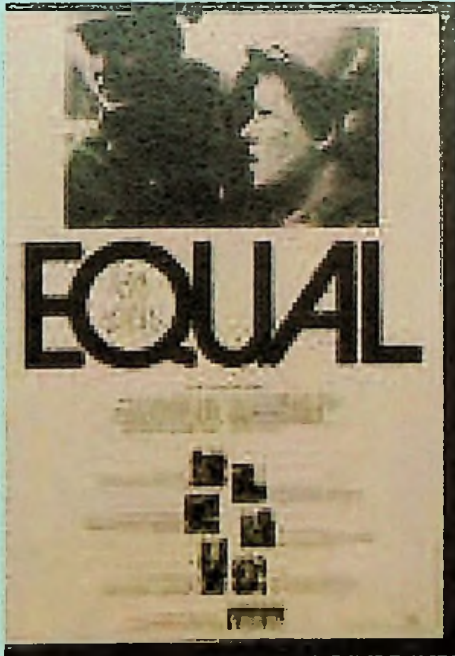


**Opportunity for women.**

**Equal rights, Equal  
pay.**



Kelsey Stentiford

Throughout the years women have been fighting for their rights and future generations to come. Women have been fighting for equality and to have the same opportunities as men. They have come a long way in 2020 to still be fighting for equal pay in work environments. This is still a problem being fought now more than ever during the economic struggles caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

To start off the *Feminine Mystique* talks about how women in the 60s were not given the same opportunities as men. Educated housewives were taken from their education to take care of their families. The new phenomenon that women would not work if they had a family to care for. Then the topic of the problem that had no name came about, the women began to feel they had no purpose other than to find a husband to care for. This is a perfect example of how society puts pressure on women to act a certain way.

There are ways for us to get involved in this issue. The only way to solve a problem is to be educated and help others get educated. Many people might not be aware of the wage gap between men and women, it may be simple but awareness is the first step to action. In order for people to understand the wage gap and for people to make a difference they have to realize how it could affect them.



## The problem that has no name.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s white housewives began to feel as if they were invisible, and started to question their identity as just housewives. Many of these women had given up their education and opportunities of work to become scientists, doctors, or teachers, because society told them this was their destiny to care for her husband. As stated in the book *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan, there was so much potential for the educated housewife, "Once she wrote a paper on the Graveyard poets, now she writes notes to the milkman. Once she determined the boiling point of sulphuric acid, now she determines the boiling point of the overdue repairman." Women started to think they were crazy, that no one else was feeling like this, until they began talking to their fellow housewives and realized they were all feeling like this.



1950s housewife shopping in the supermarket.

## On Point: 100 years later

The Women's Suffrage movement brought together females and males to discuss the social and political rights women should have. Many women were arrested when trying to vote, for example Susan B. Anthony was arrested and put to trial when she went to go vote in the 1872 presidential election. The woman suffrage movement was not always unified, some women believed that only white women should vote rather than all women of color having the right to vote. This movement showed that white women would fight for their rights and make sure to have their voices heard. As the white women were fighting for their rights they were excluding the fight for black women. The big picture is to fight for all women's rights, any women or color race or sexuality, but it was turning into a smaller battle between races fighting for the same thing.



## Is it hard work or luck?

It told that to have success is to work hard and long for the opportunities presented to you. In the story on Ragged Dick by Alger Horatio, we are shown a white orphan boy who had nothing and worked hard everyday shining shoes. Dick did not know how to read or write, and all he had was his cunning attitude, good work ethic and was an honest boy. As the story goes on Dick was given many opportunities that brought him to be successful. These opportunities were things out of his control, given to him by the successful people around him. Dick had control over the things he wore, how hard he worked, and who he was friends with. None of that matters because his success was primarily based on things he could not control, like his race, or sexual orientation. This proves the point that his success was all because of luck. If this story was told from the opposite sex the girl would not have the same opportunities as Dick, because women were not treated the same as men.



I swear it to you  
On my common woman's head,  
The common woman  
is as common  
As a common loaf of bread...



and will rise.

Judy Grahn was a poet and an activist.

