

## Declaration of Sentiments 2026



Washington DC Supreme Court- June 4, 2018

## **Spoken Preface**

**In 1776, a nation declared its independence.**

**In 1848, women answered with the Declaration of Sentiments.**

**In 2020, the Constitution was completed with the Equal Rights Amendment.**

**This Declaration is read in recognition that while women experience harm differently, all women are denied equal standing under the law — and how women are treated is the measure of the breath of our democracy.**

## **Declaration**

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one-half of the people to call a nation back to its own declared truths, a decent respect for the opinions of humankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to speak.

We hold these truths to be self-evident:

that all persons are created equal;

that women are born into the same dignity and moral worth as men;

that women are equal citizens of this Republic;

that this equality belongs to all women, without exception, regardless of race, color, ancestry, or national origin;

and that governments are instituted to secure these truths, not to delay or deny them.

Women are the source of human life.

They carry each generation through peril, stand at death's door to bring forth new life, and sustain families and communities through labor that is physical, emotional, and enduring.

Nearly two centuries after women first proclaimed these truths in the 1848.

Declaration of Sentiments exposing the contradiction of celebrating liberty while denying it to mothers and daughters;

fifty years after women again demanded equality in the nation's name; and despite the required state ratifications in 2020 of the Equal Rights Amendment — these injuries, though altered in form, persist in substance.

The history of women under this government is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an unequal order.

Women have been denied equal protection of the Constitution. They have been governed without full consent while bearing the burdens of society.

They have been left unsafe in their homes and communities.

Their labor has been extracted and erased.

Their bodies have been controlled, commodified, and exploited.

Their voices have been silenced.

**Their equality has been delayed—again and again—not because it is absent from the Constitution, but because its recognition and enforcement have been withheld since 2020.**

## **Grievances**

1. He has denied women equal protection of the Constitution by refusing to publish and enforce the Equal Rights Amendment, though it has been duly ratified by the states.
2. He has governed women without their full consent while relying upon their bodies, labor, and care to sustain the nation.
3. He has failed to secure women's safety, turning a blind eye to violence within homes and communities and treating enforcement as optional rather than mandatory.
4. He has subjected women to control over their bodies and erased sex at birth as a material reality, weakening women's ability to claim sex-based protections.
5. He has demanded women's sacrifice while withholding equal authority, dignity, and security.

6. He has tolerated moral and civic frameworks that seek harmony while ignoring women's suffering.
7. He has kept women economically unequal, paying less for equal work and leaving women disproportionately impoverished across the lifespan.
8. He has erased women's labor from the nation's accounting, excluding caregiving and mothering from measures of productivity and prosperity.
9. He has excluded women from equal participation in governance and decision-making.
10. He has constrained women's freedom of speech and conscience, retaliating against women who speak about sex, safety, or equality.
11. He has denied women equal consideration in health and medicine, treating the male body as default.
12. He has granted the state superior power over mothers, allowing women to lose custody or parental rights without equal counsel or due process.
13. He has permitted the commodification of women's bodies and reproductive capacities, including through commercial surrogacy.
14. He has allowed technology to be weaponized against women through digital sexual exploitation, artificial intelligence, and image-based abuse.
15. He has failed to protect girls from sexual abuse, sexualization and grooming, permitting systems that profit from the pornification and sexual exploitation of female development.
16. He has prolonged injustice through delay and deflection, demanding ever higher hurdles while claiming uncertainty where the law is already clear.

## **Declaration**

Now, in view of this continued denial—despite constitutional equality—we insist that these wrongs be righted.

We declare that women are henceforth equal citizens of this Republic. **We affirm women's dignity and equality in all their lives and paths, whether or not they become mothers.**

That equality under law must be real, enforced, and lived.

We affirm that the labor of women—of caregiving, creation, partnership, and community-building—is foundational to the nation's strength and must be recognized in law and economics alike.

We affirm that women's bodies and lives are not instruments of control or profit.

We affirm that homes and families flourish where women are safe, equal, and honored as full partners, and that partnership—not hierarchy—is the foundation of a healthy society.

We affirm that love of neighbor, if it is to mean anything at all, must include women—explicitly, fully, and without exception.

## **Conclusion**

**Therefore, we solemnly publish and declare**  
that women are free and equal;  
that their rights are inherent and inalienable;  
and that any government which denies them equality  
**acts against democracy itself.**

For the daughters yet unborn,  
for the mothers who bore every generation through danger and sacrifice,  
and for the sake of the Republic,

we demand justice,  
we claim equality,  
and we will accept nothing less.

## **Call to Action**

Having declared these truths, we call upon the people of the United States to act in accordance with them.

Equality requires the steadfast engagement of a nation committed to justice. **1. Publish and Enforce the Equal Rights Amendment**

The Equal Rights Amendment has been duly ratified by the states and stands as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the Constitution.

We call upon the federal government to publish and enforce the ERA without delay, and to govern, legislate, and adjudicate in full recognition of women's equal constitutional status.

## **2. Observe the 28th of Each Month as a Day of Economic Conscience**

Until women's equality is fully enforced in law and practice, the 28th of every month shall serve as a national reminder that equality already exists in the Constitution.

On the 28th individuals boycott, reduce purchases, choose small or locally owned businesses, or withhold economic support from systems that profit from inequality. **Equality has economic weight.**

## **3. Support the Work of Constitutional Enforcement**

Rights without enforcement are not rights at all.

We call upon those who are able to support organizations engaged in securing women's constitutional equality, including [Equal Means Equal .org](http://EqualMeansEqual.org)

More info contact

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