

Gender Inequality in the United States

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On 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1920, women in the US gained their right to vote. Since then American women have achieved success in various fields. In order to promote gender equality and to acknowledge the women's achievements, the US President declared August 26 as Women's Equality Day. Earlier in 2015, President Obama lauded American women's remarkable contribution in science, sports, businesses, military, education, and overall state economy. Despite such significant achievements, American women are still suffering from gender inequality in the US today (Makers Team, 2015). Presence of widespread gender inequality in the United States regardless of being one of the most developed and liberal countries in the world is the shocking reality of today's society.

According to the World Economic Forum, the US ranked 65<sup>th</sup> among 142 states in terms of wage equality in 2015. It was found that American women who worked full-time at equal position were paid 22% less than what men were paid (Ravitz, 2015). Even in high-paying jobs and despite fulfilling required qualification, American women receive lower wages than their male peers. As stated by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR), by the time a high-educated American woman becomes 60 years old, she will have lost around \$810,000 throughout her whole career due to the immense gender wage gap (Smilowitz, 2015). Also, the US is the only developed state which hasn't approved "international bill of rights for women". Other than the US, Somalia, Tonga, Sudan, Somalia, Palau, and Iran are other states which haven't ratified the bill. According to the World Policy Analysis Center report, maternity leave with guaranteed pay is present in 188 states in the world. Shockingly, American women have not given such basic facility. Further, in terms of political involvement, the US women have faced significant discrimination. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the US national parliament ranks 72

among 140 states when it comes to the number of female members in parliament. In the US, only 19% of overall seats in the parliament are represented by women. Even third world countries like Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and conservative Islamic states like Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Afghanistan are doing better in terms of women involvement in politics than the US (Ravitz, 2015).

In conclusion, it is a popular stereotype that gender inequality exists only in poor and conservative countries. But, various reports and researches have regularly highlighted the widespread gender inequality and discrimination in the advanced countries such as the US. It is necessary for the government to acknowledge the seriousness of this social issue and implement effective measures to tackle it.

## References

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