Diversity and Discord in the National Organization for Women

The National Organization for Women (NOW) has been a leading voice for women's rights since its founding in 1966. However, the organization has not always been free of controversy. In recent years, NOW has been criticized for its perceived lack of diversity and for its handling of internal disputes.



Fighting for NOW: Diversity and Discord in the National Organization for Women by Charles J. Sykes

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 633 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 196 pages



Lack of Diversity

color and other marginalized groups.

One of the most common criticisms of NOW is that it is not diverse enough. The organization's leadership is predominantly white, and critics argue that this does not reflect the diversity of women in the United States.

Additionally, NOW has been criticized for its lack of outreach to women of

In response to these criticisms, NOW has made some efforts to increase its diversity. In 2019, the organization elected its first woman of color, Terry O'Neill, as president. NOW has also created a new task force on diversity and inclusion.

Internal Disputes

NOW has also been criticized for its handling of internal disputes. In recent years, there have been several high-profile conflicts within the organization. These conflicts have often been over issues of race, gender, and sexuality.

One of the most notable conflicts occurred in 2018, when four NOW board members resigned in protest over the organization's handling of a sexual harassment allegation against a former board member. The board members accused NOW of silencing victims of sexual harassment and of failing to hold the accused member accountable.

These internal conflicts have led to some questions about the future of NOW. Some critics argue that the organization is too divided to be effective. Others believe that NOW can overcome its challenges and continue to be a leading voice for women's rights.

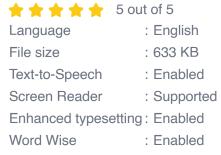
The National Organization for Women has been a powerful force for women's rights for over 50 years. However, the organization has faced some challenges in recent years, including criticism for its lack of diversity and its handling of internal disputes. NOW has taken some steps to address these criticisms, but it remains to be seen whether the organization can overcome its challenges and continue to be a leading voice for women's rights.

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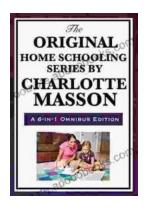
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