AMERICAN CIVIC HOLIDAY RESOURCES

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Nineteenth Amendment

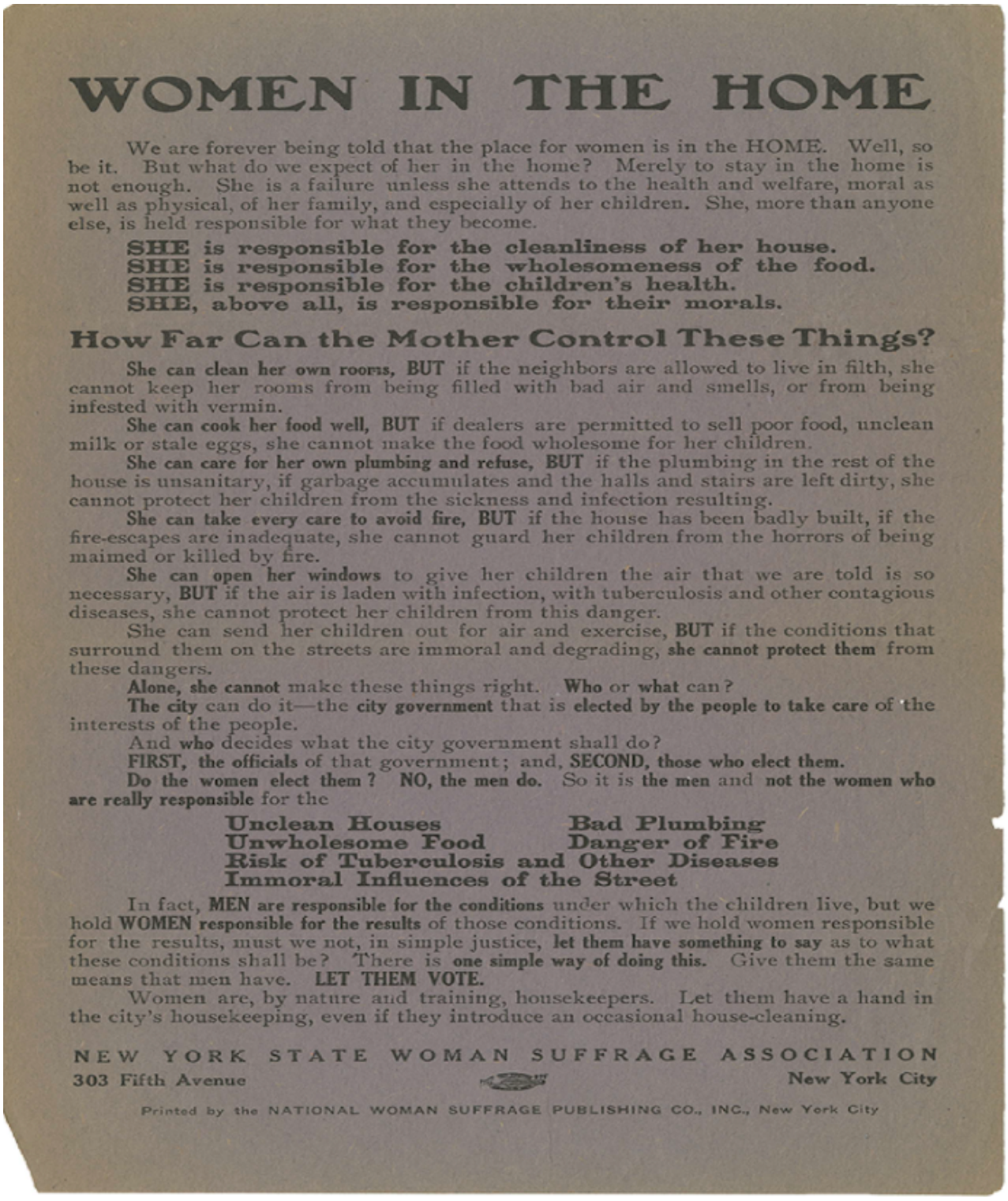
The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

The 19th Amendment was first introduced to Congress in 1878 and was not ratified until August of 1920, when Tennessee became the 36th state to do so. In the intervening decades, arguments for and against women's suffrage emerged by a growing movement mostly composed of educated white women. The documents and information on this source sheet (part of New-York Historical Society's "Women & the American Story" robust resource collection) provide a lens into additional layers and nuances of American society, politics, and history.

The first document is a broadside from the New York State Woman Suffrage Association in New York City.

Pro-Suffrage



WOMEN IN THE HOME

We are forever being told that the place for women is in the HOME. Well, so be it. But what do we expect of her in the home? Merely to stay in the home is not enough. She is a failure unless she attends to the health and welfare, moral as well as physical, of her family, and especially of her children. She, more than anyone else, is held responsible for what they become.

SHE is responsible for the cleanliness of her house.
SHE is responsible for the wholesomeness of the food.
SHE is responsible for the children's health.
SHE, above all, is responsible for their morals.

How Far Can the Mother Control These Things?

She can clean her own rooms, BUT if the neighbors are allowed to live in filth, she cannot keep her rooms from being filled with bad air and smells, or from being infested with vermin.

She can cook her food well, BUT if dealers are permitted to sell poor food, unclean milk or stale eggs, she cannot make the food wholesome for her children.

