

## Man's Duty to Protect Woman

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On January 24, 2013, the former Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, and the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army General Martin E. Dempsey, rescinded the policy that women are excluded from combat service<sup>1</sup>. In January of 2016, former Secretary of Defense Ash Carter implemented the removal of all sex-based restrictions for women in military service<sup>2</sup>. Since that time Congressional legislation has been proposed, but not yet passed, that would require women to register with the Selective Service System<sup>3</sup> (also known as conscription or the draft).

Following the example of Christ Jesus who gave up His life for His Bride, the Church, man is to lay down his life in defense of woman (Ephesians 5:25). As life-giver (Genesis 3:20; Psalm 128:3), woman has always been honored by man's defense of her and her children. A civil government or magistrate dishonors womanhood by placing her in the uniform of a combatant (Deuteronomy 22:5<sup>4</sup>) and commanding her to take up arms. Further, given woman's comparative physical weakness (1 Peter 3:7) in the face of male enemies, such governing magistrates place their homeland at unnecessary risk. In addition to this, a number of Biblical texts indicate that it is man's duty to defend his wife, children, and nation (e.g. Numbers 1:2-3; Numbers 31:3; Deuteronomy 24:5; Joshua 1:14; Nehemiah 4:14), and the dishonor and shame in having women do so (e.g. Judges 4:8-9; Isaiah 19:16; Nahum 3:13 Jeremiah 50:37; Jeremiah 51:30). Finally, female military combatants of childbearing age often (whether knowingly or unknowingly) place at risk unborn children, which is an act contrary to the just war principle of avoiding needless loss of life. Therefore, Christ Community Church condemns the use of women as military combatants, the conscription of women into the armed forces, and any requirement for her to register for conscription into military service; and upholds the duty of men to protect women and children.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://web.archive.org/web/\\*/https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-15-589.pdf\\*](https://web.archive.org/web/*/https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-15-589.pdf*)

<sup>2</sup> [https://web.archive.org/web/\\*/https://www.sss.gov/register/women/\\*](https://web.archive.org/web/*/https://www.sss.gov/register/women/*)

<sup>3</sup> [https://web.archive.org/web/\\*/https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2021/09/02/we-need-everybody-plans-to-make-women-register-for-potential-military-draft-advance-in-policy-bill/\\*](https://web.archive.org/web/*/https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2021/09/02/we-need-everybody-plans-to-make-women-register-for-potential-military-draft-advance-in-policy-bill/*) and [https://web.archive.org/web/\\*/https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/12/07/congress-drops-effort-add-women-draft.html\\*](https://web.archive.org/web/*/https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/12/07/congress-drops-effort-add-women-draft.html*)

<sup>4</sup> In the text, "that which pertaineth to a man" (KJV) refers to the clothing and weapons worn by men for combat. See, for example, Flavius Josephus *The Antiquities of the Jews*, Book IV. chap. 8. sect. 43; and Matthew Henry *A Commentary on the Holy Bible*, (Ward, Lock & Co., Vol 2), p 475