



BLACK WOMEN:

*The Fastest
Growing Group of
Entrepreneurs in the
United States*

**HOW WILL THE PUBLICATION OF
THE ERA AFFECT BLACK WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS?**

By: Sheila

SUMMARY

Black female entrepreneurs are the subject of my story because their work towards creating a better system for themselves deserves to be seen and heard. Black women are the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs in the U.S., as of 2021. "Black women who do succeed do so with great sacrifice that has an ill effect on their personal and family lives, their self-esteem, and their health. This is why they are taking their skills and passion and going elsewhere," according to a study done by *Fast Company*. Whether it be lines of credit, additional resources, grants, etc. these women have not been given the same acknowledgment as white, male business owners.



I have chosen to write an essay that highlights these experiences and examines the statistics on the matter. The ERA's ratification is very important when it comes to this topic because Black women deserve better opportunities, and legal recognition, for their businesses. They don't deserve to be discriminated against because they are women. This fast growing field of Black female entrepreneurs will make the saying: "Equal Voice, Equal Future", a reality.

BLACK WOMEN: THE FASTEST GROWING GROUP OF ENTREPRENEURS IN THE UNITED STATES

Black women in the United States have proven to be hardworking for generations, but they have been left out of important social, economic, and political movements that have impacted the country as a whole. These women have stated that they have had enough. Black women know that they are very gifted and talented on their own. They have decided to take their gifts and talents and use them to their own advantage, in their own businesses. There has been an influx of Black female entrepreneurs since 2020 and the group has been every growing.



Black female entrepreneurs is a demographic that grasps the attention of many. From hair care, art, entertainment, food and beverages, fashion, self care, and much more, there is a Black woman-owned business for it in the U.S.. To be an entrepreneur, you must have great communication skills, a good sense of your talents, the drive to stay consistent, and the purpose to make others happy.



The ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) is a constitutional amendment that will guarantee legal gender equality for women. When we speak about the ERA being published in the United States' Constitution, we speak about protecting the rights of women. When women are oppressed or discriminated against, we are often not believed, or not assisted in our struggles. Women need to be protected and their voices need to be heard. These Black women who are snubbed of opportunities, when it comes to running a business, deserve to be heard.

Whether it be for grants, loans, or free resources, Black women do not get the business help they deserve. "Almost 80% of survey respondents said access to financing was an issue for Black female entrepreneurs," according to *Investment Executive*. Most of the time, men are in charge of who gets these resources. Black women have to meet with business owners just to leave feeling as if they didn't have access to the opportunities because they are Black, or a woman, or both. The publication of the ERA will help hold these people accountable for discriminating against Black female entrepreneurs.

"The truth is that Black women in corporate culture work 30% to 40% harder than their white male and female counterparts to get the same results—and that's if they're lucky." "17% of Black women in the U.S. are in the process of starting, or already running, their own businesses, as of 2022", according to research published in *Harvard Business Review*. These women are making sacrifices by borrowing at high interest rates and some of them are not being able to find funding at all.



If the ERA is published, it will be recognized nationally. Black women have shown their strength for generations and it is time for them to get treated fairly. Protecting these women and their rights should be this country's main focus. Black women are not the only ones affected by this. These women can not economically contribute to our country if they are gate-kept and constantly looked down upon because of their gender and race.



INTERVIEWS

INTERVIEW #1

Q: Has being a Black woman affected the resources you have been able to receive for your business? If so, how?

A: Being a Black woman has for sure affected the amount of opportunities and resources I have received for my business. It's been hard to be accepted for any business loans and grants that are not specifically funded by Black owned companies or made to specifically help small Black businesses.

INTERVIEW #2

Q: What are some of the most important experiences you have had as a Black female entrepreneur?

A: I believe getting my brand out there has been one of the most challenging things next to the challenges that Black women face as a whole.

LEARN MORE

To support Black women owned businesses, check out some of the stores listed below!

CHICAGO

[Batter & Berries](#)

[Brown Sugar Bakery](#)

[Semicolon](#)

[Chef Q. Ibraheem](#)

[Urban Growers Collective](#)

[Nobody's Darling](#)

[Amour Salon](#)

[FruVe xPress](#)

NATIONWIDE

[TPH](#)

[ShyDivaCo](#)

[Earth Mama Medicine](#)

[The Honey Pot Company](#)

[McBride Sisters Collection](#)

[Beauty Bakerie Makeup](#)

[Vagabond](#)

[Telfar](#)

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VIDEOS

1. Confidence In Entrepreneurship

<https://youtu.be/JDSisEGISwg>

2. Black Businesses and Black Bosses

https://youtu.be/6LgUkc_HOFU

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

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Sheila is an 18 year old author and creator. She studies at Northern Illinois University for her Bachelor's degree in Accounting. She aspires to tell the stories of Black women and advocate for them. She is very passionate about the interests, ideas, and rights of Black women. She advocates for the protection of Black women and the allowance of them to speak freely about how they feel. Sheila plans to open up her own business that provides financial advising and accounting services to Black woman owned businesses.