

**Source A – Excerpt: Declaration of Sentiments drafted at the Seneca Falls Convention, July 1848**

Source Type: Document

1 We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal; that they are  
2 endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and  
3 the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted, deriving their just  
4 powers from the consent of the governed. Whenever any form of Government becomes  
5 destructive of these ends, it is the right of those who suffer from it to refuse allegiance to it, and to  
6 insist upon the institution of a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and  
7 organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and  
8 happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be  
9 changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind  
10 are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves, by abolishing the  
11 forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing  
12 invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their  
13 duty to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has  
14 been the patient sufferance of the women under this government, and such is now the necessity  
15 which constrains them to demand the equal station to which they are entitled.