

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS (1920 - PRESENT)

## 1920

The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified. It declares: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

American Women win full voting rights.

## 1936

United States v. One Package of Japanese Pessaries, 13 F. Supp.334 (E.D.N.Y 1936) aff'd 86 F 2d 737 (2nd Cir. 1936), won judicial approval of medicinal use of birth control.

## 1963

The Equal Pay Act is passed by Congress, promising equitable wages for the same work, regardless of the race, color, religion, national origin or sex of the worker.

## 1973

Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 and Doe v. Bolton, 410 U.S. 179: The U.S. Supreme Court declares that the Constitution protects women's right to terminate an early pregnancy, thus making abortion legal in the U.S.

## 1994

The Violence Against Women Act funds services for victims of rape and domestic violence, allows women to seek civil rights remedies for gender-related crimes, provides training to increase police and court officials' sensitivity and a national 24-hour hotline for battered women.

## 2009

Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act allows victims, usually women, of pay discrimination to file a complaint with the government against their employer within 180 days of their last paycheck.