

# Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

Chicago, 2 May 1912  
Federation of Women's Clubs  
*Equality of Men and Women*

# Federation of Women's Clubs

On 2 May 1912, 'Abdu'l-Bahá spoke to the Federation of Women's Clubs about the equality of men and women



Chicago 1912

# Equality of Men and Women

*When we consider the kingdoms of existence below man, we find no distinction or estimate of superiority and inferiority between male and female. Among the myriad organisms of the vegetable and animal kingdoms sex exists, but there is no differentiation whatever as to relative importance and value in the equation of life.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 32)*

# Equality of Men and Women

*The truth is that all mankind are the creatures and servants of one God, and in His estimate all are human. Man is a generic term applying to all humanity. The biblical statement “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” does not mean that woman was not created. The image and likeness of God apply to her as well.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 32)*

# Equality of Men and Women

*In Persian and Arabic there are two distinct words translated into English as man: one meaning man and woman collectively, the other distinguishing man as male from woman the female. To accept and observe a distinction which God has not intended in creation is ignorance and superstition.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 32)*

# Equality of Men and Women

*The fact which is to be considered, however, is that woman, having formerly been deprived, must now be allowed equal opportunities with man for education and training. There must be no difference in their education. Until the reality of equality between man and woman is fully established and attained, the highest social development of mankind is not possible.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 32)*

# Equality of Men and Women

*It is my hope that the banner of equality may be raised throughout the five continents where as yet it is not fully recognized and established. In this enlightened world of the West woman has advanced an immeasurable degree beyond the women of the Orient. And let it be known once more that until woman and man recognize and realize equality, social and political progress here or anywhere will not be possible.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 32)*



# Equality of Men and Women

*For the world of humanity consists of two parts or members: one is woman; the other is man. Until these two members are equal in strength, the oneness of humanity cannot be established, and the happiness and felicity of mankind will not be a reality. God willing, this is to be so.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 32)*



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