

Listen to the Voices ¹

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VOICE 1 Close your eyes for a moment. Picture what your life has been, where you are now, and where you believe you're headed.

VOICE 2 Now imagine you had been born the opposite gender. Picture how your life would have been different, what it would be like now, and what you believe your future would look like.

VOICE 3 Hold these thoughts. We'll return to them later.

VOICE 2 Women must be assertive.

VOICE 4 not aggressive — assertive

VOICE 2 and claim their rightful place in society.

VOICE 3 Hold onto your awareness of the challenges women have faced in the past and which often linger into the present. Make an effort to imagine the future.

VOICE 4 With that in the back of your mind, listen to the voice of Barbara Bostian. In *Jill-in-the-Box*ⁱ Ms. Bostian uses the whimsey of a child's toy and juxtaposes it with adult realities:

VOICE 1 "Crammed into place by a careless hand
Jill waits for someone to play her song
springing her forth into service.

VOICE 2 "Delighted giggles greet her appearance

¹ See online along with related material at https://bahai-library.com/toth_scripts_holy_days

VOICE 4 “‘til the lid cloisters her with a clack.

VOICE 3 “Sisters the world over, lay mute
in the darkness of mankind’s ignorance, bound
by time and place, estranged
from primal knowledge,

VOICE 4 “from feminine truth,

VOICE 3 “propelled by rhythms not their own.

VOICE 4 “But women have legs and minds, I scream,
toes to flex and neurons to crack.

VOICE 3 “What box can restrain that energy?

VOICE 4 “Sisters, you’re living a nightmare dream.
Wake up and listen,

VOICE 3 “listen,

VOICE 4 “listen.

VOICE 3 “Hold close your wholeness; feel its sounds;

VOICE 4 “Delight to its pulse;

VOICE 3 “dance your souls.

VOICE 4 “Leap out of the coils of containment.

VOICE 3 “And once you’ve mustered your own powers,

VOICE 4 "Help free that scoundrel, Jack!"

VOICE 1 Hmm. Does Jack really need to be freed?

VOICE 2 From what? And why?

VOICE 3 From a world woefully out of balance. This balance, or complementarity, will only be realized through the liberation of women.

VOICE 4 And as long as women do not enjoy perfect freedom — neither will men.

VOICE 1 Let's listen to the voice of Nancy R. Smith who explains this in *For Every Woman*ⁱⁱ:

VOICE 2 "For every woman who is tired of acting weak when she knows she is strong, there is a man who is tired of appearing strong when he feels vulnerable.

VOICE 3 "For every woman who is tired of acting dumb, there is a man who is burdened with the constant expectation of "knowing everything."

VOICE 1 "For every woman who is tired of being called "an emotional female," there is a man who is denied the right to weep and to be gentle.

VOICE 4 "For every woman who is called unfeminine when she competes, there is a man for whom competition is the only way to prove his masculinity.

VOICE 2 "For every woman who feels tired of being a sex object, there is a man who must worry about his potency.

VOICE 3 "For every woman who feels "tied down" by her children, there is a man who is denied the full pleasure of shared parenthood.

VOICE 1 "For every woman who is denied meaningful employment or equal pay, there is a man who must bear full financial responsibility for another human being.

VOICE 4 “For every woman who was not taught the intricacies of an automobile, there is a man who was not taught the satisfaction of cooking.

VOICE 2 “For every woman who takes a step toward her own liberation, there is a man who finds the way to freedom has been made easier.”

VOICE 3 In the early 1900's while women argued their right to vote, novelist and poet Alice Duer Miller's voice is heard in her satirical piece that demonstrates the ridiculousness of men's presumptions about women by proposing similar ones women might hold about men. Listen to her voice in:

VOICE 4 *Why We Oppose Votes for Men* ⁱⁱⁱ

VOICE 3 “Because man's place is in the army.

VOICE 4 “Because no really *manly* man wants to settle any question otherwise than by fighting about it.

