Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions

*When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one portion of the family of man to assume among the people of earth a position different from that which they hitherto occupied, but one to which the laws of nature and of nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes that impel them to such a course.*

*We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal...*

He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise.

He has monopolized nearly all the profitable employments.

He has taxed her to support a government which recognizes her only when her property can be profitable.

He has denied her the facilities for obtaining a thorough education.

He has left her without representation in the halls of legislation, he has oppressed her on all sides.

He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead.

In marriage, she is compelled to promise obedience to her husband, he becoming her master.

He has framed the laws of divorce...in case of separation, the children shall be given to the man.

He allows her in Church as well as State, a subordinate position, claiming authority over her.

He closes against her all venues to wealth and distinction, which he considers most honorable to himself.