

The Exploitation of Women

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3 John Locke once said, “All mankind...being all equal and independent, no one
4 ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions.” For most of us, this may
5 seem like common sense, and as a more advanced world, humans seem to have gained an
6 appreciation for the life of another. However, if we were to observe our society today, we
7 would clearly notice that the equal treatment of others does not extend to *all* of mankind.
8 For centuries, women have battled for their rights to live. There is no question that
9 women are vital to the human race, but it seems as though women have always been
10 harnessed to the carriage of a man’s world. Today, women have gained many freedoms
11 that they have always been denied. With access to an education, the freedom to speak,
12 and being welcomed into the workforce, it would seem as if women were moving up in
13 the social ladder. However, discrimination against women is still alive and circulating.
14 Why? The answers are everywhere: billboards, magazines, movies, music, and much
15 more are responsible for the fact that women will never be thought of as more than sexual
16 objects. Every day, women are used for their bodies in order to benefit successful
17 companies and people for profit. Therefore, the exploitation of women is the chronic
18 virus of each and every society.

19 If this issue is among us, why do people rarely speak of it? Many have fallen
20 victim to the idea that this treatment of women is *okay*. Even women themselves are
21 comfortable with the thought that their bodies are being glorified in a way that will spark
22 envy into the lives of others. Some have come to think that the use of their bodies and
23 faces is the only way they will ever become useful in the world. This is why the aging

1 process is more catastrophic to women than it is to men. According to bell hooks,
2 “Women are taught via sexist ideology to devalue their contribution to the labor force”
3 (hooks 102). Even as small children, women are taught to accept their roles in society,
4 and only look forward to the marriage of a man who would provide. However, with more
5 women going into the workforce, the gender roles are clashing into a mess of
6 discrimination and sexism. While some women are brought up to do “housewife duties,”
7 others believe that it is offensive to their status as a strong woman and are driven to work
8 as a statement of equality. However, how are women of the lower class accepted into the
9 working environment? For this question, I decided to focus on the food industry. While
10 in high school or college, many men and women flock to low paying jobs in restaurants.
11 For these observations, I needed a popular place that attracted many locals on a Friday
12 night. *Kickback Jacks*.

13 At first, I noticed very little about the gender roles within the restaurant. Being
14 very concentrated on their “uniforms,” the use of gender in the industry was clear
15 enough. Few waitresses wore modest clothing, and most wore very short shorts and low-
16 cut shirts. Most men were in the kitchen or taking shifts at the entrance, but making no
17 efforts to greet customers at the door. Male employees were scarce. Although it is likely
18 that there are many employed, the beautiful females were the ones to show their faces on
19 this crowded Friday night. Sitting with a good view of the bar, which was surrounded by
20 loud and drunken men, I noticed that each female bartender was ignored until she was
21 needed, and even when a glass shattered at a girl’s feet, none addressed regarding her
22 safety while she silently took the broom to her mess. This was a job which no one cared
23 about your well-being, personal life, or comfort zone. Each customer wanted their drinks,

1 food, alcoholic beverages, and the check as simply and quickly as possible. No doubt
2 these waitresses have also learned that the more skin they show, and the more polite their
3 attitude is, the better the tips. Women are still stamped with the label of being subservient
4 people, with a natural need to please other people. With this being the case, women flock
5 to these positions because they are openly available to them, and everyone needs a job.
6 Therefore, women and men who fight against sexism are caught in a cyclone of a world
7 that is stuck in its old ways.

8 Sexism is destroying our society. If we live in a country where people are treated
9 equally, why are women used, attacked, and discriminated against every day? Women
10 must be addressed in this issue as well. They absorb what society teaches them, and allow
11 themselves to be used. In the end, it comes down to human worth. If they are human, how
12 will you treat them? Everyone has family and feelings. When you come across a
13 swimsuit edition of a magazine, one must remember that she is someone's daughter,
14 sister, niece, and future mother. Someone loves them and misses them. Yet, humans are
15 naturally self-centered and prefer to see things the pleasurable way they are presented to
16 us. According to bell hooks, "As long as the United States is an imperialist, capitalist,
17 patriarchal society, no large female majority can enter the existing ranks of the powerful"
18 (hooks 92). Unfortunately, I believe this to be a truth. The United States thrives on the
19 beliefs that have always been known, and one must always be in power. Some men are
20 raised to believe that because of the way they are born, they are entitled to the privileges
21 of the earth. However, this can always change in a way that women are seen as strong
22 companions with weaker bodies, instead of lesser humans with weaker minds and spirits.
23 The main way to do this is to be *rid* of sexual exploitation. It is a disease of our society

1 and minds of both men and women. Men will never think of a woman as his equal if a
2 woman *allows* herself to be presented as unequal. A woman must know her own worth
3 and respect herself if she ever wishes to be respected by a man. Women must understand
4 that their place in society involves their heads up and their clothes on. However,
5 motivation is needed to get this message across. Through the teachings of the generations
6 before, most women believe that the use of gender is the key to survival in life, which
7 keeps her mind feeble in society. Although kept in a state of weakness, women are
8 human beings, and deserve slavery no more than the souls of the past. Today, women are
9 in bondage psychologically, and need the unity of *all* people who are ready to stand up
10 for the value of every human. Although beautiful and majestic, she belongs in no harness.

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Bibliography

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