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## 2018 PSR/Sacramento Essay Contest Finalist

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### A Gender Balanced World

There have always been slightly more females in the human population, and yet the United Nations reports that there is no single country in the world where women are completely equal to men; the deficiency of women's human rights is widespread(1). Access to education, equivalent income rates, safety from sexual assault, affordable maternal and health care, and reproductive rights are still denied to females globally, and while progress has enabled women to vote in many countries, only an estimated twenty percent of all political bodies and legislative organizations are female(1). These detrimental issues are not foreign to America either. In an age of deadlocked politics and disunity, the reign of aggression in a male-dominated world creates little hope for international peace. It is a fact that the horrors of the world cannot be solved until women are fully represented and respected in society. Peace is intertwined with the globally equality of women.

Like the precious balance of nature, the time has come for the sexes to reach an equilibrium of power; we need more female leaders to bring intuition, intelligence, compassion, and cooperation into the global conversation. But how can women reach these positions of authority when cultural norms repress them?

Women sacrifice their career ambitions to nurture their children, and the responsibilities of parenting are too often viewed as only women's work. Gender equality begins with understanding the essential role of both the mother and father in raising a family. Implementing laws that provide both maternal and paternal leave can reinforce the necessity of a family unit working together. If women are not solely child-raisers, then they are free to be "breadwinners" for a family. However, according to the U.S. National Partnership for Women & Families, women are often paid eighty cents or less for every dollar a man makes(2). Regardless of work ethic or qualifications, sex-based wage discrimination strips women of their deserved earnings. Increasing work wages and benefits for employees fosters confidence, happiness, and well-being.

Imagine if all inequalities were eliminated. Both males and females would be encouraged to actively engage in domestic responsibilities. Both would have similar opportunities to explore personal interests and develop goals with equal recompense. Not only would individuals be liberated from gender roles, but they would also be acknowledged for skills, not gender. Parents would have the freedom to be both diligent nurturers and employees, and this would encourage more women to excel in reformative positions of power and influence. These modifications are desperately needed at all levels of government worldwide; with a new age of gender-balanced leadership, each sex could offer intrinsic qualities to negotiate peace.

Gender equality is essential. Egalitarianism blossoms with implementing laws welcoming women into positions of authority to provide socioeconomic and governmental jurisdiction. Peace cannot be expected if more than half of mankind is voiceless. We need equal gender influence in our world. Male-dominated government has reached a standstill, and the world needs women to promote an evolution of ideals through diplomacy and cooperation.

#### References

- (1) Rubenstein, James M. *An Introduction to Human Geography: The Cultural Landscape*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2008. Print.
- (2) Dastagir, Alia E. "What Do Men Get That Women Don't? Here Are a Few Things." USA Today. Gannett Satellite Information Network, 23 Mar. 2017. Web. 24 Mar. 2018.