

Generation X - Like Xtremely disappointed !



I'm part of Generation X -- the generation where girls and young women were taught that we could be anything, do anything and, if we worked hard enough, could have it all.

We saw women go into space, run for Congress, be appointed to the Supreme Court, anchor the news, break Olympic records, be 'bionic' women, lead billion dollar companies, become successful lawyers, doctors, writers, journalists, artists and rock the world with their music and dance.

I, like many of the young women of my generation, assumed that we had equal rights with men under the law of our Constitution. We lived in the United States of America, the strongest democracy in the world. Why wouldn't we?

To my surprise, I learned (and it wasn't that long ago) that I was wrong. The U.S. Constitution does not guarantee equal rights for women. Since 1923, activists have been trying to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which 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." [...]

How can a country that prides itself on being a democratic leader of the world refuse to protect women and men equally under the law? What is going on here?

While not necessarily comforting, it turns out that I was not alone in assuming my equal rights. According to the Equal Right Coalition , 96 percent of Americans think the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) has passed.

Without the ERA, the status quo, which needs to change, is changing more slowly. This is why the gender pay gap remains stalled, with women making 78 cents for every dollar earned by a man, with African American women and Latinas making even less, 64 cents and 53 cents respectively.

This is why 75 percent of elderly Americans living in poverty are women, and the gaps in poverty rates between men and women is wider than anywhere else in the western world.

Without the ERA, women fighting for equal pay have no consistent judicial standard for deciding legal cases. That's because the state and federal courts reflect confusion and inconsistency around the law.

The ERA would help ensure fair consideration in court cases concerning the wage gap, and also in cases about domestic violence, rape, forced prostitution and sexual slavery.

[...] Women are earning the majority of undergraduate and graduate degrees (60 percent), while at the same time, women make up the majority of the poor in America. (According to The Shriver Report, one out of three women is living in poverty or on the brink of poverty.)

(Source : http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tabby-biddle/wait-women-dont-have-equa_b_6098120.html)