VOICE 3 “Because if men should adopt peaceable methods women will no longer look up to them.

VOICE 4 “Because men will lose their charm if they step out of their natural sphere and interest themselves in other matters than feats of arms, uniforms, and drums.

VOICE 3 “Because men are too emotional to vote. Their conduct at baseball games and political conventions shows this,

VOICE 4 while their innate tendency to appeal to force renders them particularly unfit for the task of government.”

VOICE 1 That would be funny if it weren't so sadly true in parts.

VOICE 2 Isn't that the point of the art of humor? To show us our flaws, let us laugh at them at first, but then cause us to ponder our own thoughts and actions?

VOICE 3 Like the court jester!

VOICE 2 Exactly! Art meant to stir and educate is not always executed in the form of protest. Sometimes it takes the form that the court jester used:

VOICE 4 “In literature, the jester is symbolic of common sense and of honesty, notably in Shakespeare’s *King Lear*, where the court jester is a character used for insight and advice on the part of the monarch, taking advantage of his license to mock and speak freely to dispense frank observations and highlight the folly of his monarch.^{iv}”

VOICE 1 “This presents a clashing irony as a greater man could dispense the same advice and find himself being detained in the dungeons or even executed.

VOICE 2 “Only as the lowliest member of the court can the jester be the monarch’s most useful adviser.”

VOICE 3 Similarly, in modern day “roasts” where various friends and relatives take turns, in a light-hearted manner, to joke about the foibles of the guest of honor, they are laughing “with” rather than “at” the person.

VOICE 4 It can be an eye-opener for the honoree.

VOICE 1 What the jester, roaster, political cartoonist, satirist, and artists of many genres do, is to use their art as a mirror. As you view it, read it, listen to it, contemplate it — you see yourself and ask, “Is this who I really am? Do I want to go on like this? Should I change?”

VOICE 4 You, with your innate creativity, can become an agent of change by giving due consideration to maintaining proper balance.

VOICE 2 “The world in the past has been ruled by force, and man has dominated over woman by reason of his more forceful and aggressive qualities both of body and mind.^v

VOICE 1 “But the scales are already shifting — force is losing its weight and mental alertness, intuition, and the spiritual qualities of love and service, in which woman is strong, are gaining ascendancy.”^{vi}

VOICE 3 “We strive toward an age less masculine and more permeated with the feminine ideals.”^{vii}

VOICE 4 “Or, to speak more exactly, it will be an age in which the masculine and feminine elements of civilization will be more evenly balanced”^{viii} and people will deign to also listen to the women’s voices.

VOICE 1 As in the Asian concept of yin and yang.

VOICE 3 “What made the universe operate the way it did was understood to be a balance between these two forces.”^{ix} [yin, negative; yang, positive]

VOICE 4 “No philosopher said that yang was good and yin was evil . . . nature, humankind, and even events were a combination of both forces.

VOICE 1 “When these two forces were at work in harmony, life was what it should be.”^x

VOICE 2 “...even though its principles are in tension, they are not flatly opposed. They complement and counterbalance each other.”^{xi}

VOICE 3 The world is woefully *out* of balance at the present time. This balance/complementarity will only be achieved once the liberation of women becomes a universal reality —

VOICE 4 and — it doesn’t hurt to repeat — so long as women do not enjoy perfect freedom — neither will men.

VOICE 2 With the idea of balance in mind, let’s liken people to birds.

VOICE 1 "The world of humanity has two wings — one is woman and the other man... Should one wing remain weak, flight is impossible."^{xii}

VOICE 4 Red and Kathy Grammar raised their voices and wrote a song that teaches this concept to children,

VOICE 3 And little children do listen to the voices.

