



**BILLABONG HIGH EPS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT**

PRESENTS

VOLUME IV

OF

invictus

WOMEN'S DAY 2018
#PRESSFORPROGRESS

Whenever there's a discussion of Women's Day, there are those who ask: "Why is there no international Men's Day?" First of all, every day is Men's Day. It has been so since the beginning of time. For centuries. And secondly there *is* an international men's day: 19 November. The point is that today is the day we celebrate the sheer hard work, dedication and commitment put forth by women across the nation and the world, because women has been an oppressed gender and unfortunately continues to be so in many parts of the world. Much has been said about women's rights. Much has been disputed. Feminism has been used as degrading term, but feminism by definition means equal opportunity for all genders. So why should we be hesitant to call ourselves feminists?

As an educational institution, we have a greater responsibility to educate our students, boys and girls alike, on issues facing women, be it domestic violence or wage differentiation. We have a responsibility to ensure our girls become strong independent women and not just pretty faces, and our boys don't become perpetrators of oppression on women. We have a responsibility to ensure that our girls are not enforced impossible body standards, they are not differentiated in academics and sports, that they do not become victims of objectification and sexualization.

All that can only be done if the correct knowledge is imparted. So it starts here, in school, by acknowledging the work done by women around them, pitch-

ing these women as role models, not socializing our children into stereotypical gender roles, inspiring our students and facilitating them to achieve their dreams. Because all women matter. Women of different sizes, age, ethnicity, class, creed matter. We all matter.

I'm proud to stand amidst women who had achieved so much. I can't even comprehend the hurdles and challenges that they had to endure to do so. That's why humanities department of Billabong dedicated the first volume of our newsletter this year to Women's Day. To give women their due respect by acknowledging their work, be it that of a businesswoman, or a housewife. To highlight the importance of the sea of faces that makes the Society complete. This is not to state that a token will compensate for all the challenges women face. We have to do more than just wearing pink. And we are ready to do so. it starts here. We envision a school devoid of gender parity. As women, we have collective responsibility to pull each other up and not put each other down. Thus, collective effort is required by all of us. It is as Mother Teresa once said, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples."

We hope these ripples can be in form of our students who can continue the quest to press for progress.

Mariyam Gishau
Head of Humanities
Department

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As a Little Girl

Malsa Maumoon
11A

As a little girl,
My mother always reminded me of
how lucky I was to be so,
And was taught to conform to the
norm,
Pink attire,
Not blue,
Dresses and skirts,
No plaids or suits,
Remaining pure is the key,
Gaining independence,
Not for me,
“Dream big, go for it,”
They’d say,
“Stay home, clean.”
Actions convey.

So 10 years old,
And the boy next door,
Not a day older than me,
Played on the streets,
While I sat at home,
Watching away,
As elegance was the cliché.
“This is not luck,”
I would say,
“Being a girl is a curse, not a grace,”
Thoughts would portray.

Growing up,
Inequalities came alight,
Sexual harassment,
Day in, day out,
“Boys will be boys,”
They would say,

As he slams her against the wall,
And forcefully disregards her soul,
“Now, is being a girl so great?”
My mind would say.

But over time,
I came across
Stories of wonder,
Ideologies for the better,
A world where
Oprah, Rosa and Oakley,
Stood stronger than inequality,
The 21st Century,
When suffragettes claimed victory,
And feminism became the power,
With no room for repeat in history,
A day where
The hidden figures,
Were no longer concealed,
And with Oprah’s cries,
For a new day in the horizon,
I for once,
Gained hope that was lost before,
And was assured of the words my
mother once spoke,
Of the luck behind the once loathed
truth of being a girl.

Her Revolution

Aishath Noorain Jiyad
10B

her sleep was his toy and his, her ha-
ven
with no one to sing him lullabies
fatigue was one she could not afford
and it was love, how he fell asleep
to a voice so ruptured, a song with no
rhythm
but a certain love was reason for a
closet filled with only her clothes
and a cold bed with just one pillow
having dinner with empty chairs
and just two shadows by one lamp
her excuse? she couldn’t afford to
throw away a perfectly good chair
and so she found bitterness
falling asleep to wet pillows and dirty
sheets
even a damsel in distress in her
dreams
waking to her baby’s songs echoing
within her four walls
while facing a leaking ceiling, and
harmonizing with him
the sun seems sad most afternoons
and the paintings weep on her walls
how pitiful they say you could have
been a piece of art instead
she couldn’t sit down with them ruin-
ing the walls
so her hands bled darker than them
at the sound of torn canvases and
broken brushes
how pitiful
her baby spend hours, missing his
mama

