

### Short Essay Question

5. A society where the equal rights of women are guaranteed under the Constitution;

In the last few years, gender equality and women's rights movements have gained a lot of momentum. From the global Women's March for human right to the #MeToo movement, America has undeniably woke up to a cultural reckoning — but there's still much work to be done. I think it should begin with passing legal protections for all women. I, like many of the young women of my generation, assumed that we had equal rights under the law of our Constitution, but much to my surprise, I learned that I was wrong. We lived in the United States of America, the strongest democracy in the world. Why wouldn't we have equal rights? Well, the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee equal rights for women. This is why activists have been trying and failing to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), since 1923, which states, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Though women have made tremendous progress in society, legal protections for women in this country are essentially Swiss cheese — ripe with holes for women to fall through. Without the ERA giving a constitutional backbone to gender equality, the political and judicial victories women have achieved over the past two hundred years remain vulnerable to reversal. Enshrining gender equality into the Constitution would close the legal loopholes and serve as a systemic solution, advocating for issues like equal pay and bodily safety.

