

# Women's Rights

## March 2023

### **Women's rights are under attack.**

During Women's History Month in the USA, **we acknowledge the countless women who have fought tirelessly and courageously for equality, justice and opportunity in America.** These recognized trailblazers and unsung heroines guided the course of history and continue to shape its future. Women — often women of color — have been on the frontlines, fighting for and securing equal rights and opportunity throughout our country's history as abolitionists, civil rights leaders, suffragists, and labor activists. Women continue to lead as advocates for reproductive rights, champions of racial justice, and LGBTQI+ equality.

However, despite significant progress, **women and girls continue to face systemic barriers to full and equal participation in our economy and society.** Last year, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, stripping away a constitutional right from the American people and the ability of millions of women to make decisions about their own bodies, putting their health and lives at risk. Disparities persist in economic security, health care, and caregiving responsibilities, especially for women and girls of color. Those who perform critical work, including those who care for children and our families, are too often overlooked, underpaid, and undervalued. As well, women experience higher rates of intimate partner violence, attack, rape and sex trafficking.

### **Gender Bias Still a Problem**

According to the [American Civil Liberties Union](#), in the USA, "Gender bias continues to create huge barriers for many women. Ongoing struggles include ensuring equal economic opportunities, educational equity, and an end to gender-based violence. Women still make just 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. Black women earn only 64 cents and Latina women earn only 54 cents for each dollar earned by white men."

### **Fight for Equal Rights**

In the 1960s and 70s, feminist activists lobbied for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which would end legal distinctions between men and women in terms of divorce, property, employment, and other essential matters. Since then, the ERA has been reintroduced in every session of Congress, but has not been ratified. Critics of the ERA say that we don't need it anymore because "men and women are already seen as equal in our country." We know this is not true. Denying that disparities exist is a dangerous fabrication wielded by those who aim to convince voters not to support legislation that establishes an equal playing field for all at-risk populations. We must never rest until all women are guaranteed safety, autonomy, equal opportunities, and equal pay. Let the courageous vision championed by those who came before inspire the women of today to join together and continue the fight.

### **Beyond the USA - Women at Risk**

While we take up the mantle here in America, let us also partner to address disenfranchisement, discrimination and issues of violence and rape across all nations. [Human Rights Watch reports](#) that "Despite great strides made by the women's rights movement over many years, women and girls around the world are still married as children or trafficked into forced labor and sex slavery. They are refused access to education and political participation, and some are trapped in conflicts where rape is perpetrated as a weapon of war. Around the world, deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth are needlessly high, and women are prevented from making deeply personal choices in their private lives."

*This information was compiled as a public resource by HerRights Global, March 2023*



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*Nonprofit committed to ending gender violence and*