

**An Explosive Quarter-Century:
A Guide to Monographic Works on
Women's Legal and Political Rights**



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Table of Contents



| | |
|--|-----|
| Introduction | lxv |
| Subject Listing | |
| Abduction | 1 |
| Abolitionists, Women | 1 |
| Aboriginal Women | 1 |
| Abortion | 1 |
| Abortion, Bibliography | 8 |
| Abortion, Biology | 9 |
| Abortion, Buddhism | 9 |
| Abortion, Cases | 9 |
| Abortion, Catholicism | 9 |
| Abortion, Christianity | 10 |
| Abortion, Clinics | 10 |
| Abortion, Congresses | 11 |
| Abortion, Democracy | 13 |
| Abortion, Elections | 14 |
| Abortion, Feminism | 14 |
| Abortion, Feminist Jurisprudence | 14 |
| Abortion, Fetal Rights | 14 |
| Abortion, Fetal Tissue | 14 |
| Abortion, Hinduism | 14 |
| Abortion, History | 14 |
| Abortion, Infanticide | 15 |
| Abortion, International | 15 |
| Abortion, Jewish Law | 17 |
| Abortion, Lawyering | 17 |
| Abortion, Legislation | 17 |
| Abortion, Litigation | 18 |
| Abortion, Mass Media | 18 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Abortion, Medicine | 19 |
| Abortion, Newspaper Editorials | 19 |
| Abortion, Politics | 19 |
| Abortion, Privacy | 19 |
| Abortion, Psychological Aspects | 19 |
| Abortion, Public Opinion | 19 |
| Abortion, Reformers | 20 |
| Abortion, Religion | 20 |
| Abortion, Religious Violence | 20 |
| Abortion, Reproductive Technology | 20 |
| Abortion, RU486 | 20 |
| Abortion, States | 21 |
| Abortion, Statistics and Surveys | 21 |
| Abortion, Supreme Court, United States | 22 |
| Abortion, Trials | 22 |
| Abortionists | 23 |
| Acquaintance Rape (see Date Rape) | 23 |
| Activists, African-American Women | 23 |
| Activists, Women | 23 |
| Activists, Women, Biography | 26 |
| Activists, Women, Countries (other than United States) | 26 |
| Activists, Women, Developing Countries | 27 |
| Activists, Women, Environmental | 27 |
| Activists, Women, International | 28 |
| Activists, Women, Labor Unions | 28 |
| Activists, Women, Muslim | 28 |
| Activists, Women, Nursing | 28 |
| Activists, Women, States | 28 |
| Activists, Women, World War I | 28 |
| Actors, Women | 28 |
| Addams, Jane | 29 |
| Administrators, Women | 29 |
| Adoption | 30 |
| Adult Bookstores | 30 |
| Adultery | 30 |
| Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development Act | 31 |
| Advertising | 31 |
| Affirmative Action | 31 |
| Afghan War | 33 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Afghanistan, Status of Women | 33 |
| Africa, Status of Women | 34 |
| African-American Women | 38 |
| African-American Women, Activists | 40 |
| African-American Women, Civil Rights Movement | 40 |
| African-American Women, Criminal Justice System | 40 |
| African-American Women, Drugs | 40 |
| African-American Women, Economic Status | 40 |
| African-American Women, Employment | 41 |
| African-American Women, in Higher Education | 41 |
| African-American Women, Journalists | 41 |
| African-American Women, Lawyers | 42 |
| African-American Women, Organizations | 42 |
| African-American Women, Politicians | 42 |
| African-American Women, Politics | 42 |
| African-American Women, Pregnancy | 42 |
| African-American Women, Prisoners | 42 |
| African-American Women, Reproductive Rights | 42 |
| African-American Women, Scientists | 43 |
| African-American Women, Single Mothers | 43 |
| African-American Women, Social Reformers | 43 |
| African-American Women, States | 43 |
| African-American Women, Suffrage | 43 |
| African-American Women, Trials | 44 |
| African-American Women, Violence | 44 |
| African-American Women, Welfare | 44 |
| African National Congress | 44 |
| African Training and Research Centre for Women | 44 |
| Agriculture | 44 |
| Aids (see HIV/AIDS) | 45 |
| Aid to Families with Dependent Children | 45 |
| Alabama, Status of Women | 45 |
| Aland Islands Peace Institute | 45 |
| Alaska, Status of Women | 45 |
| Albania, Status of Women | 46 |
| Albright, Madeleine | 46 |
| Alcohol, Domestic Violence | 46 |
| Algeria, Status of Women | 46 |
| Allen, Florence Ellinwood | 46 |
| American Association of University Women | 46 |

| | |
|--|----|
| American Bar Association | 47 |
| American Civil Liberties Union | 47 |
| American Society of International Law | 47 |
| Ames, Jessie Daniel | 47 |
| Angola, Status of Women | 47 |
| Anthony, Susan B. | 48 |
