

## **DOJ GEN STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG**

*Think back to 1787. Who were 'we the people'? ... They certainly weren't women ... they surely weren't people held in human bondage. The genius of our Constitution is that over now more than 200 sometimes turbulent years that 'we' has expanded and expanded.*

-Ruth Bader Ginsburg

The DOJ Gender Equality Network recognizes the life and work of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who passed away on Friday. Standing on the shoulders of earlier advocates, such as Pauli Murray, Justice Ginsburg was monumental in promoting gender equality.

If we still lived in the world women navigated in 1972, many of us would reside in states where women would need their husband's consent to get a loan, and no men anywhere could get Social Security survivor benefits to rear their children if their wives died. These realities are inconceivable today only because Justice Ginsburg and others used the law as an instrument for social change.

We thank the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg for an extraordinary life lived in service of the fight for equality. Her fight continues and we are proud to carry it forward.

**-DOJ GEN Board of Directors**