**TED TALK:** **More Gender Equality!!!**

**#USvsHate**

**By: Madison**

I remember back in first grade we had passes to go to the bathroom. How many of you have used a pass to go to the restroom? This one time I had to go badly, so I grabbed the only pass that was hanging, which happened to be blue. As I was heading back to class, an upper grade boy asked me, “Hey, what are doing with the boy’s pass, you’re a girl?” At that time, I really didn’t understand what he was talking about. But as I got older it became crystal clear. Somethings were boy items...like blue, trucks, and even math. And some things were meant for only girls, like the pink, bows, and reading.

My question to you is: why? Who created this uneven thinking? Where did these stereotypes even come from? Hi, I'm Madison, and I’m looking forward to more gender equality in the world. I look forward to a world where a girl can do anything a boy can do. It shouldn’t matter what you wear, what job you have, or who you want to be. Louisa May Alcott said, “Nothing is impossible to a determined woman.” I agree with her. We need to make a change now before this impacts our future generations. I’m going to give you some ways that can make us all look forward to a fair gender-neutral future.

Imagine, your teacher says to the class “For homework girls have to write 3 essays that are 5 paragraphs long but boys, you only have to write one essay that’s one paragraph long.” This is how our world is like, unfair with boys getting a better deal than girls. If the teacher announced this but the other way, I know I would stand up and say, “That’s not fair!” Now is the time that we stand up to unfairness amongst boys and girls. One way we can help this is encouraging others to speak up when something isn’t fair. You can do this by showing people what this look like, be a leader.

For example, if someone is being unfair, you should stand up to that person to show them it’s not okay. Maybe even try to become their friend if they stop. People say that they want to help but most aren’t. “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” announced Mahatma Ghandi so nothing's going to change unless we, people make it change. It’s not like some magical fairy just going show up and make everything equal. All of us must encourage and stand up to others to make a change.

We can also change the world by helping girls and women become anything they want to be. This can help in jobs like politics, science, and math, they're low on women. Did you know that only 23% of Congress is women? That means the people making the laws and making decisions for our country is less than one-quarter women. Congress should be half women and half men so there would be more fair decisions for laws. Also, women make up only 42% in jobs in fields of science and only 15% of jobs in math? Those percentages do not sound equal to me.

As I said earlier if we don’t make a change then it’s never going to happen. How do we make this change? We can encourage girls to be leaders. If a girl is standing up and taking charge people usually just call them “bossy” but if a boy is doing the same thing, they call him a “leader”. Girls can be leaders; you don’t just have to automatically make it something negative. The Lorax said, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing's going to get better. It’s not.’’ I know at first you might think it’s funny because it’s by the Lorax but if you really listen then you’d know it’s powerful.

We need to stop stereo types too. Including jobs, behavior, and interests. These are common things girls get judged for. I hope this will stop happening. Also, my friend shared a story with me that one time when she was at the store and wanted to get Star Wars Legos. When she was picking one out, a random boy that was also looking at Legos rudely said, “Why are you here, you’re a girl, you’re not supposed to be looking at Legos!” Then she said “Well, I like Star Wars Legos.” Then annoyed the boy walked away and snatched the Lego set he was looking at. We all should be helping and looking forward to more women and gender equality.

So now what? How do kids help? Where do I start? Well, kids can help by treating boys and girls the same at school, home, at the park, and even at stores. Also, buy not judging someone’s interests or jobs because of their gender. Calling all adults, you can help too. How? You may ask? By being or helping someone become jobs that most women aren’t involved in, to encourage other women to do the same. Teachers, a way you can help is making passes just the color white or to just put HALL PASS instead of BOYS PASS and GIRLS PASS, or to make sure homework and all work is fair. Now that you've heard ways to help, go out there and do these things. Make society more equal. I leave you with a quote that Martin Luther King Jr. Said “The time is always right to do what is right.” Thank you for listening to me.

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