

Emma Watson United Nations Speech on Gender Equality

I am reaching out to you because I need your help. We want to end gender inequality—and to do that we need everyone to be involved. It is important as a woman to be paid the same as my men. I think it is right that I should be able to make decisions about my own body. I think it is right that women be involved on my behalf in making decisions in their countries. I think it is right that I am afforded the same respect as men. But sadly I can say that there is no one country in the world where all women can expect to receive these rights. These rights I consider to be human rights, but I am one of the lucky ones. I am lucky because my parents didn't love me less because I am a girl. My school did not limit me because I was a girl. These people treated me equally. And we need more of those. Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive. Both men and women should feel free to be strong. We don't talk about men also being given gender roles,

but I can see that that they are and that when they are free, things will change for women as a natural consequence. It is time that we all think of gender on a spectrum not as two different things. And having seen what I've seen—and given the chance—I feel it is my job to say something. Edmund Burke said: "All that is needed for the forces of evil to triumph is for enough good men and women to do nothing." So, I've told myself —if not me, who, if not now, when. I am inviting you to step forward, to be seen to speak up, to be the "he" for "she". And to ask yourself if not me, who? If not now, when?