| Anthropological Studies | 48 |
| Anthropological Theory | 49 |
| Anti-feminism | 50 |
| Antinuclear Movement | 50 |
| Antipornography Movement | 50 |
| Appalachian Women | 50 |
| Arab Countries, Status of Women | 50 |
| Architecture and Women | 51 |
| Argentina, Status of Women | 52 |
| Arizona, Status of Women | 52 |
| Arkansas, Status of Women | 52 |
| Arpilleras | 52 |
| Artists, Women | 52 |
| Ashley, Jo Ann | 52 |
| Asia, Status of Women | 53 |
| Asia Watch Committee | 55 |
| Assembly, Right of, History | 55 |
| Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching | 55 |
| Athletes, Violence Against Women | 56 |
| Athletes, Women | 56 |
| Attorneys General, Women | 56 |
| Auclert, Hubertine | 56 |
| Aung San Suu Kyi | 56 |
| Australia, Abortion | 56 |
| Australia, Adoption | 56 |
| Australia, Domestic Violence | 57 |
| Australia, Education | 57 |
| Australia, Family Court | 57 |
| Australia, Homicide | 57 |
| Australia, Labor Laws | 57 |
| Australia, Mediation | 57 |
| Australia, Pay Equity | 58 |
| Australia, Political Participation | 58 |
| Australia, Pornography | 58 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Australia, Prostitution | 58 |
| Australia, Reproductive Rights | 58 |
| Australia, Sexual Harassment | 58 |
| Australia, Single Mothers | 58 |
| Australia, Status of Women | 59 |
| Australia, Suffrage | 60 |
| Australia, Violence Against Women | 60 |
| Australia, Women Lawyers | 60 |
| Australia, Women Offenders | 60 |
| Austria, Status of Women | 60 |
| Authors, Women | 61 |
| | |
| Baby M. | 61 |
| Bailey, Abigail Abbot | 61 |
| Balkans, Status of Women | 61 |
| Bangladesh, Status of Women | 62 |
| Battered Women (see Domestic Violence) | 63 |
| Battered Woman Syndrome | 63 |
| Beard, Mary Ritter | 63 |
| Beauvoir, Simone de | 63 |
| Bedouins | 63 |
| Beecher, Catharine Esther | 64 |
| Beijing World Conference on Women | 64 |
| Belgium, Status of Women | 64 |
| Belize, Status of Women | 65 |
| Bennett, Sarah | 65 |
| Betrothal | 65 |
| Bible and Women | 65 |
| Bibliography | 66 |
| Billington-Grieg, Teresa | 71 |
| Bioethics | 71 |
| Biography | 72 |
| Biology | 78 |
| Birth Control (see Contraception) | 78 |
| Birth Weight | 79 |
| Black Panther Party | 79 |
| Blackwell, Antoinette Brown | 79 |
| Blatch, Harriot Stanton | 79 |
| Blinding of Women | 79 |
| Bodichon, Barbara Leigh Smith | 79 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Bolivia, Status of Women | 79 |
| Bosanquet, Helen | 80 |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina, Status of Women | 80 |
| Bosnia, Status of Women | 80 |
| Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society | 80 |
| Boston University | 80 |
| Botswana, Status of Women | 81 |
| Boudin, Kathy | 81 |
| Bradwell, Myra | 81 |
| Braun, Lily | 81 |
| Brazil, Status of Women | 81 |
| Breach of Promise | 83 |
| Breast Cancer | 83 |
| Breast Implants | 83 |
| Breton, Genevieve | 83 |
| Brewing | 83 |
| British Reform Act of 1867 | 84 |
| Brookings Institution | 84 |
| Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters | 84 |
| Brown, Olympia | 84 |
| Buddhism | 84 |
| Bulgaria, Status of Women | 84 |
| Burkino Faso, Status of Women | 85 |
| Burma, Status of Women | 85 |
| Business, Small | 85 |
| Businesswomen | 86 |
| Butler, Jessie Haver | 86 |
| Byelorussia, Status of Women | 86 |
| Byrd, William | 86 |
| | |
| Cabinet Officers, Women | 86 |
| Caillaux, Madame | 87 |
| California, Status of Women | 87 |
| Cameroon, Status of Women | 87 |
| Canada, Abortion | 87 |
| Canada, Contraception | 88 |
| Canada, Criminal Justice System | 88 |
| Canada, Education, Higher | 88 |
| Canada, Employment | 88 |
| Canada, Feminism | 88 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Canada, Food Industry | 89 |
| Canada, Legislators, Women | 89 |
| Canada, Marriage | 89 |
| Canada, Minority Women | 89 |
| Canada, Pay Equity | 89 |
| Canada, Periodicals | 89 |
| Canada, Political Participation | 90 |
| Canada, Pornography | 90 |
| Canada, Pro-Choice Movement | 90 |
| Canada, Pro-Life Movement | 90 |
| Canada, Professions | 90 |
| Canada, Prostitution | 91 |
| Canada, Rape | 91 |
| Canada, Sex Crimes | 91 |
| Canada, Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace | 91 |
| Canada, Sexual Orientation | 91 |
| Canada, Social Work | 91 |
| Canada, Sports | 92 |
| Canada, Status of Women | 92 |
