

# Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are created, deriving their just powers from the consent of the people they govern .

Whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of those who suffer from it to refuse allegiance to it, and to insist upon the institution of a new government. But when a long train of abuses and damages reveals a government of absolute despotism, it is their duty to throw off such government, and to provide new safeguards for their future prosperity . Such has been the patient experience of America's women under this government, and such is now the necessity which obliges them to demand the equal station to which they are entitled.

The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and indignities on the part of man toward woman. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world:

- *HE* has never permitted *HER* to exercise her inalienable right to vote.
- *HE* has compelled *HER* to submit to laws, which she has no voice in creating.
- *HE* has taken from *HER* all right in property, even to the wages she earns.
- *HE* closes against *HER* all the avenues to wealth and distinction, which he considers most necessary to himself.
- *HE* has denied *HER* the facilities for obtaining a thorough education — all colleges being closed against her.

Now, in view of this entire disfranchisement of one-half the people of this country, in view of the unjust laws above mentioned, and because women do feel themselves aggrieved, oppressed, and fraudulently deprived of their most sacred rights, we insist that they have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of these United States.