, where it is, or can you have it ***You take it!***

**And once you've taken it you use it!**