

Read the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments in the course text. Let's have a discussion about which of those charges leveled against Men in 1848 are no longer valid, and which of them (if any) might legitimately be made today. Have women achieved full political, social, and economic equality with men? You may bring in outside evidence, but let's begin with Seneca Falls and move forward from there.

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I understood a long time ago the way things were for women. Being an advocate against abuse, I have dove into the fabric of how the unfair treatment of women began and where it also has evolved. Several of these are infuriating but to be brutally honest they are still alive today, just either on a smaller scale or hidden behind closed doors. These might have started to slip out of the public's eye but I think its just the terminology that has changed for some.

"He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead. He has taken from her all right in property. even to the wages she earns." Today this is called Financial Abuse.

"In the covenant of marriage, she is compelled to promise obedience to her husband, he becoming, to all intents and purposes, her master, the law giving him power to deprive her of her liberty and to administer chastisement." Today this is called controlling and misogynistic behavior.

"He has so framed the laws of divorce, as to what shall be the proper causes, and in case of separation, to whom the guardianship of the children shall be given, as to be wholly regardless of the happiness of women—the law, in all cases, going upon a false supposition of the supremacy of man, and giving all power into his hands." Men use their kids as pawns to keep them in abusive marriages all the time. Often goes hand in hand with financial abuse. He has all the money, ability to pay for lawyers and many good moms are stripped of their kids through the judicial system.

"He has denied her the facilities for obtaining a thorough education—all colleges being closed against her." This isn't uncommon for women living with narcissistic men today. This is now a part of a hidden behavior but definitely still there.

"He allows her in Church, as well as State, but a subordinate position, claiming Apostolic authority for her exclusion from the ministry, and. with some exceptions, from any public participation in the affairs of the Church." This is still true in many religions. Women are still not allowed to hold any high office or make any decisions in regards to the affairs of the church.

"He has endeavored, in every way that he could, to destroy her confidence in her own powers, to lessen her self-respect and to make her willing to lead a dependent and abject life." Today this is called emotional and verbal abuse.

These are just fancy sentences used back then. But this is still very very real today, the biggest difference I see between back then and now is that men can also be treated this way. It is a personality and behavior issue, not a legal issue like it was back when these women needed to change laws for basic equal rights.

There has been a lot that has changed but I dare say we are still only 1/2 way there. This last election in Utah proved that more women are capable of running, and winning, elected government positions. There are a lot of women running businesses and even one who ran for President. Things are changing but the entitlement that some men feel over women is soooo deeply rooted, going far back from 1948 that it will still take a couple more generations to make women truly equals in both the home, and the eyes of the rest of the world.