VOICE 1 With two wings we can soar through the air

VOICE 3 With two wings we can go most anywhere

VOICE 1 With two wings we can sail through the sky

BOTH With two wings we can fly

VOICE 1 I am one wing, father and brother
By myself all I can do is flutter
I'm only one wing, I need the other
For the dove of peace to fly

VOICE 3 I am one wing, sister and mother
By myself all I can do is flutter
I'm only one wing I need the other
For the dove of peace to fly

VOICE 1 With two wings we can soar through the air

VOICE 3 With two wings we can go most anywhere

VOICE 1 With two wings we can sail through the sky

BOTH With two wings we can fly

VOICE 3 I am one voice

VOICE 1 I am another

VOICE 3 I'm half of the world

VOICE 1 And I am the other

VOICE 3 When we learn to work together

BOTH Then the dove of peace will fly

VOICE 1 With two wings we can soar through the air

VOICE 3 With two wings we can go most anywhere

VOICE 1 With two wings we can sail through the sky

BOTH With two wings we can fly

[Invite audience to sing along]

BOTH With two wings we can soar through the air

With two wings we can go most anywhere

With two wings we can sail through the sky

With two wings we can fly

VOICE 4 Because the world's been out of balance, woman's thoughts, ideas, contributions have often been overlooked, ignored, or even buried.

VOICE 2 If you read the book or saw the movie, *Hidden Figures*, you've been given an example of this glossing over of actual historical fact.

VOICE 1 The old women, of whatever tribe, nation, religion, or culture, are rich reservoirs of wisdom and knowledge. We would do well to listen to the voices of the old women, as we are guided to in this poem whose author remains unknown.

VOICE 3 "Listen to the Voices of the Old Women

VOICE 1 "Listen to the voices of the old women

VOICE 4 "Calling out the messages of the heart and soul

VOICE 2 "Telling us what we used to know before the lies were told

VOICE 3 "Listen to the voices of the old women"

VOICE 1 What are the old women saying today?

VOICE 4 Wisdom does come with age, but we shouldn't assume that it is exclusive to seniors.

VOICE 2 Let's take a brief look, for inspiration, at ladies of a variety of ages who weren't about to sit back and watch the world pass them by.

VOICE 3 Oh, no. They went out, spoke up, acted, and moved the world in a better direction. It's our pleasure to introduce them to you.

VOICE 1 **Elaine Brown** worked to unite people through music. She founded Philadelphia's Singing City Choir, composed of people of varied backgrounds.

VOICE 4 "Over the years," wrote Andy Wallace in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "it included a Tibetan, a surgeon from the Dominican Republic, a Japanese lab technician, and a member of the von Trapp family."^{xiii}

VOICE 1 "Mrs. Brown was fond of saying, 'Music is the great gluer; it holds us all together.'"^{xiv}

VOICE 3 "The choir recognized no political, racial or class barriers in selecting its itinerary.

VOICE 2 "It sang in Israel and Egypt in 1974, and later, when tensions were high, performed in concerts in Israel and Jordan.

VOICE 4 Mrs. Brown's choir sang in the Academy of Music as well as old-age homes and in the South in the 1940s and 1950s."^{xv}

VOICE 1 "Since the choir was racially mixed and strongly committed to equality, the singers sometimes went without meals or gave up hotel reservations rather than accept separate accommodations."^{xvi}

VOICE 3 "Mrs. Brown led that choir, and guided their commitment to harmony that went even beyond the music, until the age of 77."^{xvii}

VOICE 4 Not just her singing and conducting, but her determined social actions were an invaluable part of Mrs. Brown's voice."

VOICE 2 Now meet **Ruth Gruber**, a special assistant to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes during World War II.

VOICE 3 Ickes directed her to Europe to collect 1,000 refugees and escort them back to the U.S.

VOICE 1 On arrival, she found them incarcerated rather than freed.

VOICE 4 Gruber fought tirelessly. She did not still her voice until she finally won their release, brought them to the U.S. *and* obtained permission for them to remain in the U.S.

VOICE 2 A world traveler, she'd also been a journalist and authored numerous books and articles.