| Canada, Teen Pregnancy | 94 |
| Canada, Welfare | 94 |
| Canada, Women Lawyers | 94 |
| Canada, Women Offenders | 94 |
| Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms | 95 |
| Candidates, Women | 95 |
| Canon Law | 96 |
| Capital Punishment | 96 |
| Capitalism and Women | 96 |
| Care Giving | 97 |
| Caribbean, Status of Women | 97 |
| Carter, Jimmy, Administration | 98 |
| Castration | 98 |
| Catholicism | 98 |
| Catt, Carrie Chapman | 99 |
| Cedaw (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) | 99 |
| Celtic Women | 100 |
| Censorship | 100 |
| Center for the American Woman and Politics | 100 |
| Center for Women Policy Studies | 101 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Channing, Walter | 101 |
| Chicago, Status of Women | 101 |
| Chicago Teachers' Federation | 101 |
| Child Care | 101 |
| Child Custody | 102 |
| Child Health Services | 104 |
| Child, Lydia Maria | 104 |
| Child Support | 104 |
| Children's Rights | 104 |
| Chile, Status of Women | 105 |
| China, Biography | 106 |
| China, Contraception | 106 |
| China, Economics | 106 |
| China, Education, Higher | 106 |
| China, Employment | 106 |
| China, Fertility | 107 |
| China, Language | 107 |
| China, Migration | 107 |
| China, Patriarchy | 107 |
| China, Population | 107 |
| China, Sex Roles | 108 |
| China, Status of Women | 108 |
| China, Status of Women, History | 110 |
| Chinese Revolution | 111 |
| Christian Right, Abortion | 111 |
| Christianity | 112 |
| Chronology, Women's | 112 |
| Cinema (see Film) | 112 |
| Citadel | 112 |
| Citizenship | 113 |
| Citizenship, Countries (other than United States) | 113 |
| Civil Protection Orders | 114 |
| Civil Rights Movement | 114 |
| Civil War, United States | 115 |
| Cixous, Helene | 116 |
| Class, Criminal Justice System | 116 |
| Clay, Laura | 116 |
| Clergy, Women | 116 |
| Clinical Research | 116 |
| Clinical Trials, International | 116 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Clinton, Bill | 116 |
| Clothing | 117 |
| Clubs, Women's | 117 |
| Cohabitation | 118 |
| Cold War | 118 |
| Colorado, Status of Women | 118 |
| Comfort Women | 118 |
| Committee on Women, Population, and the Environment | 119 |
| Common Law | 119 |
| Commonplace Books | 119 |
| Communication, Mass (see Mass Media) | 119 |
| Communications | 119 |
| Communism | 120 |
| Community Development | 120 |
| Community Policing | 120 |
| Computer Crimes | 120 |
| Conference on African Women and the Law | 121 |
| Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues | 121 |
| Congressional Staff, Women | 121 |
| Congresswomen | 121 |
| Connecticut, Status of Women | 122 |
| Consensual Relationships | 122 |
| Conservatism | 122 |
| Conservative Party, Great Britain | 122 |
| Constitution, United States | 123 |
| Consumer Credit | 124 |
| Consumers, Women | 124 |
| Contraception | 124 |
| Contraception, Biology | 126 |
| Contraception, Catholicism | 127 |
| Contraception, Countries (other than United States) | 127 |
| Contraception, Dalkon Shield | 128 |
| Contraception, Feminist Ethics | 128 |
| Contraception, History | 128 |
| Contraception, International | 129 |
| Contraception, Jewish Law | 130 |
| Contraception, Legislation | 130 |
| Contraception, Reproductive Technology | 130 |
| Contraception, States | 130 |
| Contract Labor | 130 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Corporation Law, Canada | 130 |
| Corporations and Women | 131 |
| Correctional Officers, Women | 131 |
| Corrections, Periodicals | 131 |
| Cosmetic Surgery | 131 |
| Costa Rica, Status of Women | 131 |
| Council of Europe | 132 |
| Courts, Abortion | 132 |
| Courts, African-American Women | 132 |
| Courts, Countries (other than United States) | 132 |
| Courts, Domestic Violence | 133 |
| Courts, Drug Policy | 133 |
| Courts, Employment | 133 |
| Courts, Federal | 133 |
| Courts, Gender Bias | 134 |
| Courts, Nursing | 135 |
| Courts, Pay Equity | 135 |
| Courts, Pregnant Women | 136 |
| Courts, Sexual Orientation | 136 |
| Courts, Single Mothers | 136 |
| Courts, Social Movements | 136 |
| Courts, States | 136 |
| COYOTE (Prostitute's Rights Organization) | 137 |
| Crack Cocaine | 137 |
| Credit | 137 |
| Credit Unions | 138 |
| Crime and Families | 138 |
| Crime and Women | 138 |
| Crime and Women, Countries (other than United States) | 141 |
