If it was unclear prior to the election, it is not anymore: women are divided. As we women fight for our equal rights, we define the term equality—equal pay, equal opportunities, safety, security, and so on. However, there is another term that merits even greater importance: “Our.” “Our” brings into view what so many that question the feminist movement fail to understand. “Our” signifies the fight for women’s equality.
gender.

While women, rather than men, are often quick to support human rights, the fact that the majority of white women chose to vote for a man that promoted sexual assault illustrates the marginal importance of feminism and female solidarity in comparison to personal, economic, or otherwise political interests. This election, we witnessed 53% of white women vote for a self-described “pussy” grabber.

While women’s rights have seemingly progressed, the gap between the rights of white women and women of color is stark. This divide is not a recent issue. Reflecting on the origins of the feminist movement prior to the 19th Amendment, the complications of race decomposed the movement of equality for all women. Susan B. Anthony’s noncompliance with the admittance of African American women into the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) was an early crack in the ice, demarcating women’s
voters, Anthony allowed for the
continued division between white and
African American women. Over one
hundred years later, we not only still see
this splintering of women along racial
divides, but, as this election has so
clearly shown us, we acknowledge the
split when it comes to class and age as
well.

Observing the female vote from a
generational perspective, 63% of women
aged 18-29 voted for Secretary Clinton
(FiveThirtyEight), highlighting the
ideals held by today’s younger women;
could it be that, comparably, older
women did not prioritize the push to
break the infamous glass ceiling?

Where does this leave us? As I stood
amidst protesters on Fifth Avenue, it
was not just women fighting for
women’s rights—men, too, stood
EMBODIED

“My body, my rights.” Today’s feminist movement is not a fight of women against men. Nor is it a fight that solely benefits women. It is a fight for full equality. Similarly, the fight for equality being waged by African Americans is not just a fight for black people. It, too, is a fight for total, unmitigated equality. The feminist movement, along with Black Lives Matter, does not look to downgrade the importance of white men, but rather illuminate their privileges and fight for those who are without them.

As our country erupts in protests and frustration at what we as a nation have caused, we hope that now, finally, we may be able to unite, and expand women’s rights, to a degree unforeseen by the earlier movements for equality. While each previous wave of feminism sought to advance the rights of women, they overlooked the overwhelming fragility that still exists within our gender. Now, in the post-election turmoil, it is vitally important that we understand the movement as a
and those who remain single—and
more so, a unification of all people.
While our sisterhood may at times be
fractured, we must use these moments
of social unrest and discord to seal the
divide, to reunite, to establish the
movement as “ours” rather than
“mine.”

“IF THERE IS ONE MESSAGE THAT
ECHOES FORTH FROM THIS
CONFERENCE, IT IS THAT HUMAN
RIGHTS ARE WOMEN’S RIGHTS ...
AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN
RIGHTS”

First Lady Hillary Rodl