VOICE 3 *Inside of Time: My Journey from Alaska to Israel: A Memoir with Eleanor Roosevelt, Harold L. Ickes, Golda Meir, and Other Friends*, published in 2003, received a Pulitzer nomination.

VOICE 1 She even played a cameo role in the CBS miniseries *Haven*, based on her autobiography.

VOICE 4 Ruth Gruber used the power of the written word as her voice.

VOICE 2 In Brazil, architect, Ester Carro set out to create a safe and healthy greenspace over an abandoned landfill in Jardim Colombo, her village outside Sao Paolo.

VOICE 3 The herculean task, made more difficult due to the lack of official government support, was a huge success due to her ability to use her voice and develop enthusiasm and commitment from local volunteers as well as a variety of humanitarian organizations.

VOICE 1 Her victorious achievement was all the sweeter for the new mother as she had recently overcome a battle with depression.

VOICE 4 Ms. Carro now plans to repeat this feat in other parts of her country.

VOICE 2 **Reva Stewart**, a Navajo woman, uses her voice to raise awareness of situations, simultaneously moral and criminal, being perpetrated against Native Americans.

VOICE 4 Not only is the vast extent of fraud creating a financial loss to the state and, thereby, to taxpayers, of hundreds of millions of dollars, but it results in unspeakably cruel conditions, mental and physical, to indigenous people.

VOICE 1 Huge numbers of people are lured, and some outright forced, into programs that purport to help cure alcoholism and addiction. but either simply don't, or worse, aggravate and perpetuate their conditions.

VOICE 3 Try to imagine their anguish when on realizing they've been duped, they are then prevented from leaving. They remain kidnapped and at the mercy of the schemers.

VOICE 2 Stewart addressed the issue before both tribal and Arizona state leaders back in November 2022.

VOICE 4 Frustrated by the lack of action to correct this injustice, she, along with Colleen Chatter and others, refuse to remain silent about the issue which still continues.

VOICE 1 Their group has suffered retaliatory actions by those who don't wish to have their lucrative scams shut down.

VOICE 2 Undaunted, they continue to advocate. In an interview with *Arizona Republic* reporter Arlyssa D. Becenti, Stewart described courage as the use of one's voice,

VOICE 4 “Use your voice. You never know how important your voice is until you use it.”^{xviii}

VOICE 1 One woman who understands the importance and uses her voice is Kimberly Seals Allers, whose story is included in Black Moms Matter, a story by A. Rouchaun Meadows-Fernandez in *USA Today*’s 2024^{xix} Black History Month supplement.

VOICE 3 After being a victim of unfounded and unreasonable stereotyping about Black women during her pregnancy, she learned through unfortunate personal experience that Black women are assumed, by a medical establishment dominated by white male physicians, to be strong and resilient. It’s believed that they don’t feel pain like others do nor is it necessary for them to be treated tenderly. They don’t need pampering, understanding, or extra consideration.

VOICE 2 Add to that the dire statistics of Black women being three times more likely to die in childbirth, and infant mortality rates almost twice that of babies born to white women, and you’ll understand that these conditions led Sear Allers to use her voice to try and make a difference.

VOICE 1 Understanding the common trepidation that often accompanies pregnancies in Black women, due to the aforementioned statistics and misconceptions, she brought hope and a sense of joy to expectant mothers with her 2005 book, *The Mocha Manual to a Fabulous Pregnancy*.

VOICE 4 2013 saw the launch of Black Breastfeeding Week, co-founded by Seals Aller and Kidda Green.

VOICE 2 In 2021 she launched the Irth App, an online forum for mutual support. On their home pages you’ll read:

VOICE 3 “The only app where you can find prenatal, birthing, postpartum and pediatric reviews of care from other Black and brown women. “The #1 “Yelp-like” platform for the pregnancy and new motherhood journey, made by and for people of

color. Search doctor and hospital reviews from your community! Leave a review today to help inform and protect others!"

