

Words of Wisdom from 21 Women Who Inspire

“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn’t be that women are the exception.”

—*Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

“No matter who you are, no matter what you did, no matter where you’ve come from, you can always change, become a better version of yourself.”

—*Madonna*

“I want to build a community where women of all races can communicate and ... continue to support and take care of each other. I want to give women a space to feel their own strength and tell their stories. That is power.”

—*Beyoncé*

“Every woman’s success should be an inspiration to another. We’re strongest when we cheer each other on.”

—*Serena Williams*

“If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.”

—*Shirley Chisholm*

“We need women at all levels, including the top, to change the dynamic, reshape the conversation, to make sure women’s voices are heard and heeded, not overlooked and ignored.”

—*Sheryl Sandberg*

“Once I learned to like me more than others did, then I didn't have to worry about being the funniest or the most popular or the prettiest. I was the best me and i only ever tried to be that.”

—*Issa Rae*

“Don’t let fear stop you. Don’t give up because you are paralyzed by insecurity or overwhelmed by the odds, because in giving up, you give up hope. Understand that failure is a process in life, that only in trying can you enrich yourself and have the possibility of moving forward. The greatest obstacle in life is fear and giving up because of it.”

—*Sonia Sotomayor*

“Women are the real architects of society.”

—*Cher*

“We need to accept that we won’t always make the right decisions, that we’ll screw up royally sometimes – understanding that failure is not the opposite of success, it’s part of success.”

—*Arianna Huffington*

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”

—*Audrey Hepburn*

“Ignore the glass ceiling and do your work. If you’re focusing on the glass ceiling, focusing on what you don’t have, focusing on the limitations, then you will be limited.”

—*Ava Duvernay*

“A girl should be two things: who and what she wants.”

—*Coco Chanel*

“If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader.”

—*Dolly Parton*

“I encourage women to step up. Don’t wait for somebody to ask you.”

—*Reese Witherspoon*

“No matter what happens in life, be good to people. Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to leave behind.”

—*Taylor Swift*

“Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else.”

—*Judy Garland*

“Women are leaders everywhere you look—from the CEO who runs a fortune 500 company to the housewife who raises her children and heads her household. Our country was built by strong women, and we will continue to break down walls and defy stereotypes.”

— *Nancy Pelosi*

“I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. ... We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.”

—*Malala Yousafzai*

“Women in particular need to keep an eye on their physical and mental health, because if we're scurrying to and from appointments and errands, we don't have a lot of time to take care of ourselves. We need to do a better job of putting ourselves higher on our own 'to do' list.”

—*Michelle Obama*

“Comparison and extreme competition run on insecurities and the belief in scarcity, which inevitably isolates us from one another... Connection knows that everything we accomplish in life much more fulfilling when we help others along the way. Don't let the spirit of comparison and competition take you somewhere fast, when the spirit of collaboration can take you some place far instead.”

— *Jacinda Ardern*