| Crime and Women, Drugs | 142 |
| Crime and Women, FBI | 143 |
| Crime and Women, Guides and Handbooks | 143 |
| Crime and Women, History | 143 |
| Crime and Women, Homicide | 143 |
| Crime and Women, Periodicals | 143 |
| Crime and Women, Prostitution | 143 |
| Crime and Women, States | 143 |
| Crime and Women, Urban Areas | 144 |
| Criminal Justice Professions | 144 |
| Criminal Justice System, African-American Women | 146 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Criminal Justice System, Cases | 146 |
| Criminal Justice System, Countries (other than United States) | 146 |
| Criminal Justice System, Domestic Violence | 148 |
| Criminal Justice System, Families | 150 |
| Criminal Justice System, Girls | 150 |
| Criminal Justice System, International | 150 |
| Criminal Justice System, Periodicals | 150 |
| Criminal Justice System, Pregnant Women | 150 |
| Criminal Justice System, Prostitution | 151 |
| Criminal Justice System, Rape | 151 |
| Criminal Justice System, States | 152 |
| Criminal Justice System, Trials | 153 |
| Criminal Justice System, Women Prisoners | 153 |
| Criminology and Gender | 154 |
| Critical Legal Theory | 154 |
| Croatia, Status of Women | 154 |
| Cuba, Status of Women | 154 |
| Cuban-American Women | 155 |
| Czech Republic, Status of Women | 155 |
| Czechoslovakia, Status of Women | 155 |
| | |
| Dalkon Shield | 156 |
| Darwinism | 156 |
| Date Rape (see also Rape; Violence Against Women) | 156 |
| Date Rape, Countries (other than United States) | 158 |
| Date Rape Drug | 158 |
| Date Violence | 158 |
| Davis, Angela | 158 |
| Dawn (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era) | 158 |
| Death Penalty | 159 |
| Deford, Miriam Allen | 159 |
| Delaware, Status of Women | 159 |
| Demar, Claire | 159 |
| Democracy and Women | 159 |
| Demography and Women | 160 |
| Denmark, Status of Women | 160 |
| Dentists, Women | 161 |
| Department of Veteran's Affairs Employment Discrimination Prevention Act | 161 |
| Deuteronomic Law | 161 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Development, Women in | 161 |
| Development, Women in, Africa | 169 |
| Development, Women in, Appalachia | 170 |
| Development, Women in, Arab Countries | 170 |
| Development, Women in, Asia | 170 |
| Development, Women in, Bangladesh | 171 |
| Development, Women in, Bibliography | 172 |
| Development, Women in, Caribbean | 172 |
| Development, Women in, Case Studies | 172 |
| Development, Women in, China | 173 |
| Development, Women in, Directory | 173 |
| Development, Women in, Economics | 173 |
| Development, Women in, Education | 174 |
| Development, Women in, Egypt | 174 |
| Development, Women in, Employment | 174 |
| Development, Women in, Environment | 175 |
| Development, Women in, Ethiopia | 175 |
| Development, Women in, Fertility | 175 |
| Development, Women in, Guatemala | 175 |
| Development, Women in, Guides and Handbooks | 176 |
| Development, Women in, Guyana | 176 |
| Development, Women in, Health Issues | 176 |
| Development, Women in, History | 176 |
| Development, Women in, Home Labor | 176 |
| Development, Women in, Housing | 177 |
| Development, Women in, India | 177 |
| Development, Women in, Java | 177 |
| Development, Women in, Kenya | 177 |
| Development, Women in, Korea | 178 |
| Development, Women in, Latin America | 178 |
| Development, Women in, Malaysia | 179 |
| Development, Women in, Mexico | 179 |
| Development, Women in, Middle East | 179 |
| Development, Women in, Mozambique | 179 |
| Development, Women in, Nicaragua | 180 |
| Development, Women in, Pacific Area | 180 |
| Development, Women in, Philippines | 180 |
| Development, Women in, Research and Theory | 180 |
| Development, Women in, Rural | 181 |
| Development, Women in, South Africa | 181 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Development, Women in, South America | 181 |
| Development, Women in, Statistics and Surveys | 181 |
| Development, Women in, Technology | 181 |
| Development, Women in, Training Manuals | 182 |
| Development, Women in, Urban | 182 |
| Development, Women in, Venezuela | 182 |
| Development, Women in, Violence | 182 |
| Development, Women in, Widowhood | 182 |
| Development, Women in, Women Heads of Households | 182 |
| Development, Women in, World Bank | 182 |
| Devries, Diane | 182 |
| Disabilities, Women with | 183 |
| Displaced Women | 183 |