VOICE 1 Meadows-Fernandez closes her article by telling us that "Sears Allers is just getting started.

VOICE 4 "Now she works to celebrate Black motherhood through Irth's Crown Awards, a 'Grammy-style celebration' honoring Black mothers.

VOICE 2 "This year she also plans to pilot 'The Best Places to Birth for Black People' in New York City based on Irth reviews."

VOICE 3 **Sarina Krishnan**, at the age of 16, founded the nonprofit organization, Pathways to Assimilation.

VOICE 2 Sarina was highlighted as one of People's "Girl's Changing the World" in 2020.

VOICE 4 The 10-person team offers immigrants ESL education, résumé assistance, and job-prep services.

VOICE 1 As of 2020 they had assisted more than 1000 people in the greater San Diego, USA area.

VOICE 3 Sarina says, "There's no better feeling than working with families. You see them gain confidence, and then they want to help others."

VOICE 2 In 1996, 24-year-old law student **Layli Miller-Muro** represented teenager Fauziya Kassindja who had fled her home country of Togo in her quest for asylum in the U.S.

VOICE 4 At home Kassindja faced the danger of unwanted genital mutilation and being forced into a polygamous marriage against her will.

VOICE 1 Upon arrival, instead of finding freedom, she was placed in and spent a year and a half in detention.

VOICE 3 Miller-Muro raised her voice on Kassindja's behalf before the nation's highest immigration court. Asylum was granted and this ruling set precedent for other women fleeing gender-based persecution.

VOICE 2 The following year, at age 25, Miller-Muro founded the Tahirih Justice Center and served as its CEO for many years as she guided and grew it into a flourishing organization with offices in cities around the country. According to its website,

VOICE 4 "The Tahirih Justice Center is a national, nonprofit organization that serves immigrant survivors fleeing gender-based violence. By amplifying the experiences of survivors in communities, courts, and Congress, Tahirih's mission is to create a world in which all people share equal rights and live in safety and with dignity."^{xx}

VOICE 1 They now have a large staff who all raise their voices to stand up for women's rights.

VOICE 3 They handle cases of varied crimes against women, including trafficking, rape, and domestic violence, child marriage, forced marriage, genital mutilation, and more.

VOICE 2 Whether in Western society or in developing nations, much of what a woman does with her life depends on the level of education she receives.

VOICE 4 It is essential to the actualization of global peace that throughout the world woman takes her proper place in society, and she cannot do this without education.

VOICE 3 "The emancipation of women, the achievement of full equality between the sexes, is one of the most important, though less acknowledged prerequisites of peace.

VOICE 2 The denial of such equality perpetrates an injustice against one half of the world's population and promotes in men harmful attitudes and habits that are carried

from the family to the workplace, to political life, and ultimately to international relations.”^{xxi}

VOICE 1 “There are no grounds, moral, practical, or biological, upon which such denial can be justified.

VOICE 4 “Only as women are welcomed into full partnership in all fields of human endeavour will the moral and psychological climate be created in which international peace can emerge.”^{xxii}

VOICE 3 Recognizing the importance of this issue, a conference held at the University of Maryland, College Park, during Spring/Summer 2001 had this as part of their Statement of Purpose:

VOICE 2 “...it has become increasingly clear that periodic meetings or national initiatives alone will have only a limited impact at best on the institutions, political will and values that determine gender equality in a global society.

VOICE 1 “While major advances have been made on the cross-cutting themes of economic empowerment,

VOICE 4 “science and technology,

VOICE 3 “political leadership and participation,

VOICE 2 “and human security,

VOICE 1 “significant barriers to social justice for women and girls in these arenas remain.

VOICE 3 “The number and diversity of organizations and individuals engaged on behalf of gender equity has multiplied tremendously during the last century.

VOICE 4 “Ironically their voices are struggling more than ever to be heard.”

