



ADDITIONAL WOMEN & CHILDREN TALKING POINTS

We encourage you to use our fact sheet — [What women need to know about nuclear power](#)— as well as our longer [eponymous handbook](#) — for talking points with your Members of Congress. However, here are a few suggested additional questions you might ask, or points you could raise.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE HARMED MORE BY NUCLEAR POWER

- Radiation exposure harms women and children disproportionately compared to men, yet this susceptibility remains unrecognized, uncompensated and unprotected.
- Adult women suffer 50% more harm than adult males when exposed to radioactivity, and female children suffer nearly 10 times more harm.
- Did you know that allowable radiation exposure standards are established using “Reference Man”, a hypothetical 20- to 30-year old “Caucasian male”? This is scientifically inappropriate because it means the standards do not protect those most at risk, often women and children.
- The health damage caused to people, particularly women and children, isn't accounted for in the economics of nuclear power. Would you agree that, when calculating the true costs of nuclear power, we need to include the damage it does to human and environmental health and the resulting expense in treating this damage?
- Why should women and children pay with their health for our energy use? Is it fair to ask them to bear this disproportionate burden?

NUCLEAR POWER RADIATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH CHILDHOOD DISEASE

- Why are childhood cancers elevated in areas of higher radiation levels – including around nuclear facilities – when industry and regulators claim these doses are safe? Shouldn't we be switching to energy sources that are safer for children?
- Impaired brain development in children, fetal deaths in late pregnancy and deaths of newborns, and even endocrine disruption, can occur at very low radiation levels that are nevertheless considered safe by industry and regulators. Given these harms, how can we justify continued use of this technology, when instead we can switch to energy sources that are actually renewable and that don't carry health risks for future generations?

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