| District of Columbia, Status of Women | 183 |
| Divorce | 184 |
| Divorce, Case Studies | 185 |
| Divorce, Catholicism | 185 |
| Divorce, Child Custody | 186 |
| Divorce, Child Support | 186 |
| Divorce, Countries (other than United States) | 186 |
| Divorce, Economics | 187 |
| Divorce, Guides and Handbooks | 188 |
| Divorce, History | 188 |
| Divorce, International | 188 |
| Divorce, Islam | 189 |
| Divorce, Jewish Law | 189 |
| Divorce, Mediation | 189 |
| Divorce, No-fault | 189 |
| Divorce, Older Clients | 190 |
| Divorce, Poverty | 190 |
| Divorce, Reform | 190 |
| Divorce, Self-help | 190 |
| Divorce, Settlements | 190 |
| Divorce, Sex Roles | 190 |
| Divorce, Single Mothers | 191 |
| Divorce, States | 191 |
| Dix, Dorothea | 191 |
| DNA Testing, Rape | 191 |
| Doctors, Women | 191 |
| Documents, Government | 192 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Documents, Women's Rights | 192 |
| le Doeuff, Michele | 193 |
| Domestic Homicide | 193 |
| Domestic Violence | 193 |
| Domestic Violence, African-American Women | 199 |
| Domestic Violence, Bibliography | 199 |
| Domestic Violence, Biography | 200 |
| Domestic Violence, Case Studies | 200 |
| Domestic Violence, Cases | 200 |
| Domestic Violence, Countries (other than United States) | 200 |
| Domestic Violence, Courts | 202 |
| Domestic Violence, Criminal Justice System | 203 |
| Domestic Violence, Cross Cultural Studies | 203 |
| Domestic Violence, Economics | 203 |
| Domestic Violence, Feminism | 203 |
| Domestic Violence, for Medical Personnel | 203 |
| Domestic Violence, Guides and Handbooks | 203 |
| Domestic Violence, Guns | 204 |
| Domestic Violence, Health Care | 204 |
| Domestic Violence, Homosexual | 204 |
| Domestic Violence, International | 204 |
| Domestic Violence, Legislation | 205 |
| Domestic Violence, Military | 205 |
| Domestic Violence, Nursing | 205 |
| Domestic Violence, Periodicals | 205 |
| Domestic Violence, Rape | 206 |
| Domestic Violence, Research | 206 |
| Domestic Violence, Shelters | 206 |
| Domestic Violence, Single Mothers | 206 |
| Domestic Violence, States | 206 |
| Domestic Violence, Statistics and Surveys | 207 |
| Domestic Violence, Volunteer Workers | 208 |
| Domestic Violence, Welfare | 208 |
| Domestic Workers | 208 |
| Dominican Republic, Status of Women | 208 |
| Douglass, Frederick | 208 |
| Dowry | 208 |
| Dress Codes | 209 |
| Drugs and Women | 209 |
| Duniway, Abigail Scott | 210 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Dworkin, Andrea | 211 |
| East Germany, Status of Women | 211 |
| Ecclesiastical Law, Great Britain | 211 |
| Ecofeminism (see Environment and Women) | 211 |
| Economic Policy | 211 |
| Economic Reform | 211 |
| Economic Violence | 212 |
| Economics | 212 |
| Economics, African-American Women | 213 |
| Economics, Countries (other than United States) | 213 |
| Economics, Employment | 216 |
| Economics, Feminist | 216 |
| Economics, Health Care | 217 |
| Economics, Immigrant Women | 217 |
| Economics, International | 217 |
| Economics, Marriage | 218 |
| Economics, States | 218 |
| Economics, Women Prisoners | 219 |
| The Economist, Periodical | 219 |
| Ecuador, Status of Women | 219 |
| Edelin, Kenneth Carlton | 219 |
| Education | 219 |
| Education, African-American Women | 221 |
| Education, Bibliography | 221 |
| Education, Countries (other than United States) | 221 |
| Education, Elementary | 224 |
| Education, Feminism | 224 |
| Education, Guides and Handbooks | 224 |
| Education, Higher | 224 |
| Education, Higher, Affirmative Action | 228 |
| Education, Higher, African-American Women | 228 |
| Education, Higher, Countries (other than United States) | 228 |
| Education, Higher, Harvard University | 229 |
| Education, Higher, Mass Communication | 229 |
| Education, Higher, Periodicals | 229 |
| Education, Higher, Sex Crimes | 229 |
| Education, Higher, Sexual Harassment (see Sexual Harassment, in Higher Education) | 229 |
| Education, Higher, Sexual Orientation | 230 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Education, Higher, University of Tennessee | 230 |
| Education, Higher, Virginia Military Institute | 230 |
| Education, History | 230 |
| Education, International | 230 |
| Education, Legislation | 231 |
| Education, Medical | 231 |
| Education, Reform | 231 |
