

Looking Forward, I Believe...
A Crowd-Sourced Poem Celebrating the Centennial of Women's Suffrage

Looking forward,

I believe empowered women are like seeds even with little sun and bad weeds are blessed by the rain that sprays them to keep the sprouts strong and fighting to become a tree
I believe in the equality of the human race, based on spirit, enduring strength and unlimited courage forged from a relentless desire to remain teachable
I believe male and female, black and white, animal and human, natural and civilized and all the shades in between will be celebrated, honored and appreciated

Looking forward,

I believe we can circle the sun in wisdom, dance together through the darkness into light
I believe words unleash change, and shared struggles inspire hope
I believe mother earth's daughters will rise and bring healing to our wounded peoples and create an equitable society for all, while tenderly loving our planet

Looking forward,

I believe compassionate, global-minded, women will rise and reform systemic inequities by revising and rewriting laws that restricted their foremothers and all "others," making "legal" synonymous with "just"
I believe women must serve their families, friends and the wider world by running for office, working for the good and voting!
I believe women will have all the freedom she deserves to command a country that unites us all

Looking forward,

I believe society is being censored by those who claim to know the true path forward and tolerate no dissent from their Orwellian group-speak; don't let them speak for you-resist-resist
I believe we can create a future that provides every person with the opportunity to pursue their dreams, shoulder to shoulder and friend to friend
I believe all sentient beings deserve a chance to live; humans can solve the world's problems through compassion and respect – earth is beautiful and must be cherished

Looking forward,

I believe exercise of self-control stands as a worthy goal for both individuals and countries
I believe in the eternal strength, resilience and fortitude of women to carry us into the future, forging ahead, blazing new trails just as the ones before did
I believe when Mary Wollstonecraft gave birth to Mary Shelley, it was a vindication of the rights of woman

Looking forward,

I believe in a future where life is revered regardless of differences
I believe the fiery curtains of this time will part to reveal a world where we can feast, dance and sing; dream, plan and work, everyone bonded by hope and love
I believe when the first and instinctive answer to the question of race is human, peace is possible

Looking forward,

I believe people treating others the way they want to be treated will make any system work, and not doing so will doom that same system
I believe we are learning that WE is only an authentic word when it includes everyone
I believe with perseverance, we will lift the heel of injustice from the neck of the oppressed

Looking forward,

I believe "all lives matter" is a lie, but "all lives should matter" is the truth to be found
I believe inclusion can be attained with intersectionality no longer used as a wicked whispered
weapon
I believe it is best not to do anything you will regret and not to regret anything you do

Looking forward,

I believe women's voices will explode from a whisper to a roar out of the well of centuries
I believe that caring citizens will act responsibly, to save our world from the ravages of
everything from climate change to racism to income inequality
I believe 'tis best roll up our skin and not our sleeve, for it's the same we breathe, we bleed

Looking forward,

I believe women, regardless of race, religion, political aspirations will always rise above the bar

San Diego County Local Authors
2020

Maria Aduke Alabi	Jackie Leigh Allen
Claudia Aragon	Georgette Baker
Kelly Kay Bowles	Janice Coy
Bevon Findley	Susan Lipton
Kathleen Lisson	Lori Lopez
Rafael Lopez	Carlene Love
Diane Lowrie	Kitty Morse
Sandra Northard	Andy Palasciano
Mary Lenore Quigley	Blaine Readler
Cynthia G. Robertson	Stephen Schares
Meha Senthil	Steve Slocum
Marlene Bluestone Suliteanu	Patricia Watts
J. W. Wheeler	Elizabeth Yahn Williams
Toby Williams	Ian Williamson