

The Truth Behind Women's Equality

Women across America struggle to gain equality with the opposite gender. Economically, women strive to use the education they were given and use it beneficially in their lives. But how are women supposed to make their lives better when they aren't getting the same pay as the man sitting next to them? Socially, one in six female American citizens has been or will be a victim of rape, domestic violence, or verbal/sexual assault. Politically, women strive to gain equal rights because, today, in America fifteen states have yet to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The women in America struggle economically, socially, and politically even though there has been a recent uprising for women's rights in today's America.

For every dollar a man makes, a woman with the same job only makes 78 cents. While women are earning the majority of undergraduate and graduate degrees, one in three women live in or on the brink of poverty. Women are supposed to have equal opportunities with their fellow men and as much as we want to believe that women can be just as successful, it's not probable when men are making thousands more a year than the woman in this country. Of all the students who graduate with degrees, 60% of them are women. Female citizens continue to work harder to be successful, but no matter how hard a woman works to be placed in the highest standing position a man with the same job, on average, will make \$112 more than a woman.

Every two minutes an innocent woman in America will be raped. Of the 263,700 rapes a year in America, 68% of those rapes will go unreported, and 98% of those rapists will never see jail. One in six American women will be a victim of sexual assault and nearly half of the women in all of the United States have been a victim of physiological assault. A study shows that the majority of men admit to rape being wrong and illegal. Then they were asked, if they wouldn't get caught, would they take advantage of a woman without her consent and the overwhelming majority said "yes". If men think that it is OK to commit rape, if they get away with it, what does that say for the future rape victims and rapists in America?

Many say that even though it is harder for women to be successful and it may be socially more challenging, women, under the law; still have equal rights as men. They believe there is no need to advocate women's rights when there is nothing women can gain from it legally. Women are just as free as their neighboring man seems like an honest and true statement. The women of America have been advocating women's rights for 95 years and now we stand on the shoulders of the women in the woman's suffrage act. In the Roaring 20's, women stood up at the election of 1920 and demanded their right to vote in our supposedly free country. In 1923, the 19th amendment guaranteed women the right to vote. Is that enough to say that women are "free"? The Alice Institute says, "That without the Equal Rights Amendment, the Constitution doesn't explicitly guarantee that the rights it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex." Many women in America have to fight long, expensive trials to prove that they're equal to those of the opposite gender. There are still 15 states that have yet to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Today many people are unaware of the truth behind women's equality. Beginning with women's equal rights in the workplace, and continuing on into the woman's social life. Women even have to struggle with legal rights in and out of court. Women's equality is an overlooked issue that has many reasons to be noticed throughout the country. Even with feminism on the uprising, women still choose to advocate their free rights, we need to pull back the black veil and show people what's really happening in the United States.