| Education, Sexual Harassment (see Sexual Harassment, in Education) | 231 |
| Education, Sexual Orientation | 231 |
| Education, Title IX | 232 |
| Education, Vocational | 232 |
| Education, Women Teachers | 232 |
| EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) | 232 |
| Egypt, Status of Women | 233 |
| El Salvador, Status of Women | 235 |
| Elder Care | 235 |
| Elections | 235 |
| Embryo Research | 236 |
| Employee Benefit Plans | 236 |
| Employment | 236 |
| Employment, Africa | 242 |
| Employment, African-American Women | 243 |
| Employment, Asia | 243 |
| Employment, Australia | 243 |
| Employment, Bangladesh | 243 |
| Employment, Belgium | 244 |
| Employment, Bibliography | 244 |
| Employment, Brazil | 244 |
| Employment, Canada | 244 |
| Employment, Care Giving | 244 |
| Employment, Caribbean | 244 |
| Employment, Case Studies | 245 |
| Employment, Cases | 245 |
| Employment, Child Care | 245 |
| Employment, China | 245 |
| Employment, Communism | 245 |
| Employment, Conference Proceedings | 246 |
| Employment, Courts | 246 |
| Employment, Cuba | 246 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Employment, Darwinism | 246 |
| Employment, Developing Countries | 246 |
| Employment, Disabilities, Women with | 247 |
| Employment, Domestic Violence | 247 |
| Employment, East Germany | 247 |
| Employment, Economics | 247 |
| Employment, Education | 247 |
| Employment, Education, Higher | 247 |
| Employment, EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) | 248 |
| Employment, Egypt | 248 |
| Employment, El Salvador | 248 |
| Employment, Ethics | 248 |
| Employment, Europe | 248 |
| Employment, European Union | 249 |
| Employment, Finland | 250 |
| Employment, France | 250 |
| Employment, Garment Industry | 251 |
| Employment, Germany | 251 |
| Employment, Global | 251 |
| Employment, Government Programs | 251 |
| Employment, Great Britain | 251 |
| Employment, Home Workplace | 254 |
| Employment, Immigrant Women | 254 |
| Employment, India | 254 |
| Employment, Insurance | 255 |
| Employment, International | 255 |
| Employment, Ireland | 257 |
| Employment, Israel | 257 |
| Employment, Italy | 257 |
| Employment, Japan | 257 |
| Employment, Judicial System | 258 |
| Employment, Labor Unions | 258 |
| Employment, Latin America | 258 |
| Employment, Laws | 259 |
| Employment, Legal Profession | 259 |
| Employment, Librarianship | 259 |
| Employment, Litigation | 259 |
| Employment, Malaysia | 259 |
| Employment, Mexico | 259 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Employment, Middle East | 260 |
| Employment, Minimum Wage | 260 |
| Employment, Minority Women | 260 |
| Employment, Mothers | 260 |
| Employment, Muslim Women | 260 |
| Employment, Nigeria | 261 |
| Employment, Northern Ireland | 261 |
| Employment, Norway | 261 |
| Employment, Nursing | 261 |
| Employment, Occupational Segregation | 261 |
| Employment, Office Workers | 261 |
| Employment, Older Women | 262 |
| Employment, Opportunities | 262 |
| Employment, Palestine | 262 |
| Employment, Parental Leave | 262 |
| Employment, Pay Equity | 262 |
| Employment, Periodicals | 263 |
| Employment, Poverty | 263 |
| Employment, Pregnant Women | 263 |
| Employment, Puerto Rico | 263 |
| Employment, Retirement | 264 |
| Employment, Russia | 264 |
| Employment, Safety | 264 |
| Employment, Scandinavia | 264 |
| Employment, Science | 264 |
| Employment, Sexual Coercion | 265 |
| Employment, Sexual Harassment (see Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace) | 265 |
| Employment, Sexual Orientation | 265 |
| Employment, Single Mothers | 265 |
| Employment, Social Work | 265 |
| Employment, South Africa | 265 |
| Employment, Soviet Union | 265 |
| Employment, Spain | 266 |
| Employment, States | 266 |
| Employment, Statistics and Surveys | 267 |
| Employment, Steel Workers | 267 |
| Employment, Sweden | 267 |
| Employment, Taiwan | 268 |
| Employment, Tanzania | 268 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Employment, Technology | 268 |
| Employment, Television | 268 |
| Employment, Thailand | 268 |
| Employment, Toronto | 268 |
| Employment, Trials | 268 |
| Employment, Turkey | 269 |
| Employment, Ukraine | 269 |
| Employment, Welfare | 269 |
| Employment, West Germany | 269 |
| Employment, World War II | 269 |
| Employment, Yemen | 269 |
| Engineering | 269 |
| Engineers, Women | 270 |
