



the future is
FEMALE

THE ERA EFFECT

BY
Kamiyah



the future is
FEMALE

ESSAY

What will the Equal Rights Amendment actually do? That is the question everyone wants to know! We can start with where it originated. The ERA started with Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman in 1923. The ERA is a proposed amendment that will ensure equal rights, regardless of sex, or gender, therefore encouraging less discrimination against women. So far, thirty-eight states have ratified the amendment, but some people in Congress still say it does not matter, and should not take affect. With this pushback, women are still fighting for peace and justice.

The publication of the ERA would ensure that someone's sex does not determine their legal rights. It would help women to not be unfairly fired from their jobs, help close the wage gap, and so much more.

There has been opposition to the ERA, such as the campaign titled, "Stop ERA", lead by Phyllis Schlafly. Schlafly believes that the ERA would bring many unwanted changes to the lives of American women. I interviewed two people and asked them: "Do you think the ERA would bring bad changes to women's lives?" One interviewee stated, "I feel that some men would be mad, but as far as the women, no. No bad changes."

ESSAY

So, how can we help? First, we can start with informing people in our neighborhoods about this amendment and letting people know how they help. We can also ask people, who already protest for equal rights, if they know about the ERA, and help them to dig deeper. Many women do not know about this, and that's okay, we can help to inform them!

I chose to explore this topic because every day women are constantly judged. People still think: women are not strong, women cannot do "manly jobs", women cannot be successful without a man in their life. This is wrong in so many ways. Women can do all of that, and more! I want to inform people of the free will women have. Women are strong, powerful, and have the ability to bring a human into the world. Yet still, women are judged harshly.

The publication of the ERA affects me because I am a young woman, almost an adult, and I want my life, and other women's lives, to be judged fairly.

INTERVIEWS

Name: Chloe Hawkes

Age: 17

From: Southside of Chicago

Occupation: Wendy's

"I feel that some men would be mad, but as far as the women, no. No bad changes."

Name: Amia Thompson

Age: 16

From: Southside of Chicago

Occupation: Footlocker

"If I never learned about it in history class, I would have never knew about it, at all."

Name: Venise Spivey

Age: 36

From: Southwest side of Chicago

Occupation: JP Morgan

"I feel that it is necessary, and I feel that it is definitely needed ."



WORKS CITED

1. Brennancenter.org
2. Maloney.house.gov
3. ushistory.org
4. Equalitynow.org
5. npr.org
6. archive.org

**GIRLS JUST
WANNA HAVE
FUNDAMENTAL
HUMAN RIGHTS**

This project was
made in
collaboration with
Global Girl Media-
Chicago, The Fund
for Women's
Equality, and the
ERA Coalition

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



My name is Kamiyah and this is my first time doing GGM-Chi. I live on the Southside of Chicago. I attend Chicago High School for Agriculture Sciences. In my free-time, I like to go outside in my neighborhood, and spend time outdoors. I love riding my bike and like to have conversations with people about things going on in the world.