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Professor Elizabeth DeWolfe

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Action Project: Protest

Women have fought for their rights for centuries, yet the battle continues into the twenty-first century. Why are we forced to continually fight even after all this time? Women like Abigail Adams, pleading for women to be remembered in the creation of laws, or the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, 1848, and Sojourner Truth a few years later seeking equality in all races of women with “Ain’t I a Woman?”. Why does it all seem so unheard, so forgotten? The cause? Well, men. And the foundation on which our society runs. So, men. With the modern government, all the work put forth by women over the years is being reversed. Abortion with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the unwillingness to adopt the 28th Amendment regarding Equal Rights (first proposed in 1923), among other women's issues such as Gender-based violence, sexual violence and harassment, workplace discrimination, healthcare, and countless others have gone unprotected by the U.S. Government. All of these issues convene at protests.

This past weekend (March 8th), I attended the Women’s March in Boston, Massachusetts. I felt this march was a way to project our voices against the Trump Administration, whose plans encroach on the progress of the Women’s Movement. The website that pulled the event together states, “Join us to defend our rights, our bodies, and our future” (Ashley P.). I sought to do exactly that. So, donning a neon pink beanie, pink sweatpants, and a sign, I brought my friend, Phoebe (also passionate about politics and women’s issues), and we set off for Boston Commons.

I chose this action because I heavily oppose the movements made by the U.S. government right now, and one way of demonstrating how we feel is in numbers.



My sign (partially inspired by Salem Class); Not being able to see the front or back of the march; a sign by another UNE student

I found that surrounding myself with a community that supports me, uplifts women's voices, and is willing to take action is inspiring. I hope just being there influenced someone's life, as it did mine. A few women approached me and requested to take a picture of my sign, with some asking if they could post it online. Even after attending this march, I hope someone will be motivated just by reading my sign. Seeing others in cars or on the streets recording or celebrating women by joining our chants or simply clapping, cheering, or honking was heartening. My favorite chant was, "No Trump, No KKK, No Fascist USA," as I appreciate the message and how dire our situation may be. We typically think of fascism and the KKK as part of history books or a term to memorize the definition of. But the current political climate in the U.S. makes us realize that, even presently, these "terms" are real life and are threatening our well-being. According to the event and news sources, an estimated 1,500-2,000 people were present at the march. I am proud to say that I was one of those and that all those in attendance revitalized a sense of hope that perhaps I thought I had lost. What I would like to see now is some form of change. Big or small, something needs to happen to prevent the impending "doom" that is

overtaking our country, especially for women. I particularly target Project 2025, as it is utterly ridiculous and hypocritical in nature. Protect women, protect our rights, our bodies, our laws, our democracy, and let them know that you are there for them, always. Keep fighting. For now, though, I am happy with the actions carried out by those around me at the march, and I can only hope our voices will be heard and taken seriously, as Abigail Adams once wrote to achieve.

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