how would he know she couldn’t face
him?
hatred and resentment, she defined
herself
with no ends met, a leaking roof, she
called her dream the biggest joke
her body became one with the earth,
her mind following suit
how selfish, to go along with her body
how selfish, to listen to something
without its own consciousness
another morning came, on a cold
floor
and where was her baby?
in her arms with his tear stained face
she looked down, ashamed of feeling
abandoned
when the greatest miracle was right
in front of her
she didn’t need a third in her home of
two

and she didn’t need to leave the door
open anymore
the only love she’d ever need was the
one in her arms
sure her days felt longer and sleep
was scarce
but the bed didn’t need to be cold
anymore



I have drawn Beverly Marsh from the movie "IT" because of her amazing ability to fight against the villain, in my opinion, better than the boys, all while looking gorgeous.

Fathimath Mashail Mohamed, 7B



Zoya Umar, Tazkiah Mohamed Shihan, 6B

Rosa Parks

Lakshmi Dipukumar
11A



Google Images

ter of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Like so many others, she was tired of being treated as a lower class person because of the color of her skin.

She was arrested. This led to the Montgomery bus boycott. The boycott lasted 381 days, causing a change in the law. After that, black people could sit wherever they wanted to on the bus.

Her refusal to let others treat her differently was an important symbol in the campaign against racial segregation.

Rosa Louise McCauley Parks (February 4, 1913 - October 24, 2005) was an African-American civil rights activist. She was called the "Mother of the Modern-Day American civil rights movement" and "the mother of the freedom movement." She had stood up literally against the racial discrimination of black people under the system of Apartheid.

Parks is best known for what she did in her home town of Montgomery, Alabama on December 1, 1955. While she sat in a seat in the middle of the bus, the bus driver told her to move to the back of the bus so a white passenger could take the seat in the front of the bus. During this time, when there was no white seats for white people, black people were told to get up out of their seat. Parks refused to move.

She was a member of the local chap-

"I'd see the bus pass every day... But to me, that was a way of life; we had no choice but to accept what was the custom. The bus was among the first ways I realized there was a black world and a white world..."

War Song

Aishath Sara
12A

*“Que sera, sera
Whatever will be, will be
The future’s not ours to see,
Que sera, sera
What will be, will be...”*

Years ago and even now,
Those verses echo through sun and
snow,
Disguised as the phrase, “Ignorance is
bliss,”
But it’s only a phase behind deceptive
veils.

So dear little girls, please wake up.

Those verses that were once your lull-
ing lullaby,
Will soon be what haunts you during
day and night.
And all that seemed to bring peace to
your mind,
Will cease to be means of bidding
fears goodbye.

Dear little girls, please listen up.

Sooner or later, you’ll hear the bells
toll,
Cracking the silence of our force-fed
roles,
Marking the beginning of the mas-
querade’s fall,
And us women must unmask for the
curtain call.

Dear little girls, please stand up.

From helpless days of floors strained
against knees,
To selfless days of fulfilling their
needs,
The road to freedom may seem a far-
away dream,
Treated and seen as the lesser breed.

Dear little girls, please chin up.

With a tender affection towards the
softness of the world,
And a cold hard shell against the
sharpest of swords,
A veteran of wars and conscripted old
roads,
Revere your self-worth and rescript
your role.

“Que sera, sera...”
What will be -
we redeem.



Aishath Sarah Ansar
7A

A Letter to All Women

Aishath Naishan Nashid
10A

Dear Women,

This one is for all the women who have been told that they couldn't do certain things because they were female. This is for all the girls who have given up on their dreams because they were told that it was not something a woman could ever reach.

This is for all the young girls who are pressured to act more 'girly.' Those who are brainwashed by the media to play with Barbie dolls because that's what girls are supposed to do. Little girls aren't supposed to play in the mud and get their hair dirty. They have to wear pastel dresses and host tea parties. If you haven't done that in your childhood, are you even a girl?

This is for all the women who have been objectified by society. For those who have been catcalled. When a woman is noticed by strange men on the streets, she should be happy, right? The hungry eyes and lingering stares from strangers should boost her confidence. The vulgar comments about each and every curve of her body should flatter her, right? Grabbing her and forcing yourself on top of her should please her, right? Because all women love a man who can take charge and assert their dominance on her.

