

E-MAIL CONTRIBUTIONS**Equal rights will not come quickly**

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It is most unreasonable to expect that equal rights can be achieved within one generation or even ten. Consider that our civilisation is based upon the principle of maintaining current status with incremental change over generations. Change is most rapid when conditions are hostile and least when conditions are tolerable. Therefore as you approach your goal, progress slows.

Women in positions of power are few because in the past their were very rare and they need time to build role models and a power base within society. If your grandmother faced discrimination then you will face it, society does not change that fast.

On the question of how important the conflict between family and a research career is within this issue - it is unreasonable to believe that male attitudes alone are responsible for current levels of discrimination. What is your attitude to a man who fills the role of primary contact parent? I have noticed that many women discriminate against such men. It would be tragic if you could not advance because you created chains to hold yourself back. Perhaps family responsibilities could be shared, but ask why it does not occur.

As to the issue of women-only positions, I believe that protected positions of this type would be a mistake.

If you are intimidated and you submit then you will only be intimidated more intensively. Stand on your merits and you will achieve greater respect and progress.

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