VOICE 1 This first stanza from poet Roger White's *Always it is Women*^{xxiii}, offers a glimpse of why women's input is necessary in the affairs of the world — why we should listen to their voices:

VOICE 3 "It is women, always women, who reveal the way,
who see and understand what well serves life.

VOICE 2 "Forced from prehistoric day
to yield in love and birth
to bend and stoop to cradle, fire and field,
they gazed to earth
were befriended by what nurtures
and grew wise.

VOICE 4 "Men went gladly whooping to the hunt
happy with the power to devise,
schemes of war, instruments of death
and magic to hold congress with the stars.

VOICE 1 "If the rich game thinned or weather turned adverse
They might placate capricious spirits,
blame illest luck or totem's curse
and range afar.

VOICE 2 "But women knew.

VOICE 4 "Leaning and listening they learned
what in stillness is acutely earned.

VOICE 1 "Crouched closest to the soil
they saw the berry sicken,

VOICE 3 "the water fail,

VOICE 2 “the sweet clay spoil,

VOICE 4 “knew incantation would not avail
nor sacrifice behoove.

VOICE 3 “Soon the camp would move.”

VOICE 1 Roger White isn’t the only man to recognize that women deserve not only equal rights but also equity with men.

VOICE 4 One of the areas lacking in much of the world, is the education of the female child. Once women are educated, they will refuse to be held back.

VOICE 2 Just about everyone anywhere in the world has heard of Malala Yousafzai and is familiar with her story — and her voice. But most of the extensive coverage of Malala’s attempted assassination, remarkable recovery and award of the Nobel Peace Prize has slighted, neglected, or completely omitted an area of paramount importance.

VOICE 3 The global coverage of one individual and her struggle has left out much mention of her inspiration and role model— her father Ziauddin Yousafzai, and the profound example he continues to set for his daughter.

VOICE 1 While the overwhelming majority of men in Middle Eastern countries believe a woman’s place is in the home and her only education should be domestic arts, Mr. Yousafzai is the polar opposite.

VOICE 4 Malala received almost all her education from her father — a poet, the owner of a chain of private schools in the Swat Valley of Afghanistan known as the Khushal schools, and a longtime activist for the educational rights of children — especially girls.

VOICE 2 Other men should consider emulating his powerful example.

VOICE 1 In her memoir, *I Am Malala*, she writes,

VOICE 3 “When I was born, people in our village commiserated with my mother and nobody congratulated my father.”

VOICE 2 Those misplaced anti-female sentiments had no effect on Ziauddin’s outlook. Instead, he passed on to his daughter his own passion for education and his courage to stand up for his beliefs, even in the face of severe physical danger.

VOICE 4 Mr. Yousafzai may not have ever read *Two Wings of a Bird*,^{xxiv} a statement that illuminates the Baha’i teachings on the equality of men and women, but he perfectly exemplifies these progressive principles.

VOICE 1 The statement declares that “Men have ...an inescapable duty to promote the equality of women. The presumption of superiority by men thwarts the ambition of women and inhibits the creation of an environment in which equality may reign.”^{xxv}

VOICE 3 It asserts that “It is essential that men engage in a careful, deliberate examination of attitudes, feelings, and behavior deeply rooted in cultural habit, that block the equal participation of women and stifle the growth of men.

VOICE 2 “The willingness of men to take responsibility for equality will create an optimum environment for progress:

VOICE 4 ““When men own the equality of women there will be no need for them to struggle for their rights.””^{xxvi}

VOICE 2 There are so many women whose voices have been and are being raised — too many to include in one program.

VOICE 3 And their numbers are growing.

VOICE 1 Women are finding their voices and taking their deserved places in the greater society.

VOICE 4 They will no longer permit chauvinism and misogyny to hold them back.

