

and to claim his rights to equality in order to say nothing more about it.

Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the

Female Citizen

For the National Assembly to decree in its last

sessions, or in those of the next legislature:

Preamble

Mothers, daughters, sisters [and] representatives

of the nation demand to be constituted into

a national assembly. Believing that ignorance,

omission, or scorn for the rights of woman are

the only causes of public misfortunes and of the

corruption of governments, [the women] have

resolved to set forth a solemn declaration the

natural, inalienable, and sacred rights of woman

in order that this declaration, constantly exposed

before all members of the society, will ceaselessly

remind them of their rights and duties; in order

that the authoritative acts of women and the

authoritative acts of men may be at any moment

compared with and respectful of the purpose

of all political institutions; and in order that

citizens' demands, henceforth based on simple and

incontestable principles, will always support the

constitution, good morals, and the happiness of all.

Consequently, the sex that is as superior in

beauty as it is in courage during the sufferings of

maternity recognizes and declares in the presence

and under the auspices of the Supreme Being,

the following Rights of Woman and of Female

Citizens.

Article I

Woman is born free and lives equal to man in

her rights. Social distinctions can be based only on

the common utility.

Article II

The purpose of any political association is the

conservation of the natural and imprescriptible

rights of woman and man; these rights are liberty

property, security, and especially resistance to

oppression.

Article III

The principle of all sovereignty rests essentially

with the nation, which is nothing but the union

of woman and man; no body and no individual

can exercise any authority which does not come

expressly from it (the nation).

Article IV

Liberty and justice consist of restoring all

that belongs to others; thus, the only limits on

the exercise of the natural rights of woman are

perpetual male tyranny; these limits are to be

reformed by the laws of nature and reason.

Article V

Laws of nature and reason proscribe all

acts harmful to society; everything which is not

prohibited by these wise and divine laws cannot be

prevented, and no one can be constrained to do

what they do not command.

Article VI

The law must be the expression of the general

will; all female and male citizens must contribute

either personally or through their representatives to

its formation; it must be the same for all: male and

female citizens, being equal in the eyes of the law,

must be equally admitted to all honors, positions,

and public employment according to their capacity

and without other distinctions besides those of

their virtues and talents.

Article VII

No woman is an exception; she is accused,

arrested, and detained in cases determined by law.

Women, like men, obey this rigorous law.

Article VIII

The law must establish only those penalties that

are strictly and obviously necessary...

Article IX

Once any woman is declared guilty, complete

rigor is exercised by law.

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