

2018 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

## **A World For Women**

(Original)

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Men and Women have constituted the society together since the very beginning of civilization. Under these circumstances, it is only natural that they must be granted equal rights and opportunities at all points of time, but unfortunately that has never been the case. Gender equality and Women Empowerment are words that we have seen being realized only on paper, and bringing them into the real world is the change that I want to make.

Let me share a very inspirational story with you. When during an interview, a young girl artist was asked about her opinion on feminist recently, she seemed to be confused about the meaning of the word. When explained by the interviewer, that feminist are people who demand equal rights for men and women, here is what she said. "But shouldn't that be everyone. Doesn't everyone really want and preach equality? Because if they don't, it defeats the entire purpose of our existence as a community together."

I don't know if it rang a bell with a lot of people, but it surely did with me. I believe that men and women are not supposed to compete against each other, rather complement each other. It is important for them to understand that the existence of one without other is not only difficult, but impossible. Day after day today, we see that women are taken lightly around the globe, and are considered to be weaker or inferior in comparison to men. Despite having proved their capability in different arenas today, including the ones which are traditionally known to be dominated by men, people have still not started taking us seriously. Which brings us to the need of eradicating or at least modifying traditional gender roles and stereotypes.

I want a world where women can exist as freely and without the slightest of inhibitions, just like men do. I want them to have a world where there is no glass ceiling that limits their growth, neither in the personal space nor in their respective professional environments. I want a world where women are not afraid of leaving their houses, or working till late hours in the night. I want them to experience what independence feels like,

even if they belong to the most backward and under developed families, because it is a part of their human rights as much as it is of their male counterparts. I also want a world that is free of violence against women, in any form.

Now, the real question is as to what is it that we can actually do about all these problems. The first and the most important thing would be to really identify and acknowledge that these problems do exist. Then, we need to make more and more young girls and women aware of their rights. Not only this, we also need to educate men that in today's world, women are no less than men, and that daughters can prove themselves and sometimes even more capable than sons can. The people who kill their child on birth after finding it a girl should be severely punished, in places where that practice is still followed. The laws in support of women should not just exist, but also be enforced in a strict manner, such that perpetrators don't get away with their crimes, but are made to pay for the same.

I know that the vision of such a world, and believing that all this can really happen seems like a very far-fetched idea at present, but let me point out that if a man was demanding equality in a field against women, this is not how his views or concerns would be taken. What I am picturing isn't the world of Narnia that can't ever come true, but rather the ideal state of affairs that should exist in the world. The only thing is that we need collective support from all the people, and then one day we can be proud of living in a world that will be equal in true sense.