

**E-MAIL CONTRIBUTIONS****Life as a quadruple minority - never give up**

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I belong to a quadruple minority. I'm a foreigner, from a third world country, woman and with a strong, perseverant personality.

I've been pursuing a scientific career in France for 25 years. There have been many hurdles - socially and professionally - which were meant to discourage me to give up. What I'd like to tell my fellow women/minority scientific colleagues is: do not ever give up. Believe in what you are doing in the most honest way and fix your goals - come what may. If you can achieve this, in the end the same people who tried to eliminate you will become your friends.

Laws and governmental regulations can only make stipulations - it is the men and women that enact them. So, we have to understand human psychology and make use of it in the most honest and positive manner for achieving the goals. As [Mary-Lou Pardue](#) mentions this discrimination will continue in more or less open and severe manner. The effects will be felt differently. Only our faith in success, and positive, continuous actions will help the generations of women to come through. It is sometimes hard to swallow the fact that a woman's achievements are never given the same level of recognition, either by her colleagues or by her institution or even by the media so to say, as those of her male colleagues. But at the long run it comes. So I would like to conclude by saying, arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached.

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