This is for all the women who have been told to keep quiet when a man is speaking. Women who are told to swallow the words that are begging to be spilled out of their mouth. Women who are told to sit still and look pretty. A woman should never have an opinion; she should always agree with the man. Because a woman with an opinion is dangerous. A woman who knows that what she is talking about could be a threat to all men and their egos.

This is for all the women who have been forced to stay at home and look after their children. Women who spend their days making formula bottles for her baby when, instead, her dream was to become a scientist who tested chemical formulas. Women who spend their afternoons in the grocery store, browsing through the aisles, when in reality all she wanted to do was to run a food manufacturing company. Women who help their children do their homework because she never had the chance to complete her higher education. Women who sacrifice their life to look after her children in the hopes that one day, she will get something in return.

You are not weak. You are not an object. You are not powerless. Your opinion is

important. You can say no. You can dream. You will reach your goals. And you will succeed. Being a woman does not stop you from doing anything. Being a woman is something you should be proud of. It should be something you embrace. Being a woman is breaking the glass ceiling and proving society wrong. And we can do it.

THE TRIPLE SHIFT
~women and work~



Fathimath Zuhura Ismail
BHIS Alumnus

A Woman's Story

Aishath Ahna Ali
12A

Women in labour, women at home, women on the streets and even women who are stuck cleaning toilets. This goes out to all the hidden faces, to all the known faces, every single one of your souls matter.

So hush my dear and sit down; this lullaby goes out to you. Yes, you, who work day and night at home, taking care of your daily needs as a housewife – I'm proud of you. Yes, this is for those who works long hours at end and come back home for no rest and only to face work once again – I'm proud of you. This goes out for all of you who cleans our toilets, and picks up our trash on the streets – I'm proud of you.

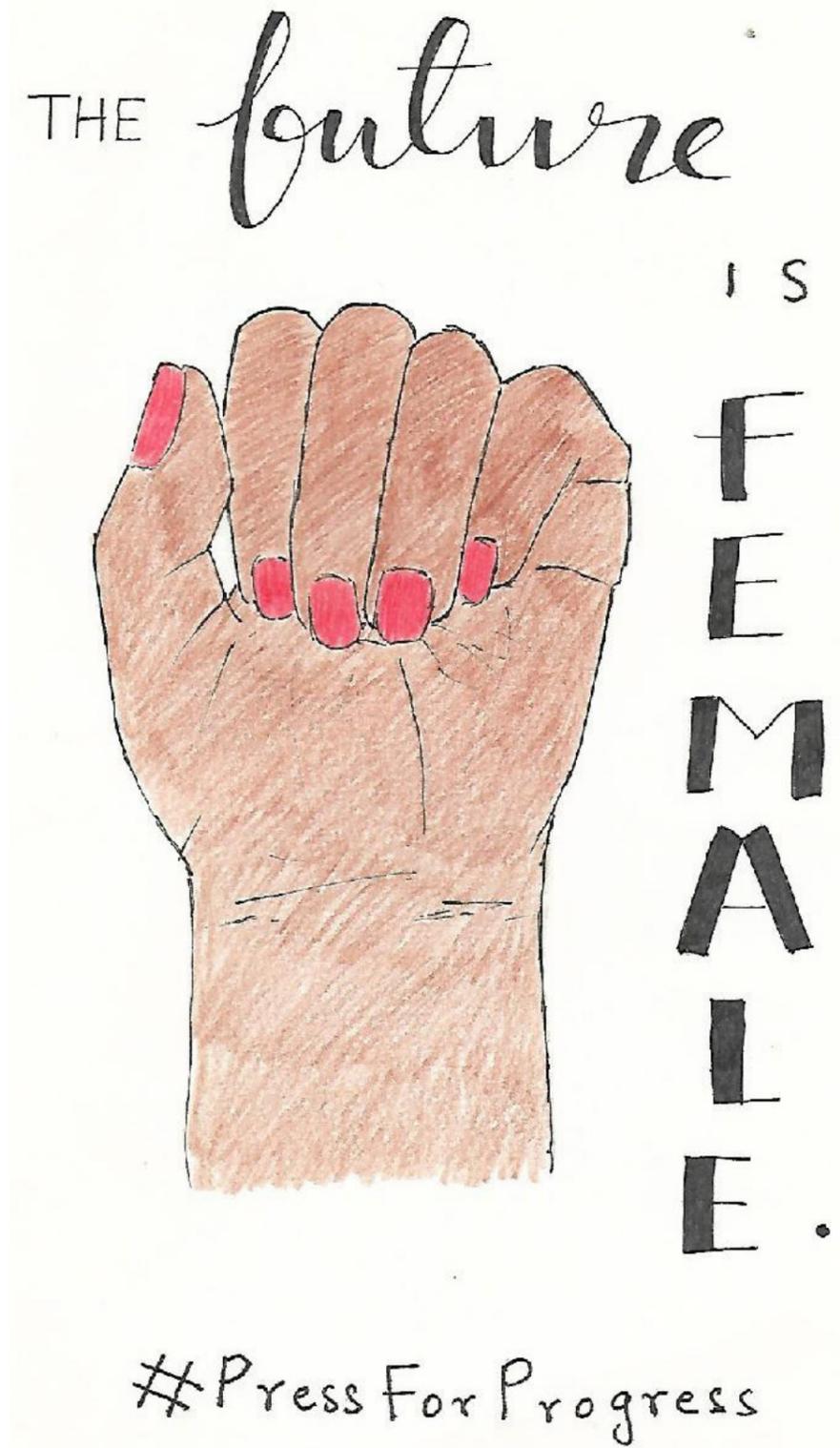
This goes out to all of you who do nothing but try to make the world and easier place for us to live, yet are so unappreciated, your handiwork unseen by society. Shamed for who you are. For those who are told, "You are a woman so you're weak," or "you are a woman so this is not something you can do," or "you are a woman so you can't be a leader."

