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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN
RECOGNIZES WOMEN OF FLINT**

The Michigan Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) held our annual conference on April 9th at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. At the conference five amazing women from Flint were recognized for their work to bring public attention to the poisoning of the Flint water supply. **Bishop Bernadel Jefferson, Melissa Mays, Nayyirah Shariff, Claire McClinton, and LeeAnne Walters (not present) were given the Michigan NOW Activist of the Year award.**

These five amazing women were the first to stand up and draw attention to the fact that there was something wrong with the water in Flint, and they demanded that something be done about it. They were the first to act. They came before all others. Without them, this crisis may never have been acknowledged, or at least it would have taken much longer to recognize the problem, and many more would have been poisoned. Some of these women were active in their community protesting the appointment of an Emergency Manager before the water crisis began, and for some, this was their first experience being an activist. We applaud these women for having the courage and the strength to stand up and fight for their community.



Pictured left to right: Claire McClinton, Nayyirah Shariff, Melissa Mays, Bishop Bernadel Jefferson, and Michigan NOW President Danielle Troia.

NOW's purpose is to take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life. We ask you to stand with the Michigan members of the National Organization for Women to ensure that everyone is treated fairly.

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Please contact Nina Muckenthaler at (810) 406-5441 if you have any questions regarding this press release.