



## COMMITTEE FOR EQUITY IN WOMEN'S SURFING

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PRESS RELEASE — Tuesday, June 29, 2021

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### Charlize Theron to produce Netflix Feature on Gender-Imbalance in Big Wave Pro Surfing

Before the ink was dry, Variety reported that Filmmaker Niki Caro and A-list celebrity and producer Charlize Theron are teaming up to develop a feature film about the fight for gender equality in big wave surfing for Netflix. Caro ("Whale Rider") will direct the film, from a screenplay adapted by Becky Johnston ("The Prince of Tides").

In June 2021, Theron's production company Denver and Delilah signed a deal with Netflix to produce a narrative film about the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing, also known as Surf Equity. The feature is based on five Surf Equity co-founders — **Paige Alms, Sabrina Brennan, Keala Kennelly, Andrea Moller, Bianca Valenti** — and their fight for the inclusion of women in surf competitions held at Mavericks in Northern California and their successful negotiations for global equal prize money for women professional surfers as recounted in the 2019 New York Times Magazine article "The Fight for Gender Equality in One of the Most Dangerous Sports on Earth".

Sabrina Brennan, activist, and Surf Equity co-founder said:

"In 2015, when I began fighting for equality in big wave surfing, women athletes were excluded from competitions in California and equal pay wasn't an option. With support from four professional surfers and state oversight from the California Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission we won the fight for inclusion and equal pay in 2018. The fight isn't over yet, battles for inclusion and equity across all sports deserve attention and I'm hopeful this film will help bring it."

Karen Tynan, the attorney who advised Surf Equity on legal strategies and tactics, expressed great satisfaction with the announcement.

"For so long, this struggle was behind the scenes and unfolding in small increments of success with the Coastal Commission and other agencies. I'm proud to see the collaboration recognized and celebrated!"



On Sept 5, 2018, the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing (aka Surf Equity) won the fight for equal prize money across all World Surf League global events. More change is needed. Surf Equity supports a balanced ratio of women and men in professional surf competitions. Today, men have far more opportunities to earn prize money and sponsorships than women. Several exclusive male-only pro contests still exist despite efforts to correct systemic gender imbalance. To address this, it's critically important that women and girls are included in qualifying events so they can earn points and prize money and compete in the Olympics.

We never imagined a narrative film based on our work would be developed by Charlize Theron's team and Netflix. We're hopeful that the feature will provide an opportunity for filmmakers, athletes, and equity activists to increase visibility, inclusion and equality in professional sports and increase opportunities for everyone, especially women and girls and Black and Brown surfers. Social empathy expands when stories are shared, and activism is celebrated.

In the spirit of inclusivity, the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing changed its name to 'Surf Equity' in June 2020 to better serve all races, ethnicities, abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, sexual orientations, cultures, and genders, including those who identify as nonbinary and transgender. Please follow us on Instagram @SurfEquity and checkout our website [www.SurfEquity.org](http://www.SurfEquity.org).

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Increasing the number of events and the number of awards for women, as well as offering equal prize money, is the only way to achieve meaningful equity in competitive sports.