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A WOMAN'S NATION PUSHES BACK FROM THE BRINK

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Gender Equality Is a Myth!

01.12.2014

By *Beyoncé Knowles-Carter*

We need to stop buying into the myth about gender equality. It isn't a reality yet. Today, women make up half of the U.S. workforce, but the average working woman earns only 77 percent of what the average working man makes. But unless women and men both say this is unacceptable, things will not change. Men have to demand that their wives, daughters, mothers, and sisters earn more—commensurate with their qualifications and not their gender. Equality will be achieved when men and women are granted equal pay and equal respect.

Humanity requires both men and women, and we are equally important and need one another. So why are we viewed as less than equal? These old attitudes are drilled into us from the very beginning. We have to teach our boys the rules of equality and respect, so that as they grow up, gender equality becomes a natural way of life. And we have to teach our girls that they can reach as high as humanly possible.

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We have a lot of work to do, but we can get there if we work together. Women are more than 50 percent of the population and more than 50 percent of voters. We must demand that we all receive 100 percent of the opportunities.

**IF WOMEN
RECEIVED PAY
EQUAL TO THEIR
MALE
COUNTERPARTS,
THE U.S.
ECONOMY
WOULD
PRODUCE \$447.6
BILLION IN
ADDITIONAL
INCOME.**

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Do you agree with Beyonce? Let us know on [Twitter](#)!

This is an excerpt from [The Shriver Report: A Woman's Nation Pushes Back from the Brink](#), in partnership with the Center for American Progress. [DOWNLOAD THE REPORT HERE.](#)

Have HBO? Be sure to tune in on March 17th to see our documentary produced in association with HBO, [Paycheck to Paycheck: The Life and Times of Katrina Gilbert](#), which shows an intimate portrait of one family's life living on the brink of poverty.

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