

Never a Good Reason Against Suffrage (October 12, 1912)

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There has never been and there never can be any good reason why women should not have votes and the same civic and political rights that men have. Women are human beings and citizens, the same as men; they are subject to the same laws and the same industrial and social conditions, and to arbitrarily deny them a voice in the control of government and in enacting the laws they are compelled to obey is a species of barbarism for which every decent man should blush with shame.

It is most gratifying to me to see the women of this and other nations, imbued with the progressive spirit of these days, bravely battling to break the fetters which have so long bound them and to take their rightful places as the equals of men in the control of society and all its institutions, and in shaping the future destiny of mankind.

Within ten years every state in this union will be compelled to yield to the demand of women for political enfranchisement, and when at last we have a race of free women we shall rise to a civilization compared with which that of the present day is but savagery.

Eugene V. Debs.

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