“A new day is on the horizon! And when that new day finally dawns, it will be because of a lot of magnificent women… and some pretty phenomenal men fighting hard to make sure that they become the leaders who take us to the time when nobody ever has to say ‘Me Too’ again.”

- Oprah Winfrey, Executive
“Women are still treated as secondary issues. It is still far too easy and accepted for leaders to ignore uncomfortable truths, from female genital mutilation to child marriage. It is still the norm for women to be excluded from the peace process.”

- Angelina Jolie, Actress, Filmmaker & Humanitarian
“What others marked as flaws or disadvantages about myself – my race, my gender – I embraced as fuel for my success. I never let anything or anyone define me or my potential. I controlled my future.”

- Serena Williams, Tennis Player
“We need to have more boys and men getting it... Not just because they happen to be the fathers of daughters or because they’ve got sisters they care about, because we’re going to benefit as a society if women have gender equality.”

- Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London
"When we talk about feminism and women's rights, we're actually addressing men and we want them to recognize that women should be accepted, that women should not be prevented, that women should not be stopped from a role — just because they are women."
- Malala Yousafzai, Activist
“Too many women are scared to speak out because we are taught in sometimes subtle and sometimes very obvious ways in the society that we are supposed to be quiet and polite, and we are supposed to be nice and sweet.”

- Ellen DeGeneres, Comedian
“We need to rebrand vulnerability and emotion. A vulnerable man is not some weird anomaly. He is open to being hurt, but also open to love.”

- Grayson Perry, Artist
“Like man’s get low sometimes, so low sometimes, airplane mode on my phone sometimes, sitting in my house with tears in my face, can’t answer the door to my bro sometimes.”

- Stormzy, Rapper
“If I wanna wear a dress, then I will.”
- Jaden Smith, Actor
“I thought of myself as a feminist before I had a daughter and before I was married. Having a daughter might reinforce that, but it shouldn’t be the only reason I care about women’s rights.”

- John Legend, Singer-Songwriter
“Despite all the stay-at-home dads and the advances in shared parenting, working women are still doing the lion’s share of the work of keeping up the household. This becomes a backdoor way of excluding women—or at least making it harder for them to advance.”

- Arianna Huffington, Author and Co-Founder of The Huffington Post
"If you have diverse and equitable workforces, you are going to have less sexual harassment."

- Tina Tchen, Former Chief of Staff to Michelle Obama and Executive Director of Obama White House Council on Women and Girls
“Whether [you’re] studying aeronautics in school, working for NASA, or to being a mother and an astronaut—it’s clear to me that young girls and young women need to see other women doing those things.”
- Nicole Stoot, NASA Astronaut and Engineer
“Men are so accustomed to various privileges – such as automatically being taken more seriously – that they are not even aware they exist. That’s why it is so crucial that men listen to women and their experiences, and learn.”

- Owen Jones, Columnist
“Violence against women is learned. Each of us must examine - and change - the ways in which our own behavior might contribute to, enable, ignore or excuse all such forms of violence.”

- Sir Patrick Stewart, Actor
“There is a real need to get men to talk about rape and sexual harassment. They have to start considering, ‘Well, what does entitlement mean?’”

- Jude Kelly, Founder, WOW Festival
“What I am very much in favor of is a woman's right to make that determination on her own, in consultation with the medical community, in consultation with whoever she chooses to consult. It is not for a room full of predominantly male legislators to take away those rights from women.”

- Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
“I’ve always wanted to break free from this idea that there are certain things that I can and can’t do, depending on things like gender or religion or ethnicity.”
- Ibtihaj Muhammad, Olympic Athlete (Fencer)
“I had this skewed idea of feminist: I thought it meant being a woman who hates men. When I read Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *We Should All Be Feminists*, I was like, “Oh, this is what my mom taught me. This is simple. I don’t understand why everybody is not this.””

- Trevor Noah, Comedian
“[Gender equality] is not overstated, it’s just the way things are in Wakanda. That’s a very powerful image, where it’s not about the effort to realise equality, it’s just a state.”

- Lupita Nyong’o
Actress
“It’s like Hollywood’s image of the perfect man, and this old notion of what it meant to be a man and that this perfect man couldn’t be gay… I never think in terms of sex or gender, I think in terms of what [someone is] bringing to the table.”
- Edward Enninful, Editor-in-Chief, British Vogue
“[If] you are not of voting age, there are so many things that we can do, like calling our elected officials, or continuing conversations with family members about issues that are important to us, to move our country in a compassionate, inclusive direction.”
- Yara Shahidi, Actress and Activist
“The place where you feel that you stick out the most is the place where you should stick out and stay. That’s where you can contribute something new and something fresh.”
- Riz Ahmed, Actor
“What’s the greatest lesson a woman should learn? That since day one, she’s already had everything she needs within herself. It’s the world that convinced her she did not.”
- Rupi Kaur, Poet
“It is absolutely men’s responsibility to fight sexism too. And as spouses and partners and boyfriends, we need to work hard and be deliberate about creating truly equal relationships.”

- Barack Obama,
Former President of the USA
“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.”
- Kofi Annan, Diplomat and Former Secretary-General of the United Nations
“That’s what twenty-first century feminism is about: the idea that when everybody is equal, we are all more free.”
Aretha Louise Franklin
passed away this summer 2018

Known as the ‘Queen of Soul’, Aretha sold more than 75 million records in her lifetime and won 18 Grammy awards.

Aretha also provided the civil rights movement a powerful voice and was a prominent female symbol of Black pride. Her influence is immeasurable and her legacy will live on forever.

Today, we remember her – with thanks for all she gave to us, in music, activism and the fight for equality.
Aretha Louise Franklin
1942 - 2018