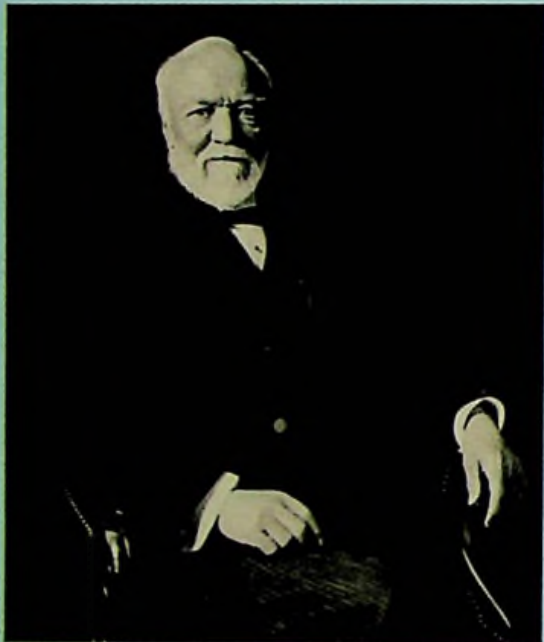
## The combahee river collective

In the Combahee River Collective Statement stated "... in many ways gone beyond white womens revolutions because we are dealing with the implications of race and class as well as sex."(Combahee River Collective,4) They also stated that the white women would be all for the women empowerment until they got sick of it. During this time all women were experiencing racial and sexual oppression and they were trying to fight it in anyway possible. White women want to fight oppression of women but black women want to fight all oppression, from race, gender, and class issues. African American women were being left behind by the whie women to fight for their own equal rights. During this time whie women made it clear that they were fighting for only white women's rights. This left the African American women to fight on their own which was a harder battle for them.



## Opportunities that are out of your control.

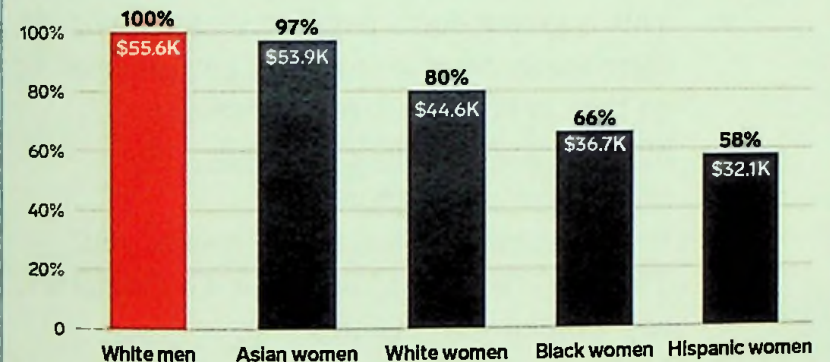
According to Carnegie America is the land of opportunity if you work hard from the bottom to get to the top. He worked hard to get to the top, he had to go through many apprentices to get to where he was. "I was no longer merely an official working for others upon a salary, but a full-fledged businessman working on my own account." Carnegie believes that for America to be the land of opportunity you have to start out poor and work hard to the top. Just like Ragged Dick Carnegie had good work ethic, he was honest and worked very hard. Those were all things he could control, just like Dick. Carnegie had no control over his race, class or sexual orientation. If this was a story of a women of color she would not have been treated the same as Carnegie, she would not have the same opportunities either.



## Glaring wage gap between men and women in 2020

August 26 is Women's equality day, the day we celebrate the passage of the 19th amendment, this gave the rights for (some) women to vote. Black women and women of color were not given this right until the Civil Rights act of 1914. While women have come very far since then, we are still fighting for the big issue that is the wage gap between men and women. According to the National Women's Law Center, working women are heavily affected by the coronavirus pandemic, making up a large 70% of the workforce that has been effected. Stated in the article "Women hold 70% of restaurant server positions, generally earning 79% of what men do." In 2018 it was shown in the US census bureau, women are making 81.6 cents for every dollar a man makes, causing the women to make \$9,766 less than a man. Women working in the front lines during covid outbreak, such as nurses, and grocery store clerks are making less than men in the same occupation.

### Women's annual earnings compared to white men's



Note: Data shows median earnings for full-time, year-round civilian employees 16 and over in 2018.

Source: US Census Bureau, "2018 American Community Survey"

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## 5 ways to fix the wage gap.

1. Practice civic engagement.
  - Do some research on where your state stacks up against other states and call or write state lawmakers, urging them to address gender wage issues in state laws
2. Host an event or forum.
  - Bring it to your community and host an event on fair pay. Invite local lawmakers, university sociology, or business leaders for a forum discussion fighting discrimination in the workplace.
3. Share about it on social media.
  - Many people might not be aware of the gender wage gap in the workplace. Post articles or favorite resources on your social media for your friends to see.
4. Learn how to navigate your salary.
  - This is taking equal pay into your own hands, there are many resources that can give you tips on how to keep track of your salary.
  - <https://www.glassdoor.com/index.htm>
  - <https://www.salary.com/>
5. Learn from successful women who inspire you.
  - This could be you Mom, Aunt, Grandmother, any women who inspires you.

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**EQUAL WORK  
DESERVES  
EQUAL PAY!**