So let me just tell you this. You are a woman, so you are strong, You are a woman, so you can do this, You are a woman and you are a leader. Society should be ashamed for their underes-

timation. Be proud to be a women, because women are warriors fighting societies standards every day and night. So as women we shall stand and take our stance; we shall show them what we're really worth, because we are women, and this is our story.



Grade 6 Students



The Future Is Female
Sarah Ali, Grade 10

We Fight

Layath Ismail Husham
8A

Swimming pools of tears have been shed, gallons of blood have been bled
But they are still prisoners of their own tongues
Help isn't given, they're shoved in boxes instead
They still hide beneath the covers, terrified because just one stir and they're stung.
But underneath the darkness, there was a light so bright
It could burn a hole in my jeans
Child brides, moms who are teens
Women at work, all those on the streets

We are powerful and bold and phenomenal women
So they let go of the fatality, they clung on
Screamed out their stories and produced a spark
A revolution is about to start
Years later we still haven't given up
Make the sky bleed and fight from the heart
Fight for humanity and equality amongst us
Cause how we scream so loud, we cannot be hushed



Zuka, Zuha, Haya, Zara, 7A

Stage

Aishath Ahna Ali
12A

People in Silence
Rogue words expressed
Equality long been stressed
Silence! there is an open slot
So forth the skills halt
For women in all places
Open up to all the stages
Release yourself from all the chains
Progress is what awaits
Reminding you of your fate
Only seen on the stage
Ground shattering beneath their feet

Roughly establish your name
Everywhere you go
Seize your fate
So you can stand on your own stage



#Love #Peace #Women
Ayesha Zoya Ali Suzain, 6A

Why Should We Celebrate Women's Day?

Fathimath Rayya
12A

What is Women's day? According to UN's definition, "It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political."

Now, you may wonder: why celebrate women's day? Why is it so important to spend one entire day focusing on women? Well, Women's Day should be celebrated because, as Michelle Obama once stated, "There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish." It should be celebrated as it is vital to recognize the role played by woman on a daily basis.

Women are the backbone of the society. They are warriors who fight battles everyday as they have been oppressed for centuries by almost every institution in the society; whether it's family, political and economic system, religion or even education. Women continue to face inequality in different forms, from language and media, to the workplace. They are the ones who have fought for years, and continue fighting for equal rights, equal

pay and equal treatment. They are the people who face glass ceiling, triple shift or dual burden. Yet, they are the most resilient.

