

EXPLORING SOCIAL INJUSTICE

INJUSTICE AGAINST WOMEN

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AT A GLANCE

- The United States has a history of injustices against women. For much of the country's history, US women were not allowed to vote, own property, or serve on juries.
- The Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote. It was added to the US Constitution in 1920.
- An extremist group called the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan in 2021. Historically, the group has limited women's rights. It reduced educational and work opportunities for women again after retaking power.
- Women in the United States make 82 cents for every dollar that men earn. This is known as the gender pay gap.
- In the case *Roe v. Wade*, the US Supreme Court protected a woman's choice to get an abortion.

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INJUSTICE AGAINST WOMEN TODAY

There are many examples of injustice against women in the world today.

One can be seen in Afghanistan. A group called the Taliban runs the country. The Taliban has an extreme interpretation of Islam. The group has used its beliefs to justify discrimination against women.

A US invasion in 2001 removed it from power. But the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan in August 2021. Many people worried what this would mean for Afghan

The rights of women and girls in Afghanistan are threatened under Taliban rule.





Some Muslim women choose to wear a hijab as a symbol of their faith.

women and girls. The Taliban claimed it would not discriminate against women. But it shut down a government department that promoted women's rights. It also created laws that threatened women's rights.

The Taliban discriminates against women in many ways. Under Taliban rule, men do not have clothing restrictions. But the Taliban required all women to wear burqas from 1996 to 2001. A burqa is a large veil that covers a woman's head, face, and body. Some Muslim women choose to wear burqas or other religious coverings. They view these coverings as symbols of their culture and faith. Some women have reported that Taliban soldiers have tried to force them to wear burqas. Women do not have a choice about how to express their religious beliefs.

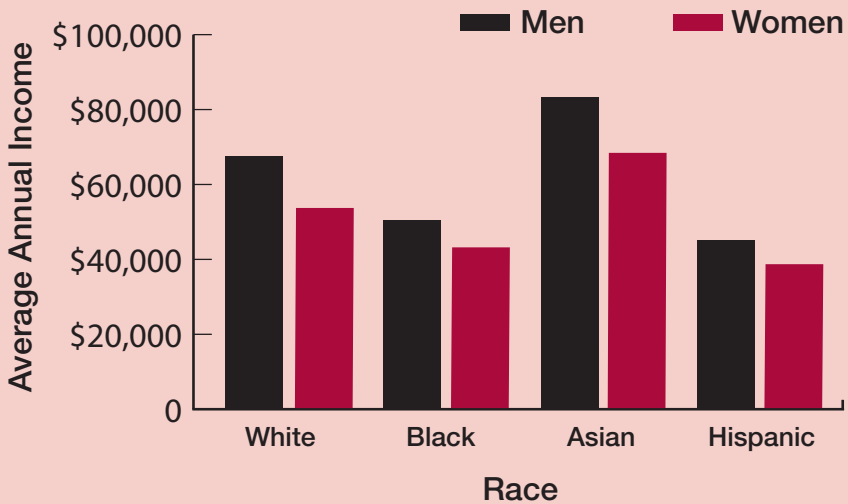
The Taliban restricted job opportunities for women. The city of Kabul prevented female government employees from working in October 2021. Women were not allowed to appear on television.

At first, the Taliban allowed some women to attend universities. But their freedoms

KEEPING WOMEN FROM WORKING

Women do not have the right to work in eighteen countries. These countries have laws that allow men to decide whether their wives can work. More than one hundred countries have laws that prevent women from working certain jobs. These laws give men financial power over their wives.

GENDER PAY GAP BY RACE IN 2020



Source: “The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap,” AAUW, 2021. aauw.org.

The gender pay gap exists across all races. Women of all races earn less than their male counterparts.

in 1963. It promised equal pay for the same work regardless of gender, race, or religion.

But pay discrimination continues today.

In a 2017 survey, 42 percent of US women reported facing gender

GLOSSARY

bias

a personal belief or judgment that is often unfair

candidate

someone running for a political office

discrimination

the act of treating people differently based on factors such as race, religion, or gender

jury

a group of people who listen to the evidence of a legal trial and decide whether a person is guilty

LGBTQ

lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer

sexual harassment

unwanted physical or verbal behavior that is sexual in nature

suffrage

the right to vote

transgender

relating to a person whose gender identity is different than the sex assigned at birth

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