

A photograph of a large American flag flying on a tall pole against a cloudy sky. In the background, there are modern buildings and some greenery. A street lamp is visible to the right of the flag.

# Women's Rights in America

By Maddie Margiotta



**In some countries, girls can't be in the same classroom as girls. In this classroom in America, girls and boys are learning together.**



Many women and girls aren't properly educated. According to [www.womenspress-slo.org](http://www.womenspress-slo.org), 87% of women in Afghanistan don't know how to read or write. When you think about it, 87% is almost every woman there! Also, according to [www.intervida.org](http://www.intervida.org), today more than 55 million girls in the world can't go to school, and more than 60% of countries don't believe in equal access to learning or school. Also about 4,500 neighborhoods don't have a government school for girls. And this is today, not 100 years ago. So right now, as you read this, 55 million girls aren't at school.

In America, girls are able to read.

The website [www.worldpress.com](http://www.worldpress.com) tells us that 95% of girls in Somalia don't go to school. That is a huge amount. If you are a girl, you may think, "They're so lucky, I don't want to go to school!" but you do. Do you really wish you knew nothing? I doubt that.

According to [www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org), there are 125,000,000 kids in the world that can't attend school, and girls cover more than 70% of that. Education is important because without it, you will not understand anything you ever hear about, and will have no knowledge. It's unfair that just because women are women and girls are girls, they can't be educated. What does it matter what gender you are?



**In Afghanistan, girls and boys over age 8 are forbidden to be together unless they are married or related. In America in this picture, a boy and girl over age 8, not married or related, are together.**



**A girl walking in clothes that don't cover her entire body.**

In some countries or religions, women can't be seen or heard publicly. When I was at Great Wolf Lodge a year ago, there were two ladies and they were wearing a piece of clothing that covered their whole bodies, even their feet and ankles. It only left open their face. Since they were in America, it must have been something about their religion that didn't allow them to show their bodies. Also, in a book called *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis, a historical fiction book about Afghanistan, it talks about how women are forced by the Taliban to wear burqas, a clothing article, that covers every inch of their skin, even their face, so they can't be identified, because apparently they aren't important enough. How would you like walking the streets, no one telling who you are? You wouldn't like that everyday, I guarantee.



According to [www.worldblog.nbcnews.com](http://www.worldblog.nbcnews.com), when the Taliban ruled in Afghanistan, women weren't allowed to wear high-heeled shoes because apparently "the sound could excite men." And women usually put on high heels without thinking about it in America.

**In NYC, a woman wearing high heels.**



## **Woman driving in Long Island, New York.**

According to [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com), women in Saudi Arabia are prohibited to drive.





According to <http://www.rawa.org>, women in Afghanistan are not allowed to be on a television screen.



**A woman is walking out of a door without a man, and has not checked with him, because in America, she has that right.**

Many women have to live under the command of a man or men. According to [www.borgenproject.com](http://www.borgenproject.com), women in Yemen have to have a male guardian give their permission to marry someone. Did you ever think: “What if my dad doesn’t approve?” and worry about it, if you’re married? What does it matter for you? There is no law that your parents have to like your chosen spouse. But in Yemen, that is the opinion that decides if the wedding is on. According to the same website, women in Yemen also need permission from a male guardian or husband to travel or get a passport. Also, women in Yemen cannot get a divorce in their marriage. That probably makes women in Yemen feel trapped, because they can have no secret places they go to, and they have to have permission, so if their male isn’t home, what can they do?

As you can see, women in America and NYC are treated a lot better than women in poorer countries. Yet most times we take it for granted. So next time you're doing *anything*, even waking up for school, be thankful that you have the right to do that.