VOICE 3 Poet Michael Fitzgerald's vision of the station and qualities of women is evidenced in his poem simply entitled, *She*:

VOICE 2 She is the aviator of her own becoming —
the friend of her own needs —

VOICE 1 She is a river among all rivers, unfolding —
the mapmaker of her own mind —

VOICE 2 She is giver, protector, provider, source —
a confidante and doer —

VOICE 1 She is sufficient to her solitude, yet,
solidarity for her is tribal —

VOICE 2 She is aware of the living flow, yet
able to say a solid no —

VOICE 1 She is a buttress, bulwark, partner,
yet ample to herself —

VOICE 2 She weaves her tapestry of being
on a loom of her making —

VOICE 1 She relates, she executes, she is kind —
yet she knows her way to toughness —

VOICE 2 She knows the by-ways of the heart —
and the landscapes of the mind —

VOICE 1 She is ambassador to her world —
the royalty of her own heart —

VOICE 3 Once again, please take a quiet moment. Shut your eyes and repeat the imaging with which we began this consideration.

VOICE 4 Picture what your life has been, where you are now, and where you believe you're headed.

VOICE 2 Now imagine you had been born the opposite gender.

VOICE 1 How would your life have been different?

VOICE 3 What it would be like now?

VOICE 2 What would your future look like?

VOICE 4 Has it changed from earlier? If so, was that change positive, negative, or some of both in different areas?

VOICE 3 Has this made you feel just a bit more aware of the other gender's challenges?

VOICE 1 We hope you'll be thinking about this long after you've left here today.

VOICE 2 Think. What can you do to help bring balance into your own life and the lives of others?

VOICE 4 Will you strive to achieve the perfect balance of partnership, equality, complementarity between men and women, and help bring forth the promised kingdom of God on earth?

VOICE 1 Let's all continue to make a significant contribution and remember to:

VOICE 3 Listen to the voices of the old women

VOICE 2 Listen to the voices of the old women

VOICE 1 Calling out the messages of the heart and soul
VOICE 4 Telling us what we used to know before the lies were told
ALL Listen to the voices of ALL the women —young and old

ⁱ Barbara Bostian, *Jill-in-the-Box*, Source Unknown

ⁱⁱ Nancy R. Smith, *For Every Woman*, <https://opt4.wordpress.com/2012/05/04/for-every-woman-nancy-r-smith/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Alice Duer Miller, “Why We Oppose Votes for Men”, in “The Case Against Male Suffrage,” by Megan Garber, *The Atlantic*, November 4, 2014

^{iv} <https://worldallday.blogspot.com/2018/02/jester-jesters-court.html>

^v ‘Abdul-Bahá, *Star pf the West* III:3, 28 April 1912, page 5, “‘Abdu'l-Bahá's arrival in America” by Wendell Phillips Dodge

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} Ibid.

^{viii} Ibid.

^{ix} Lewis M. Hopfe, *Religions of the World*

^x Ibid.

^{xi} Huston Smith, *The Religions of Man*

^{xii} ‘Abdul-Bahá, *Foundations of World Unity*, p. 29

^{xiii} Andy Wallace, Elaine Brown, 87, Teacher Founded Singing City Choir, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 9, 1997

^{xiv} Ibid.

^{xv} Ibid

^{xvi} Ibid.

^{xvii} Ibid.

^{xviii} Arlyssa D. Becenti, Navajo activist: ‘Use your voice.’ *Arizona Republic/USA Today*, Sunday, March 3, 2024

^{xix} A. Rouchaun Meadows-Fernandez, Black Moms Matter, Black History Month supplement, *USA Today Network*, February 4 2024

^{xx} <https://www.tahirih.org/about-us/>

^{xxi} Universal House of Justice, *The Promise of World Peace*

^{xxii} Ibid.

^{xxiii} Roger White, “Always it is Women,” *Another Song, Another Season*, pp. 123–124

^{xxiv} National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States, *Two Wings of a Bird: The Equality of Women and Men*

^{xxv} Ibid.

^{xxvi} Ibid.