

Women's Declaration of Independence

A call for full U. S. Constitutional
Equality

Presented to citizens on July 4,
2026

Preface

The words “Equal Justice Under
Law” are carved in stone on the
Supreme Court building in
Washington, D.C.

But those words have never
applied to women,

because women have never had full legal equality under the United States Constitution.

This is not only a women's issue—it is a constitutional failure that harms everyone.

This Declaration is being read by women across the nation today, on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, to confront this truth and declare our collective commitment to the establishment of women as fully equal citizens once and for all.

Although the Fourteenth Amendment was adopted in 1868 to guarantee “persons” equal protection of the laws, it has never been applied equally to women. And although the *Equal Rights Amendment*, which establishes women’s equality, was ratified in 2020, it has not been implemented

The *Equal Rights Amendment* states:

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

”

When women are not equal, they suffer needlessly; families are less stable; and American democracy stands on uncertain ground.

When those who bring forth and sustain life and country are not equally protected by our laws, society is disrupted at its foundation.

Equality is promised in our nation’s foundational documents.

Yet equality is being denied to half the population.

In 1776, we set out to create the world's greatest democracy by declaring that equality would be our nation's guiding principle. Two hundred and fifty years later, this principle remains elusive for American women.

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 truths, we declare the causes which compel us to speak.

We hold these truths to be self-evident:

that all persons are created equal; that women are persons; and that government exists to secure these truths—not to delay or deny them.

In 1848, women first declared these truths at Seneca Falls, New York.

In 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution promised equal protection of the laws to persons. Yet the Supreme Court refused to extend this guarantee to women.

In 1923, women proposed the Equal Rights Amendment to establish their equality in clear constitutional terms.

In 2020, the *Equal Rights Amendment* was fully ratified.

Yet it has not been honored or implemented by those entrusted with governing this nation.

Women bring forth life, pay taxes, vote, sustain families, serve their communities, and give their lives on the front lines of battle in defense of American democracy.

To deny women constitutional equality is to deny their dignity, humanity and inalienable rights. A just society aligns authority with responsibility

Those who serve our democracy equally are entitled to its protections—equally and without exception.

Yet the Equal Protection Clause is not enforced equally for women. Courts apply a lesser standard—*Intermediate Scrutiny*—

a standard that allows unequal treatment to continue.

The highest standard, *Strict Scrutiny*, remains unavailable to women.

The Constitution now speaks plainly with the 28th Amendment -

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

Without it, government officials—

including lawmakers and the courts — retain the legal authority to treat women differently, and worse.

Grievances

The government's use of *Intermediate Scrutiny* denies women equality under the law.

The government's refusal to enforce the *Equal Rights Amendment* denies women equality under the law.

As a result, the government has:

denied women equal opportunity
keeping women economically
oppressed, all the while
devaluing the roles of caregiver
and parenthood.

Failed to protect women equally
against violence and abuse.

Granted itself greater authority
over women than women have
over their own lives and the lives
of their children.

Permitted and profited from the exploitation and sale of women's bodies.

Allowed technology to be used to harm and exploit women and girls.

Allowed women to be harmed in ways that are not allowed for others

These systemic injustices are legally authorized by our Constitution.

Declaration of Principles

We declare that women are equal citizens of this Republic.

We *affirm* that equality for women must be clear in the written law and clear in its enforcement.

We *affirm* that motherhood and reproduction are unique and vital aspects of women's lives and deserve the utmost legal respect.

We *affirm* that the labor of women—paid and unpaid— is

indispensable to our nation's economic well-being.

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

We affirm that a just society honors legal equality among all people and in the systems that govern them

We affirm that when women are finally equal, society will be stronger — for everyone.

Declaration of Action

The *Equal Rights Amendment* has been ratified.

We call upon the people to:

Demand its immediate implementation and enforcement.

Demand its recognition by all government officials— in law, in policy, and in education.

Demand that all courts guarantee women full and equal protection of

the law, as required by the Equal Protection Clause and secured by the Equal Rights Amendment.

Closing

A nation that treats women unequally cannot be a democracy. When women are equal, society is stronger—for all.

Therefore, we declare:
The *Equal Rights Amendment* is part of the Constitution.
It is the law.

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

Those who would deny the *ERA* cannot escape the fact that the Fourteenth Amendment guarantees equal protection of the laws to all persons and women are persons.

The current system of inequality for women is unconstitutional and anti-American.

Women will no longer accept a nation that denies them autonomy, dignity, and humanity.

All men and women are created equal.

We demand equality now—nothing more, nothing less.

In the spirit of 1776, the Declaration of Sentiments of 1848, and the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in 2020.

Drafted in 2026 by a Committee of the [National ERA Publication Task Force. Org.](#)

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