

GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS

www.GFWC.org



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For Immediate Release

GFWC HONORS ADA CALHOUN WITH NATIONAL JOURNALISM AWARD

*Calhoun named winner of 2015 Jane Cunningham Croly Award for her NBCNews.com story,
"Pregnant on Opiates: When Following Doctors' Orders Breaks the Law"*

June 9, 2015 (Washington, D.C.) – The General Federation of Women's Clubs is pleased to honor freelance journalist Ada Calhoun with the 2015 Jane Cunningham Croly Award for Excellence in Journalism Covering Issues of Concern to Women. The award, which recognizes journalists who best capture the courage, vision, and spirit of GFWC's founder and pioneering journalist Jane Cunningham Croly, will be presented by GFWC International President Babs J. Condon during the organization's 2015 Annual Convention in Memphis, Tennessee. Croly Award winners demonstrate a concern for the rights and advancement of women in our society; an awareness of women's strength and courage; and/or an attempt to counteract sexism.

Calhoun was selected for her eye-opening NBCNews.com story, *Pregnant on Opiates: When Following Doctors' Orders Breaks the Law*, which gives readers a glimpse into the life of Jenessa Moman, a mother of four who struggled with addiction and later, the justice system upon following direction from her doctors to ensure the health of her baby. Calhoun effectively highlights the fear of women like Moman, who find themselves caught between accepted medical maintenance for themselves and their child, and laws that state that very same maintenance is child abuse.

"We are honored to bestow this honor upon a woman who writes fearlessly and insightfully about the disparity of medical treatments for women who deal with addictions of any sort during pregnancy," said Condon. "Quality of life is the very core of the strength of families and we applaud this journalistic courage that reflects the values of GFWC."

Freelance journalist and author **Ada Calhoun** has written for *The New Republic*, *Time*, *New York*, and the *New York Times*. She was the Alicia Patterson Foundation's 2014 Josephine Patterson Albright Fellow, for which she spent last year reporting on pregnant women and the criminal justice and child welfare systems, including this story on Jenessa Moman. In 2013, she won the Council on Contemporary Families Media Award for Print Coverage of Family Issues for her reporting for [The New York Times Magazine](#) on chemical endangerment arrests in Alabama. She has a book on New York City history coming out in the fall from WW Norton, called *St. Marks Is Dead: The Hippest Street in America*.

For more information about the award and past honorees, visit www.GFWC.org.

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About the General Federation of Women's Clubs

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is a unifying force, bringing together local women's clubs, with members dedicated to strengthening their communities and enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. With 100,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state and internationally, GFWC members are community leaders who work locally to create global change by supporting the arts, preserving natural resources, advancing education, promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging civic involvement, and working toward world peace and understanding.

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