



*I am optimistic about the future for women
and here's why...*

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- "I am optimistic because, in this country, we have made so much progress in just one century. Of course advancement will now be slower and more complicated as that is the way with all change -- the first steps are giant. As the condition of women improves so does the human condition. Generally speaking, the same cannot be said with regard to our male counterparts." [Mary Anne 1940s]
- "I am optimistic because when I went back to school at an older age the young girls acted a lot funnier than I remember girls at that age. It was like it was okay for them to be totally funny and ridiculous, and I don't remember having totally hilarious friends that were girls when I was there age." [Julie T. 1970s]
- "It's taking a lot longer than we would have imagined but I love the young women I meet today. Yesterday I had the privilege of spending five hours with two young women (20s and 30s) who are smart, educated, articulate, and direct in ways women of my generation still struggle with. I cannot help but be optimistic. I see that women like this are thoroughly committed and unrelenting." [Rae 1940s]



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- "The world will keep changing but the first thing we can do is breathe and the second is to build ourselves strong through our love." [MEW 1990s]
- "I am optimistic because we're doing big things." [RK 1990s]
- "To quote Anne Shirley from Anne of Green Gables, "...tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet!" What good comes from not being optimistic???" [KC 1950s]
- "I am optimistic because there are more excellent role models for women." [Janice 1950s]
- "Very optimistic. I see strong, intelligent and driven women everywhere I go. The barriers to our participation in nearly every aspect of today's life are crumbling (slowly) as we systematically dismantle them. Women are reaching the realization that the roles we can assume (stay-at-home-Mom, working woman, boss, soldier, etc.) are as varied and diverse as the women assuming them. I'm hopeful that woman learn to do a better job of accepting this diversity amongst our ranks." [BH 1950s]



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- "I'm optimistic because I'm an optimistic person!" [Patty F. 1950s]
- "Girls and boys now are being raised by women and men who are more gender neutral and equality minded." [Libby 1960s]
- "Because women are smart and resilient and we help and rely on each other!" [Maria 1950s]
- "I am optimistic about the future for women....Women cannot be silent." [MJ 1960s]
- "I am optimistic about the future for women because every year we prove to be stronger and more persistent than ever before." [Elisa 1980s]
- "I'm optimistic; progress is slow but I've seen so many changes in my lifetime." [Joleen 1950s]
- "I always see the glass half-full." [Crys 1980s]
- ❖ "I'm optimistic about the future of women because voices of those like Nancy Pelosi, Hillary Clinton, and Michelle Obama are on the forefront. Girls are hearing and seeing women making changes." [Yolanda 1970s]



I'm not optimistic about the future for women and here's why...

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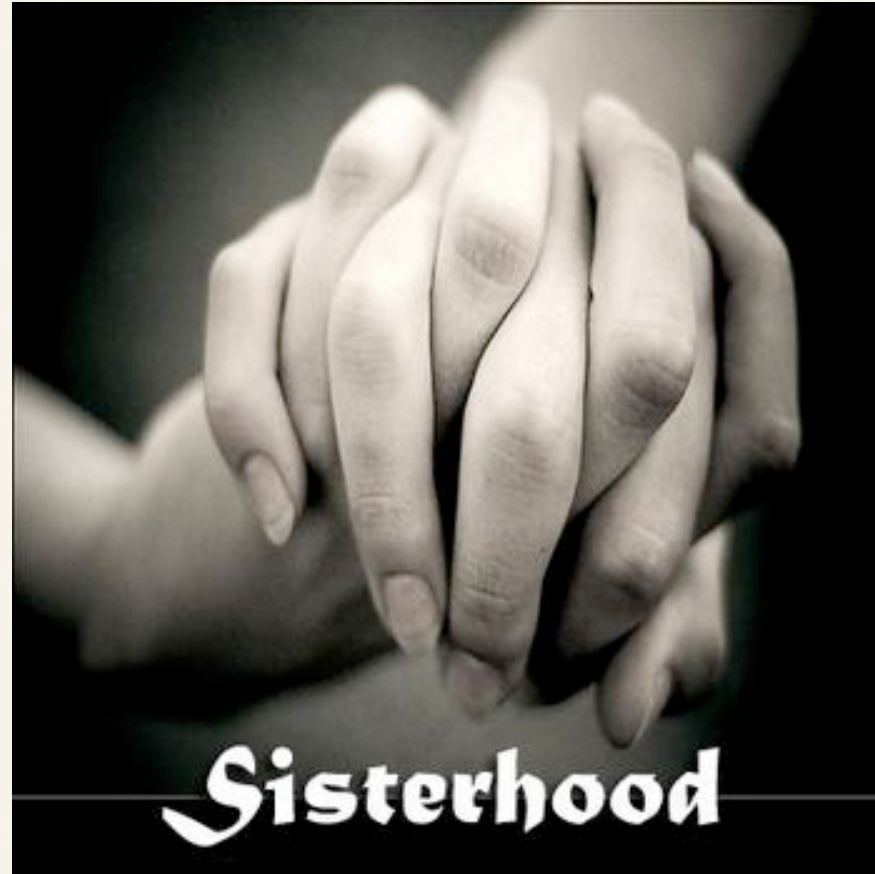
- "Women's lives, like men's, should be grounded in control of their own bodies. Why is a 21st century society still fighting about third-century issues? How can I be optimistic about the future for women even in this country when the same thing keeps happening over and over and over again?" [PD 1940s]
- "I am not optimistic for the future in the U.S. because of all of the conservative political attempts to shrink women's rights, to abolish Roe v. Wade, to abolish equal pay for equal work, to make birth control difficult to obtain, etc. Around the world I see religious and political attacks on women's rights as well as unpunished violence against women and girls. The religious attitudes will be very hard to overcome - not in my lifetime!" [BobbieK 1950s]



I'm not optimistic about the future for women and here's why...

- "I'm not very optimistic because of the growing environmental conditions and the neglect of our planet. We have a long way to go to reverse what has been done in our environment that has caused so many diseases. We can think change is coming but without enough people genuinely participating and being open about the truth of the lives we are all living, we simply do not have a chance of a better life on this planet. A year or so ago I might have answered differently, but based on the decline I have seen, I have grave doubts. I thought we might have been moving forward in this respect at one time but not now." [MK 1960s]
- "Many young women seem too ready to give up all the gains we procured for them in order to perform on some stupid reality TV show. They appear too ready to follow evangelical religious movements and seem to have no interest in social issues, civil rights, or liberation politics." [Ily 1940s]





Women Talking To Women

Conversation Starters

March 2013