Women's day should be celebrated to recognize their power. To recognize their strengths. Women's day should be celebrated to honor the work that they do, whether they are a housewife or a politician. Women's day should be celebrated to end the stereotypes surrounding women regarding their occupation, strength and what not. It should be celebrated to end all obstacles they face that stops them from achieving their goals. It should be celebrated to ensure that future generations of women have better life chances and opportunities without facing gender inequality.

Lastly, Women's day should be celebrated to commemorate influential and empowering women who fought and continues fighting to uplift the status of women; such as Susan Anthony, Simone De Beauvoir to Michelle Obama, it is important to recognize their fight against the patriarchy.

In closing, it is important to note that our responsibility as women is to empower one another plus act as a united front against all discriminations and double standards we face. We must work together to create a society with individuals that does not look down on others based on their gender, eth-

nicity or religion where everyone has equal opportunities and rights. As Sheryl Sandberg once stated, "In the future, there will be no female leaders. There will just be leaders."

This can only be achieved if we #Press-ForProgress

Be a Woman!

Aishath Faathin Maseeh
12A

Sighs and murmurs travelled
Through the breeze so gentle
Consisted whispers so rough
Coarse to the eardrums
Incredulous to the mind
Their mouths ran furious
Judging her clothes
The clothes she picked with discretion
Judging her moves
The moves she enforced with caution
So, that their whispers would reach
A demise it cannot encounter
But alas, she was criticized
no matter where she stepped
In her stilettos or her sneakers
"You're a woman. so, act like it."
But in her mind
She lost meaning
Of what it is to be a woman
Was it her mascara
That fluttered her eyelashes
Or was it her palms
Calloused from laboring
Under the sun that scorched

Her skin already coated
With products of capitalism
Feeding lies to the masses
Her identity that vanished
Into the gust of murmurs
Now a roaring hurricane
The whispers thunderous
Struggling to dictate her
So that SHE,
can become "a WOMAN"
When in reality,
her bloodshot eyes
and her charred complexion
with the foundation melting
off her face, blending with
her fake-blushed cheeks
already made her
a woman of character.

The Truth About the Gender Wage Gap

**Fathmath Eafa Rameez, 11A
Iyaadh Ahmadh Raihaan Shah, 11A**

The “glass ceiling” is an invisible barrier that prevents women from advancing up the ranks in their profession. It exists in many organizations and businesses, and most of the time, people are unaware of what is actually taking place. This phenomenon is experienced by women across the world and it is very prevalent in many societies today. Some people refuse to believe that women get paid less than men for doing the same amount of work. However, this may not necessarily be the case.

It has become common in society to refer to certain jobs as ‘women’s work’ or pink collar jobs. These include being a nurse, receptionist or florist. A pink collar worker doesn’t require as much professional training as a white collar worker as they don’t work in offices, and in addition

to that, they do not get equal wages. It is common to see job advertisements looking for women in pink collar jobs such as these. This perpetuates the image that certain lower class jobs are specifically designed for women.

The gender wage gap is the average difference between a man and a woman’s income or salary. On average, women earn 79 cents for every dollar a man makes with an equal amount of work done. However, there are countries across the globe with equal pay between genders and countries with an even larger pay gap. Countries such as Estonia and Austria have a pay gap of around 20%, while countries such as Malta and Slovenia have a pay gap of 4%. In countries such as Hong Kong, more men work at executive and management levels,

while women are still perceived as homemakers. Such attitudes have prevented many women from being treated equally at work. A more unbelievable fact is that pay decreases when you’re a woman of colour. A study proves this, showing that a Hispanic woman earned 54 cents to a Caucasian man’s dollar, while an Asian-American woman earned 87 cents (National Women’s Law Center, 2017).

Additionally, some women have to deal with the responsibility of working while dealing with household chores. Ann Oakley, a Marxist feminist, coined the terms ‘Double Burden’ and ‘Triple Shift,’ saying that women have to work at their normal 9 to 5 jobs and then also take care of the house work as well as care for the children. What’s strange is that a lot of people refuse to believe the fact that a lot of this wage gap comes from the housework that they do. Women carry out this unpaid labor, and this only worsens their economic situation because they are already get paid less compared to what men earn.

It gets extremely difficult for women who have children and are married, because not only do they have to do unpaid labour, they also need to find jobs with flexible working hours as they need to find the time to do housework. They are unable to spend time with their family because of this ‘Long Hours culture.’ Women who have to look after kids or their families usually opt to do part-time jobs, as finding full-time jobs with flexible working hours often have extremely high requirements and lots of prior training. This in turn worsens the issue due to part-time jobs having low pay. Studies show that the wage gap is twice as large for women with kids compared to women without kids. The pay gap is

smaller for younger women than older women, but it begins right when women enter the labour force.

