

## ***Empowering our women***



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I grew up with three brothers and my mother. As strong as my brothers are, my mother is the strongest woman I've ever met. She influenced me in ways that I will forever be grateful for. My mother's resilience and compassion taught me how to treat people. She is the type of woman I aspire to be. I'm a firm believer in women helping each other to grow and become better people.

Women must work together to make the world a better place instead of bringing each other down. Women need to come together more than ever before. The recent Women's March brought millions across the United States in unity. We are still fighting for our rights and showing the world that we are powerful human beings. There will also be another one-day strike on

March 8, 2017, called "A Day Without a Woman," which coincides with International Women's Day.

Female empowerment is a beautiful thing. As a woman, I struggle at times with just the sole fact that I am a female. We live in a world where aesthetics and beauty rule society. When in reality, we all come in different shapes and backgrounds. We live in a world trying to love ourselves, but society is constantly telling us not to. I can't put the blame only on the media or society, it starts within us women because we are the change we want to see. I constantly see women on social media bring each other down with negativity instead of raising each other. I see women fighting over a man that doesn't value either of them. Instead of causing pain to each other, we need to begin to heal each other. We need to push each other to pursue our goals and when we feel like giving up, we are here to encourage each other.

One of my favorite poets, Rupi Kaur, emphasizes that women have much more to offer than their beauty.

**"i want to apologize to all the women i have called beautiful  
before i've called them intelligent or brave  
i am sorry i made it sound as though  
something as simple as what you're born with  
is all you have to be proud of  
when you have broken mountains with your wit  
from now on i will say things like  
you are resilient, or you are extraordinary  
not because i don't think you're beautiful  
but because i need you to know  
you are more than that"**

I dedicate this poem to all the women in the world who don't believe they are good enough in this society. This is for the brave women to step out of their comfort zone and battle till the very end. This is to the women who are role models to other women. This is to every woman, you are more than just beautiful, you are a queen.

We all know women from our mothers, sisters, daughters and even our friends. I have three nieces and I do my best to set a good example for these girls.

The world is a relentless place to live in and I want these girls to know they don't have to face these challenges alone. The biggest thing we can do for each other as women is to want the best for each other and not settle for any less.

We must set examples for the future women of this generation. To the little girls out there who want to be doctors, lawyers, teachers and even presidents of the United States of America, you can accomplish your dreams.