"The story of women’s struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights." — Gloria Steinem

Women’s Rights Are Human Rights: International Posters on Gender-based Inequality, Violence and Discrimination
Organized and curated by Elizabeth Resnick

Women’s Rights Are Human Rights is a fitting title for an exhibition of women’s rights and advocacy posters, as it was a term used in the women’s rights movement and was the title of an important speech given by Hillary Rodham Clinton in 1995 at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. In her speech Clinton suggests that “if the term women’s rights were to be interchangeable with the term human rights the world community would be a better place because human rights effect the women who raise the world’s children, care for the elderly, run companies, work in hospitals, right for better education and better health care.”

Yet, gender inequalities remain deeply entrenched in every society. Women lack access to decent work and face occupational segregation and gender wage gaps. They are often denied access to basic education and health care. Women in all parts of the world suffer violence and discrimination. They are under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes.

In many cultures women have very little control over their own bodies, with female sexuality being largely controlled and defined by men in patriarchal societies. Sexual violence committed by men is often rooted in ideologies of male sexual entitlement, and these systems grant women very few legitimate options to refuse sexual advances. This entitlement can take different forms, depending on the culture. Basic human rights and women’s rights are violated every single day as the rape and brutality of women is used as an instrument of armed conflict. Women and children make up a large majority of the world’s refugees. And when women are excluded from the political process, they become even more vulnerable to abuse.

This exhibition features posters created by both men and women to celebrate and acknowledge the vital role that all citizens should play in protecting and promoting human rights while challenging gender inequality and stereotypes, advancing reproductive and sexual rights, protecting women and girls against brutality, and promoting women’s empowerment and participation in society. These poster images challenge religious and cultural norms and patriarchal attitudes that subordinate, stigmatize or restrict women from achieving their fullest potential. These images argue for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls enabling empowerment of women and achievement of real equality between women and men that fosters societal stability and human dignity.

Top Treat Women as Equals, Anita Kunz, Canada
Bottom Woman Is Not An Object, Dalida Karic-Hadziahmetovic, Bosnia
Top Women Shouldn’t, UN Women
Bottom Salary Inequality, Teresa Sdralevich, Belgium

Top Women Cannot, UN Women
Bottom End Violence Against Women, Favianna Rodriguez, USA
Top Save Our Sisters: Abused Goddess, Taproot Dentsu, India
Bottom Unbind Yourself from Domestic Violence, Women of Kyrgyzstan

Top International Women’s Day 2012, Miguel Porlan, France
Bottom Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, Fabrica, Italy