

## **Why Feminine Products Should Be Free of Heavy Tax - A Woman's Right**

*By Karly Eastley*

In the U.S, there have been numerous debates over the subject of equal treatment towards all races, religious organizations and ethnic groups, however equality towards both genders is an understated topic that lacks recognition. Feminine products have increasingly become more expensive over the last ten years, and women around the world are forced to adjust to these prices and pay out of pocket expenses more than ever. It is the fundamental right for women to be free of the heavy luxury item tax when purchasing feminine products, for not only does the price limit all females from attaining a crucial necessity, but also holds back society from reaching equal treatment between genders.

According to Huffington Post, the government does not support the idea of women having support paying for these pricey items, in which “[feminine products] are taxed as much as 18 percent and are considered a luxury good”. As considered a ‘luxury good’, how are women supposed to afford these high prices? In addition to this, what about materials for men that could qualify as a luxury item, and lack the crucial importance compared to feminine products? Men are able to purchase shaving razors and creme for 48 percent less than feminine products, according to US News, and this lack of heavy tax placed for mens items creates a large barrier between prices for women and men products. So, why are women forced to pay such high tax prices?

On the contrary, some believe that freeing cost of feminine products is a hoax, in which taxes would need to be paid in order to allow these products to be made. Eliminating cost for feminine products is not entirely possible, and this could affect the quality and necessary resources needed to make these important products, as stated by US News. However relabeling feminine products from a luxury item to an everyday necessity is strongly needed, and needs to be implemented in our government immediately. By reducing the luxury item tax, feminine products can be much more affordable to women consumers in the U.S, and will allow these products to be easily accessible and attainable for all incomes. With this, women can experience equal treatment alongside men in society, and can make a significant difference for future generations to come.

### References

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## **Gender Inequality**

*By Kiaya Estes*

On average, there are 321,500 victims of sexual assault a year. This doesn't include children between the ages of one and eleven. Every ninety-eight seconds, an American is sexually assaulted. The majority of the victims are women and every three out of four women have been verbally harassed. Younger people are more at risk for sexual assault. For example, over fifty percent of sexual assault victims are between the ages of eighteen and thirty-four, says 'rainn.org.' Many people blame women for being sexually assaulted by "dressing provocatively." Though women may dress a little inappropriate at times, it is not be their fault for something so traumatizing.

A survey which is based on victim respondents says seventy-seven percent of women are verbally harassed, with only thirty-four percent of men being verbally harassed. Fifty-one percent of women have experienced unwelcome sexual touching, with only seventeen percent of men experiencing the same thing. Forty-one percent of women have been victims of cyber-sexual harassment, as opposed to only twenty-two percent of men being victims. Thirty-four percent of women get physically followed, while only twelve percent of men get followed. Thirty percent of women also experience unwanted genital flashing, but only twelve percent of men experience the same thing. Overall in the survey, twenty-seven percent of women experience sexual assault and seven percent of men, says 'npr.org'.

A lot of sexual assault happens in workplaces. Most of the time it consists of women being threatened to lose their job if they don't cooperate with the employer's "needs", or women being objectified by their co-workers. Sometimes the men that decide to do this to their female co-workers end up raping or molesting them. In my opinion, women don't deserve this vile behavior from their co-workers. Overall, only forty-one percent of men get sexually abused in their lifetime compared to the eighty-one percent of women who get sexually abused. How much of this takes place at work? It occurs more often than you would think as eight percent of rapes occur while the victim is at work. It's so maddening that women go through this way more than men, yet a lot of men say "it's not that hard being a girl." These boys, or so-called "men," have no clue what women and girls go through in their lifetime. We have so many more struggles, in my opinion. Yes, boys and men go through things too and their lives aren't "the best" but less of them have to deal with this issue. Young men really don't understand that they don't have it as bad as us. Only one in seventy-one men get raped in their life compared to one in five women says 'nsvrc.org'. Not to point out the obvious or anything but I am pretty positive that there's a very large difference there. Not even every sexual harassment or assault is reported so think about all the ladies out there who are too afraid to report their abuse. They just keep it to themselves even though they feel hurt and broken on the inside because nobody ever thinks it is