What these problems have in common is the lack of government intervention. If authorities don’t take the action necessary to solve them, nothing would change. Governments could take the initiative to carry out programmes and campaigns to encourage men to do more unpaid labour and housework. Domestic and household chores could be taught to boys at a young age. Incentives could be given to men in order to make them work more hours if they aren’t being the ones to look after their kids at home. The Equal Pay Day was a step in the right direction. It is a symbolic day marked in April that is dedicated to raising awareness on the gender pay gap.

All in all, the gender pay gap is a serious issue that still isn’t being addressed by many nations. Of course, in some, it has decreased. However, it still exists and that is a problem that needs to be faced. It is everyone’s responsibility to make an effort to raise awareness on this matter, be it making simple posters and drawings or even writing poems and articles; we could all play our part. This can in turn bring about a tremendous change in societal attitudes, leading to the eventual changes in laws. This can ensure women get adequate paid family and medical leave or increase the availability of high quality, affordable child care. The pay of women working in low paid jobs can be lifted through the increase in minimum wage and barriers to male dominated jobs can be broken to make them more accessible for working women.

Overcome, Conquer, Win

Zara Samy
12A

It is the 21st century, yet women carry on fighting all over the world for an equal society. Why? It is because the cause for which we are striving for is still not understood. The question of why women's day should be celebrated is often presented due to this very reason. It is celebrated to acknowledge the sheer amount of work numerous women have put in to inspire and change the status of women over the past years, from the most renowned to those who brought even the smallest of changes.

It is true that women's positions are far from that of the past, but it does not mean the inequality has been eradicated. Women to this day are underrepresented, underpaid, undermined compared to men. It is absurd to think that as of 2018, only 32% of national parliamentarians are females. While this may be an improvement from 1995 when the figure was 11.3%, but it is evident that the progress is slow and simply not enough. Even suffrage was legalized in 1893 in New Zealand for the first time, but it was not universal as Saudi Arabia granted suffrage for women as late as 2011. It still occurs in the educational sphere, where 62 million girls are denied education worldwide. Moreover, one in five women on

U.S. college campuses have experienced sexual assault as per the AAUW, which indicates that the inequality is occurring at a global scale.

According to WHO statistics, on average, 30 percent of women who have been in a relationship have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence by their partner. Also, women around the world aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, car accidents, war and malaria. These issues would not be in the limelight had it been tackled from the very first stage of socialization.

Our target now should be to remove this deep rooted idea of discrimination due to gender in order to be able to dismantle this system from above. This can only begin in our homes, where one is mostly influenced. It is not only our responsibility as women, but rather of men as well, to ensure equal treatment of both genders without discrimination for without this change, a nation cannot progress.

Challenges Women Face In Society

Aishath Saba Shamyl
10A

Lack of education of women is very clear in the world due to social issues, problems and restrictions against women. This applies especially to women who belong to lower and middle class families, who suffer more than the women of higher classes. Women in society face problems of discrimination, lack of access to education, gender wage gap, violence, etc.

Gender discrimination against women starts at birth. Gender lines are drawn early, and ostracism for women continue throughout adulthood. From the moment we are born, both boys and girls are subject to stereotypes. Challenges in the form of discrimination for women begin in childhood as young girls may be brought up to believe that they are only suited for certain professions or, in some cases, only to serve as wives and mothers. Even though more women than men start-up businesses, there are more women in the workforce than men dominating in industries that are often seen as

“female.”

Moreover, in many jobs women are paid less than the men – even if the woman is in a higher position than her male coworker, she is paid less because of the simple fact that she is a woman. In school, girls are more likely than boys to be discouraged from participating in sports, and clubs like debate, math, and science. Instead, they are more often encouraged to participate in after-school volunteer work, social programs, and more passive activities. Upon reaching adolescence, women are often encouraged, or even pressured, into pursuing higher education in stereotypical female-oriented professions, like teaching, nursing, caregiving, retail, and office administration.

Many women around the world do not have the privilege of attending school. Much of this is because of poverty, but a lot of that also has to do with gender discrimination: discouraging women

from getting educated and expecting them to stay home and take care of the children and the household. In essence, doing more expressive roles, since seeking jobs, getting educated, and being in powerful positions is not considered “womanly” in society.

