

## Women's Rights "Political and Socioeconomic Equality Of The Sexes"

The woman is a life giver, life breather, life feeder, and holds up a society. Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune states, "The true worth of a race must be measured by the character of its womanhood."

Through advocacy, blood, sweat, tears, childbearing, litigation, and the like; women have gained access to quality healthcare, educational attainment at all levels, civic participation, and broke economic barriers. In the United States of America, generations of women were treated as the lesser gender. Despite gains in gender equality over the past centuries, women are still victims of harassment, assault, and discrimination in the workplace and at home.

It is time to broaden the conversation and legislation about women's rights, increase public consciousness about women, and truly acknowledge women's history and contribution to this American experiment with democracy. Every contribution a woman makes, a society makes. Therefore, the role of a woman cannot be pigeonholed into a single set of issues or solutions. Her reach is social, political, economic, and cognitive. The Solutions to women's rights are, but not limited to:

- ⌘ Ratify a 21<sup>st</sup> century Equal Rights Amendment
- ⌘ State governments, local school boards, and college boards offer and enroll students in gender studies courses at the elementary, secondary, and collegiate levels
- ⌘ Increase protections of women in tribal, indigenous, and native government jurisdictions

- ⌘ Expand access and increase quality healthcare to incarcerated pregnant women
- ⌘ Methodically and intentionally close the gender gap
- ⌘ Promote feminist philanthropy at the state and local levels
- ⌘ Fully enforce and fund laws on the books which are related to violence, equal protection, due process, employment protections, and healthcare
- ⌘ Craft and execute legislation to end female genital mutilation
- ⌘ Protect reproductive and sexual rights and access to contraceptives
- ⌘ Restrict abortions to twenty-four (24) weeks, except where it is detrimental to the mother
- ⌘ Grant new mothers and fathers a minimum of eight (8) weeks of paid leave from their employers
- ⌘ Eradicate trafficking of forced laborers and sexual slaves
- ⌘ Granted women one-third (1/3) of all local, state, and federal government contracts
- ⌘ State and federal legislation to "Bring The Man Back In The House," which is a counter to the Aid To Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) policy, "No Man In The House" Rule

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