| Entertainers, Women | 270 |
| Environment | 270 |
| Environment, Biography | 270 |
| Environment, Countries (other than United States) | 270 |
| Environment, International | 271 |
| Environmental Feminism | 271 |
| Equal Credit Opportunity Act | 272 |
| Equal Pay Act | 272 |
| Equal Rights Amendment | 272 |
| Equality, Theory of | 274 |
| Equity Club | 274 |
| Eritrea, Status of Women | 275 |
| Essentialism | 275 |
| Ethics | 275 |
| Ethiopia, Status of Women | 275 |
| Etoro | 276 |
| Eugenics | 276 |
| Europe, Abortion | 276 |
| Europe, Contraception | 276 |
| Europe, Divorce | 276 |
| Europe, Education | 276 |
| Europe, Employment | 277 |
| Europe, Family Law | 277 |
| Europe, Feminism | 277 |
| Europe, Feminist Jurisprudence | 277 |
| Europe, Labor Laws | 278 |
| Europe, Marriage | 278 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Europe, Medieval, Status of Women | 278 |
| Europe, Occupational Segregation | 278 |
| Europe, Pay Equity | 278 |
| Europe, Political Participation | 278 |
| Europe, Population Control | 279 |
| Europe, Religion | 279 |
| Europe, Sex Roles | 279 |
| Europe, Sexual Orientation | 279 |
| Europe, Status of Women | 279 |
| Europe, Violence | 282 |
| Europe, Women Cabinet Members | 282 |
| Europe, Women Offenders | 282 |
| Europe, Women's Movement | 282 |
| Europe, Working Women | 282 |
| European Convention on Human Rights | 283 |
| European Social Fund | 283 |
| European Union, Employment | 283 |
| European Union, Feminism | 283 |
| European Union, Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace | 283 |
| European Union, Sexual Orientation, Gay Rights | 283 |
| European Union, Social Security | 284 |
| European Union, Status of Women | 284 |
| Euthanasia | 285 |
| Evangelicalism | 285 |
| Executives, Women | 285 |
| Faculty, Women | 286 |
| Faculty, Women, Countries (other than United States) | 289 |
| Fair Credit Reporting Act | 289 |
| Fair Pay Act of 1994 | 289 |
| Family | 290 |
| Family and Medical Leave Act | 290 |
| Family, Countries (other than United States) | 290 |
| Family, International | 291 |
| Family Law | 291 |
| Family Law, Countries (other than United States) | 292 |
| Family Law, International | 292 |
| Family Planning | 292 |
| Fascism | 292 |
| Faulkner, Shannon | 292 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Fawcett, Millicent Garrett | 293 |
| FBI Agents, Women | 293 |
| Federal Agencies | 293 |
| Federal Courts | 293 |
| Federal Law | 293 |
| Federal Programs | 293 |
| Federal Workplace | 293 |
| Federation of South African Women | 293 |
| Feigen, Brenda | 294 |
| Female Genital Mutilation | 294 |
| Feminism (see also Women's Movement) | 295 |
| Feminism, Africa | 298 |
| Feminism, African-American Women | 299 |
| Feminism, Algeria | 299 |
| Feminism, Arab Countries | 299 |
| Feminism, Asia | 299 |
| Feminism, Australia | 300 |
| Feminism, Biography | 300 |
| Feminism, Canada | 300 |
| Feminism, China | 300 |
| Feminism, Civil Rights Movement | 301 |
| Feminism, Conservatism | 301 |
| Feminism, Contraception | 301 |
| Feminism, Criminal Law | 301 |
| Feminism, Cross-Cultural Studies | 301 |
| Feminism, Cuba | 301 |
| Feminism, Denmark | 301 |
| Feminism, Developing Countries | 302 |
| Feminism, Documents | 302 |
| Feminism, Drug Policy | 302 |
| Feminism, Economics | 303 |
| Feminism, Education | 303 |
| Feminism, Education, Higher | 304 |
| Feminism, Egypt | 304 |
| Feminism, Employment | 305 |
| Feminism, Encyclopedias | 305 |
| Feminism, Europe | 305 |
| Feminism, European Union | 306 |
| Feminism, Film | 306 |
| Feminism, France | 306 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Feminism, Germany | 308 |
| Feminism, Ghana | 309 |
| Feminism, Great Britain | 309 |
| Feminism, History | 311 |
| Feminism, Hungary | 315 |
| Feminism, India | 315 |
| Feminism, International | 315 |
| Feminism, Iran | 316 |
| Feminism, Ireland | 316 |
| Feminism, Israel | 316 |
| Feminism, Italy | 317 |
| Feminism, Japan | 318 |
| Feminism, Kenya | 318 |
| Feminism, Korea | 319 |
| Feminism, Labor Unions | 319 |
| Feminism, Latin America | 319 |
| Feminism, Literature | 319 |
| Feminism, Malaysia | 319 |
| Feminism, Mass Media | 320 |
| Feminism, Middle East | 320 |
| Feminism, Morocco | 320 |
| Feminism, Multiculturalism | 320 |
| Feminism, New Zealand | 320 |
| Feminism, Nigeria | 320 |
| Feminism, Normativism | 321 |