With increasing numbers of women joining the workforce, a source of satisfaction for many who have been advocating women empowerment, there is no denying that the trends in the society have changed considerably in the favour of women. However, these working women have to do double or triple shift as they are expected to work, take care of the household, and

then take care of their families as well – the latter especially because child-rearing isn’t considered a “man’s” job. Due to this, society pressures women to leave their work and stay home – something that eventually happens in a lot of cases, where women have to leave their jobs either because they’re pregnant or married.

Violence against women is another worldwide issue. About 270,000 women and girls are victims to rape of sexual assault. Women suffer from domestic violence, which is very often carried out by men against women.

The Heart To All

Jeena Hameez
9A

A masterpiece of confidence and excellence
A mirror of strength and dignity
A soul of adventure and courage
A heart of love and gold
She stands with her head held high
In the presence of madness and chaos
She is draped with a cloak of roses
The thorns pricking her skin
She floats above the sea of pain and suffering
Like a piece of wood from a sinking ship

Although lost in a maze of obstacles and ranks
She climbs the mountain of expectations
Like a long lost queen returning to her kingdom
Do not forget the worth of a woman

A Message to All Men

Humam Ahmed Mujah (School Captain)
12A

The year is 2018. Mothers are still associated with cooking, laundry and other household chores. Fathers are born breadwinners. Segregated gender roles at a micro level still exist.

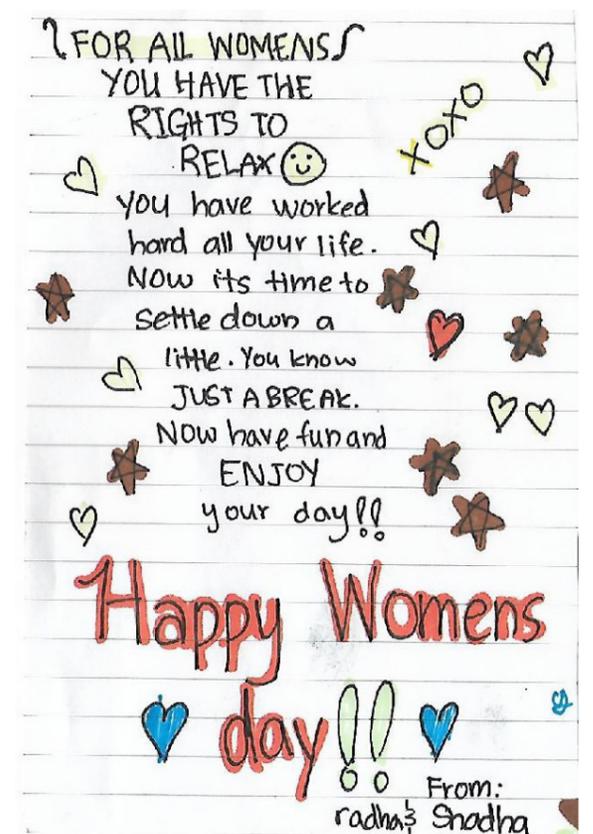
their rationality to understand and improve their behaviour – even if it’s the smallest of deeds, because even the most minuscule actions contribute to the grand scheme of the society.

I sit and ponder and wonder: how do we change these internalized, indoctrinated thoughts? Spasms of inner hegemonic masculinity and mansplaining to the women in our lives still occur even without us realizing.

Together, we can move forward to a gender equal society. For now, we must press for progress through our actions and words. #somemenare-withyou #pressforprogress

Everywhere around me at home I see the women performing the stereotypical roles. Even I sometimes do not realize that I contribute to the reinforcement and normalization of these stereotypes by getting frustrated at my own mother when there’s nothing that I feel like eating at home. We should be appreciating the women in our life for the work they do. Paid or unpaid. Skilled or unskilled.

We men and boys are major contributing factors to the oppression and stereotyping of women. We need to rationalize and be more aware of our actions, especially for the ones who are being raised in a patriarchal family structure. No one is born a patriarch. It is the society, the people around us, that make us who we are. Every man should be morally responsible to use



Editor in Chief, Senior Manager
Lyn Abdul Hameed, 12A

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Aminath Eema Asim, 12A
Fathimath Rayya, 12A
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