



Physicians for Social Responsibility
10 Dumfries Court
Sacramento, California 95831
www.sacpsr.org • info@sacpsr.org
916-955-6333

2018 PSR/Sacramento Essay Contest Finalist

Sarah Goold

Woodcreek High School, Roseville

The Global Importance of Women's Rights to Education and Political Participation

The new and upcoming generation is one of advocates pushing for change. People of different genders, sexualities, economic status and races are coming together, and demanding attention. There is a new and modern understanding of what it means to be equal and it extends beyond just one social battlefield. It is to be equally supportive and mindful of all causes. Today we are seeing feminists supporting Black Lives Matter, women's rights activists encouraging students and teachers taking part in the March For Our Lives. We are all united under the realization that we are stronger together. As one organization pushes boundaries and makes progress, it shines a light on others and instills confidence that there is always room for growth. The success of one group opens up opportunities for the success of others.

A concept as simple as a free public high school education available regardless of gender is a privilege that kids my age often take for granted and disregard it as a burden. Countries like Yemen, where an estimated 58%(1) of young girls have never attended school, could be immensely strengthened by the introduction of equal opportunity education. In a world where women have greater access to education, they have the knowledge and understanding to make better decisions for themselves and families. With an education, women can be treated as equal to men and can act in confidence. Women can receive higher paying jobs and in turn better support a family, initiating a cycle of social and economic growth. Countries with more financial stability and a more educated population are less likely to fall into turmoil and are more prosperous. It is the unnoticed impacts of these freedoms that make the fight for equality meaningful.

"We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced. € (2) Malala Yousafzai has epitomized this ideology as she has resisted a restrictive regime, serving as an example for all. Her bravery and sacrifice has led others to also speak up in their lives against their own oppressors. In order for any social or policy changes to be made, good

people have to be willing to speak up. This effect is amplified when others who are not affected stand in solidarity with the oppressed. In my own experience, I have witnessed the uprising of passionate students fighting to protect themselves and the future as they stand up to mass gun violence. Their conviction is just the beginning of a movement of real change, which requires amicable and respectful interaction. Albert Einstein understood that "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.(3) The fight for women's equality and cultural respect will not come easily, progress is made through the small victories of people fighting for what they believe in. Although it is a long road it will be worthwhile.

References

1. <https://www.education-inequalities.org> UNICEF WIDE
2. Malala Yousafzai, I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban.
3. Albert Einstein