

Reader's Theater for THE "DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS"

**Read by Elizabeth Stanton on July 4, 1848,
at the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York**

1. The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries on the part of man toward woman. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

**2. Shirley Chisholm, First African-American woman elected to U.S. Congress;
first major party African-American candidate for President of the United
States:**

3. "It really takes guts to take a stand."

4. He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the [right to vote].

5. He has compelled her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she had no voice.

6. Chorus:

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

**7. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, leader and driving force for the women's movement in the
1800's.**

8. He has withheld from her rights which are given to the most ignorant and degraded men
- both natives and foreigners.

9. He has taken from her all rights in property, even to the wages she earns.

**10. Sojourner Truth, formerly enslaved woman and advocate for freedom and
women's rights:**

11. "I ... speak for the rights of colored women. I want to keep the thing stirring, now that
the ice is cracked ... You have been having our rights for so long, that you think, like a
slaveholder, that you own us."

Chorus:

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

12. She is compelled to promise obedience to her husband, he becoming, to all intents and
purposes, her master.

13 the law [gives] him power to deprive her of her liberty, and to administer
chastisement {punishment}.

14. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross during the Civil War:

15. "Brothers, when you were weak, and I was strong, I toiled for you. Now you are strong,
and I ask your aid. I ask the ballot for myself and my sex. As I stood by you, I pray you stand
by me and mine."

Chorus:

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

16. After depriving her of all rights as a married woman and the owner of property, he has taxed her to support a government which recognizes her only when her property can be made profitable to it.

17. He has monopolized nearly all the profitable employments, and from those she is permitted to follow, she receives but a scanty remuneration [pay].

18. Maya Angelou, African-American poet:

19. "Some of us are timid. We think we have something to lose so we don't try for that next hill."

Chorus:

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

20. He closes against her all the avenues to wealth and distinction which he considers most honorable to himself. As a teacher of theology, medicine, or law, she is not known.

21. He has denied her the facilities for obtaining a thorough education, all colleges being closed against her.

22. Wilma Rudolph, first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field during a single Olympic Games:

23. "When the sun is shining I can do anything; no mountain is too high, no trouble too difficult to overcome."

Chorus:

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

24. He has [abused] the [right] of [God] himself, claiming it as his right to assign for her [duties in life], when that belongs to her conscience and to her God.

25. He has endeavored, in every way that he could, to destroy her confidence in her own powers, to lessen her self-respect.

26. Eleanor Roosevelt, former First lady, reformer, humanitarian:

27. "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

Chorus:

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

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