

Dear Mrs. Sylvanie Williams,

I am writing this letter to inform you that our country has made many advancements; however, African American women are still flowers mistreated and trampled underfoot. You and many other resilient women fought hard to give women the opportunities to see their greatness. You have supported many women with their education, healthcare, community service, and more. Your dedicated fight for women's rights hasn't gone unnoticed. You are a part of why the rights for women have advanced over the years.

When this country takes 10 steps ahead, it seems that African American women only have the ability to take two. Every advancement is paired with a set back. We have two strikes against us; being black and being female. These barriers are driven by hate and pushed away by resilience. Black women experience discrimination in workspaces, hospitals, and even their homes. Black women are undervalued, underpaid, and overworked. Discrimination has also been the leading cause of health risk that black women have faced, especially expecting mothers. In recent years, African American women have been killed by police, in the comfort of their own homes. Many obstacles that are put in front of us set us back, but are also the reason why we have strength to fight for progress. The pulchritudinous light of Black women continues to shine through the blanket of hate.

Today, we share the advantages of technology. During your time, the ideas of the fight couldn't spread as quickly as they would today. Millions of people can become aware of an issue via social media or seeing a simple hashtag. An example of this is the murder of Breonna Taylor. She was a 26-year-old black woman, who was fatally shot in her Louisville, KY home on March 13, 2020. Several police officers forced themselves into her apartment without giving any warnings. The hashtag, "#BreonnaTaylor" was created, then protests and other subjects regarding the discrimination against black people followed. Other hashtags like, "#BlackLivesMatter " and "MeToo " helped bring awareness and advocate the need for change.

As a nation, our government has also made advancements. You fought for women's rights to vote and today we are honored to have Kamala Harris, the first black female Vice President. It is noted that Kamala Harris has "risen higher in the country's leadership than any woman ever before her". Today, the career options for women are endless. I currently take a Computer Science course where we learn about the increase in black women in the world of code. The jobs of (black) women vary from mothers, healthcare professionals, teachers, lawyers, engineers, scientists, and the list goes on. I'm certain that you would be proud of the advancements that African American women continue to make even though all odds are against us.. If life was a crystal stair, the feeling of making it to the top wouldn't be as rewarding as going up a staircase with twists, turns, and tacks. Thank you for fighting to protect the

mistreated flowers that are constantly trampled underfoot. I intend to keep your legacy alive by supporting the advancements of African American women's rights.

Respectfully,

Ty'Leah Briggs