

## Women's Predicament with Equality

Women suffered from inequality for nearly a century! When kids nowadays are in kindergarten, they learn all these necessary morals to live by, one being fairness. Now imagine you had to wait over a 100 years to get something that you rightfully deserved. It would be dreadful right? Women throughout the 1800's and 1900's took on the goal of ending discrimination against the female gender. The fight for women's rights was an immense dilemma for all women throughout the world. However, there were a few suffragists that really stood out to the human race. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, Ida B. Wells, and Carrie Chapman Catt all helped to relieve women's suffrage. Originally, they were unable to vote, have total freedom of speech, many lived in poverty, and finally, this entire crisis took up these women's whole life. Fortunately, these women dedicated their lives to obtaining equality and women's rights.

Who was Elizabeth Cady Stanton? Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an author, lecturer, chief philosopher, and a women suffragist during the early and mid 1800's. Stanton really proclaimed the difference in men's and women's privileges. For example, Stanton brought awareness around women not being able to own land, not being able to vote, that men had authority over women, and they lacked the same education. "A woman will always be dependent until she holds a purse of her own" (Stanton). This quote proclaims how women didn't own anything of their own. If anything, they were the ones being owned by the males of the society. Stanton would also attend lectures and speeches. She worked with another woman's rights' leader, Susan B. Anthony, on the History of Woman Suffrage Book. Elizabeth opposed The Bible since it was against women's rights.

Having the choice of telling the truth or lying can be a difficult situation for some people. A woman by the name of, Sojourner Truth, was a slave and a women's rights' fighter. Since Sojourner was a slave, she undoubtedly had obstacles to face. Not only was Truth able to get out of slavery, but she bolstered the women's rights suffragists. "I did not run off, for I thought that wicked, but I walked off, believing that to be all right" (Truth). Truth was not scared of going against what other people thought was appropriate. When Sojourner was under the control of white people, she was evidently impoverished. "If women want any rights more than they's got, why don't they just take them, and not be talking about it" (Truth). Sojourner knew that women were not going to just obtain equality with the snap of their fingers. That is why she strived to seize their well-deserved equality.

Imagine being imprisoned over an opinion, even though all around the world, people know it is the appropriate way. Unfortunately, obtaining women's rights took over a century to attain. Alice Paul fought for equality. Alice Paul was arrested seven times and imprisoned three times, just for striking against women's suffrage. Paul would utilize hunger strikes as a movement opposing women's suffrage. "Food simply isn't important to me" (Paul). Alice sacrificed her own life to demonstrate how women are just as meaningful and influential as men. "There will never be a new world order until women are a part of it" (Paul). A world without women would be catastrophic. Women accumulate about 50% of today's population, therefore

meaning they take up half of today's working force. If the world looked down upon women, how would everyone around the world be stable?

Once again, here is another instance where not only there was sexism, but also racism. Ida B. Wells was another victim of both sexism and racism, but she didn't just lounge around and try to ignore the pessimism. Wells got to her feet and took a stand against what she knew was unacceptable. "One had better die fighting against injustice than to die like a dog or a rat in a trap" (Wells). Ida would write about racism and sexism to be able to demonstrate how prejudice the world was. In May, 1884, a couple men on a train declared Ida B. Wells to go to the African American train car. However, Ida refused to, especially because she knew she had to rise to the challenge of standing up for what's right. "I came home every Friday afternoon, riding the six miles on the back of a big mule. I spent Saturday and Sunday washing and ironing and cooking for the children and went back to my country school on Sunday afternoon" (Wells). My mother has always been there for me. She has cooked countless meals, drove me to a myriad of soccer practices. I would never be able to repay my mom for what she has done for me. Ever since women came to the world, they have repeatedly demonstrated their wholeheartedness for the acceptance of different people I around the world.

Women were not always allowed into advanced classes or accepted into higher or more prestigious meetings/events/classes. It is crazy how women were told they were not as good as men, when in fact, they could easily be more intelligent than men. Carrie Chapman Catt was a woman who in 1880 received a Bachelor of Science degree in general science, while also being the only female in her class. After many of Carrie's professions, she became a woman's suffragist political activist. "In the adjustment of the new order of things, we women demand an equal voice; we shall accept nothing less" (Catt). Catt recognized how women have consistently been worked and have toiled, even when they do not receive what they merit. Carrie demanded to get equality, who definitely was not going to surrender. "The vote is the emblem of your equality, women of America, the guarantee of your liberty" (Catt). It is as if Carrie Chapman Catt was using the Statue of Liberty to substantiate that women are equal. I feel Carrie highlights the word "liberty" in her quote to reference the Statue of Liberty, especially since the Statue of Liberty symbolizes freedom, and this led to the First Amendment stating the freedoms of America (1st Amendment was est. in 1791; way before women were realizing how sexist the world was). Although Carrie Chapman Catt may not have been using The Statue of Liberty and The 1st Amendment to validate her concerns, they still determine how women were and are equal. Our founding principles express how everyone, every gender, has freedoms.

How would life be for humanity if these women had not overcome all of the obstacles necessary to obtain equality? Thanks to the tenacious women in the 1800's and 1900's we live at peace, without sexism being as immense of a headache as it used to be. The thought of being imprisoned because of an opinion is just disheartening. Especially since the people of the world contradicted The 1st Amendment. Due to women's consistent optimism, they were able to achieve equality. Winston Churchill once said, "Never give up on something that you can't go a day without thinking about" (Churchill). Women never gave up on obtaining equality, since that was all they could think about. To this day there are still complications with the world (currently The Coronavirus), but there is no reason to give up because of something that is very possible to overcome. I once said, "When you feel like drowning in despair, recall the optimistic things in your life, to guide you to your success."