

Public Policy

Go for the Gold!



By Jeanne Delp

“Go for the Gold!” That refrain was heard for 16 exciting days during the 2024 Paris Olympics, and WORLD WOMEN Olympians certainly did! By Google’s count WORLD WOMEN took home a grand total of 399 Gold medals. And Team USA has women to thank for 26 of those shining gold medals. In fact, according to [USA Today](#), USA women won more medals than their male teammates, as well as the fourth time our country has sent more women than men. Team USA's Paris roster featured 314 women and 278 men.

Olympic and Paralympic CEO Sarah Hirshland said that the US women athletes' achievements are a testament to [Title IX](#), which prohibits sex discrimination in federally-funded school programs. **“Their performances are a reminder of how far we’ve come and the boundless potential that still lies ahead,”** she said. “We couldn’t be prouder of their achievements.”

Harry Edwards, Black activist and sports professor at Harvard, when talking about women’s achievements, has this to say: “Women have always been at the forefront of the (struggle) during the 20th century. There’s no reason this era will be any different, and women are going to be pushed to the forefront.” And as Maya Angelou said, “Courage is the greatest of all virtues, because without it, no other virtue is possible.” WE’VE COME A LONG WAY. Those Women Olympians are not only courageous but dedicated. Those women took home 399 Gold Medals!

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, July 13, 2024, “More women than ever have entered the American workforce. Women now hold a record 79 million jobs, and the share of women in their prime working years who are employed or seeking work now stands at 77.9%, up from 75.8% five years ago. **But it’s not time for a victory lap just yet.** . . . Many (women) say they are effectively working two full-time jobs: managing their households and their careers.”

This is where AAUW’s Mission and Priorities become even more evident. We advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. We support equity in education. We support enforcement of Title IX. We support equity, fair pay, and security in retirement for women. We support social and racial justice for all members of society, and we support advancing women in leadership roles.

Leadership? Let’s work for more GOLDS in the Future!