She can care for her own plumbing and refuse, BUT if the plumbing in the rest of the house is unsanitary, if garbage accumulates and the halls and stairs are left dirty, she cannot protect her children from the sickness and infection resulting.

She can take every care to avoid fire, BUT if the house has been badly built, if the fire-escapes are inadequate, she cannot guard her children from the horrors of being maimed or killed by fire.

She can open her windows to give her children the air that we are told is so necessary, **BUT** if the air is laden with infection, with tuberculosis and other contagious diseases, she cannot protect her children from this danger.

She can send her children out for air and exercise, **BUT** if the conditions that surround them on the streets are immoral and degrading, **she cannot protect them** from these dangers.

Alone, she cannot make these things right. **Who** or **what** can?

The city can do it—the **city government** that is **elected by the people to take care** of the interests of the people.

And **who** decides what the city government shall do?

FIRST, the officials of that government; and, **SECOND, those who elect them.**

Do the women elect them? NO, the men do. So it is **the men** and **not the women who are really responsible** for the

Unclean Houses **Bad Plumbing**
Unwholesome Food **Danger of Fire**
Risk of Tuberculosis and Other Diseases
Immoral Influences of the Street

In fact, **MEN are responsible for the conditions** under which the children live, but we hold **WOMEN responsible for the results** of those conditions. If we hold women responsible for the results, must we not, in simple justice, **let them have something to say** as to what these conditions shall be? There is **one simple way of doing this.** Give them the same means that men have. **LET THEM VOTE.**

Women are, by nature and training, housekeepers. Let them have a hand in the city's housekeeping, even if they introduce an occasional house-cleaning.

NEW YORK STATE WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION
303 Fifth Avenue New York City

Printed by the NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE PUBLISHING CO., INC., New York City

Women in the Home

New York State Woman Suffrage Association, Women in the Home, n.d. New-York Historical Society Library

Questions for Discussion:

1. According to this handout, what are the main arguments for suffrage?
2. Why might women have chosen to make these arguments as part of their suffrage campaign?
3. Who is the audience for this pamphlet/argument?
4. Who or what is missing from this argument?

Anti-Suffrage

The second document is a picture of Josephine Pearson and Nina Pinkard, two anti-suffragists, who rallied support for the movement in the Southern states. This picture was taken outside their headquarters in Tennessee amidst the final vote to ratify the 19th amendment.

Caption Description

"Truth crushed to the Earth will rise again" — is illustrated in this lovely picture of Mrs. Jas. S. Pinckard, President General of the Southern Women's League for the Rejection of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, who as grand-niece of John C. Calhoun unfurls the Confederate flag as emblematical of Southerner's States Right to fight for the defeat of the Federal Amendment; to her left is the Veteran who "fought and bled" for Tennessee's States Rights; standing to his left, holding the flag of the union, is Miss Josephine A. Pearson, Pres. of the Tenn. Division of the Southern Women's Rejection League for the Rejection of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, who led the fight in Tennessee, which became the Battle Ground of the nation. August 1920.

About the resource:

Josephine Pearson and Nina Pinckard led the anti-suffrage battle in Tennessee and posed for this photo outside their headquarters. The symbolism in this image ties anti-suffrage to the supposed honor and glory of the Old South. The women stand on either side of an elderly Civil War veteran. Nina holds a Confederate flag. Along the flagpole is a banner honoring Confederate general and Ku Klux Klan founder Nathan Bedford Forrest. Behind the women are portraits of Tennessean Andrew Jackson and his wife, Rachel.

Josephine Pearson included this photograph in a scrapbook and wrote the caption.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What messages are Pearson and Picknard trying to convey in this picture through the symbolism they've chosen to represent in the image?
2. Why was women's suffrage seen as a threat to some in the South, in particular?
3. In what ways does this picture echo or resonate today? Or does it seem like an historical relic? Explain.

Documents and text descriptions provided by the New-York Historical Society's "Women & the American Story" collection.

AMERICAN CIVIC HOLIDAY RESOURCES

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"Pink Tax"[1]

The practice of charging different prices for "substantially similar" consumer goods or services that are marketed to different genders.

- This practice, which was first studied in 1994, costs consumers (targeted to and generally consisting of females) an average of $1300 a year.[2]
- New York State was the first state to ban the practice, with the law going into effect on Sept. 30, 2020. California followed suit with a similar ban that was approved on Sept. 27, 2022.[3]
- A federal ban titled the Pink Tax Repeal Act[4] was proposed in Congress in 2021. It has yet to be passed.

Questions for Discussion

1. Think about the products you buy/in your home. Are any of them targeted towards a particular gender despite their substance being “substantially similar” to a similar product sold in a different color?
2. Where is the line between gender discrimination and free market rules? Should the government get involved in banning the “Pink Tax” as a matter of gender discrimination? Why not simply let the free market speak for itself?
3. In what other areas in your life has gender equity come up? How have the discussions and actions around those areas played out and what have been the consequences?

1. https://dos.ny.gov/news/former-governor-cuomo-reminds-new-yorkers-pink-tax-ban-goes-effect-today
2. https://www.chase.com/personal/investments/learning-and-insights/article/the-problematic-pink-tax
3. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1287
4. https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3853/actions?s=1&r=8