| Feminism, Nursing | 321 |
| Feminism, Palestine | 321 |
| Feminism, Periodicals | 321 |
| Feminism, Philippines | 322 |
| Feminism, Poland | 322 |
| Feminism, Pornography | 322 |
| Feminism, Positivism | 322 |
| Feminism, Racism | 322 |
| Feminism, Radical | 322 |
| Feminism, Rape | 322 |
| Feminism, Russia | 323 |
| Feminism, Scandinavia | 323 |
| Feminism, South Africa | 323 |
| Feminism, Soviet Union | 324 |
| Feminism, States | 324 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Feminism, Suffrage | 324 |
| Feminism, Tanzania | 324 |
| Feminism, Ukraine | 324 |
| Feminism, Utilitarianism | 324 |
| Feminist Archeology | 325 |
| Feminist Economics | 325 |
| Feminist Ethics | 325 |
| Feminist Journals | 327 |
| Feminist Jurisprudence (see also Feminist Legal Theory) | 327 |
| Feminist Jurisprudence, Cases | 330 |
| Feminist Jurisprudence, Countries (other than United States) .. | 330 |
| Feminist Jurisprudence, International | 331 |
| Feminist Legal Theory (see also Feminist Jurisprudence) | 331 |
| Feminist Literary Criticism | 331 |
| Feminist Pedagogy | 332 |
| Feminist Research | 332 |
| Feminist Theory | 332 |
| Feminist Theory, Abortion | 338 |
| Feminist Theory, Care Giving | 338 |
| Feminist Theory, Countries (other than United States) | 338 |
| Feminist Theory, Employment | 339 |
| Feminist Theory, Older Women | 339 |
| Feminist Theory, Periodicals | 339 |
| Feminist Theory, Postmodernism | 339 |
| Feminist Theory, Rape | 339 |
| Feminist Theory, States | 339 |
| Feminist Theory, Violence | 339 |
| Feminist Theory, Welfare | 339 |
| Feminist Theory, Women with Disabilities | 340 |
| Feminists | 340 |
| Feminists, African-American | 341 |
| Feminists, Arab | 341 |
| Feminists, Australia | 342 |
| Feminists, Canada | 342 |
| Feminists, China | 342 |
| Feminists, Directory | 342 |
| Feminists, Documents | 342 |
| Feminists, Egypt | 342 |
| Feminists, France | 342 |
| Feminists, Germany | 344 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Feminists, Great Britain | 344 |
| Feminists, Iran | 344 |
| Feminists, Ireland | 345 |
| Feminists, Japan | 345 |
| Feminists, Louisiana | 345 |
| Feminists, Netherlands | 345 |
| Feminists, Russia | 345 |
| Feminists, South Africa | 346 |
| Feminists, Soviet Union | 346 |
| Feminists, Sweden | 346 |
| Fertility | 346 |
| Fertility, Countries (other than United States) | 346 |
| Fertility, International | 347 |
| Fetal Rights | 347 |
| Fetal Tissue | 350 |
| Fiji, Status of Women | 350 |
| Filicide | 350 |
| Film and Women | 351 |
| Financial Issues | 351 |
| Finland, Status of Women | 352 |
| Firearms (see Guns) | 352 |
| Flanders, Status of Women | 352 |
| Flex Time | 352 |
| Florida, Status of Women | 352 |
| Foat, Ginny | 353 |
| Food Industry | 353 |
| Football | 353 |
| Ford Foundation | 353 |
| Ford, Isabella | 353 |
| Foreign Trade | 353 |
| Forensic Sciences | 353 |
| Foster Care | 354 |
| Foucault, Michel | 354 |
| France, Abortion | 354 |
| France, Citizenship | 354 |
| France, Colonies, Status of Women | 354 |
| France, Employment | 354 |
| France, Family Law | 355 |
| France, Feminism | 355 |
| France, Gay Rights Movement | 355 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| France, Labor Unions | 355 |
| France, Literature | 355 |
| France, Marital Property | 355 |
| France, Occupational Segregation | 355 |
| France, Political Participation | 356 |
| France, Prostitution | 356 |
| France, Rape, Literature | 356 |
| France, Revolutions | 356 |
| France, Sex Roles | 356 |
| France, Status of Women | 356 |
| France, Status of Women, History | 358 |
| France, Suffrage | 360 |
| France, Trials | 360 |
| France, Women's Movement | 360 |
| Fraternities and Rape | 360 |
| Free Speech | 360 |
| Free Trade Zones | 361 |
| Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act | 361 |
| Freedom of Choice Act | 362 |
| French Revolution | 362 |
| Friedan, Betty | 363 |
| Frug, Mary Joe | 363 |
| Fuller, Margaret | 363 |
| | |
| Gandhi, Indira | 363 |
| Gang Rape | 363 |
| Gangs | 363 |
| Garment Industry | 364 |
| Garner, Margaret | 364 |
| Gay Rights Movement | 364 |
| Gaza Strip, Status of Women | 365 |
| Gender Gap, in Elections | 365 |
| Gender Research | 365 |
| Gender Training | 366 |
| Genesis | 366 |
| Genocide | 366 |
| Gentileschi, Artemisia | 366 |
| Georgia, Status of Women | 366 |
| Germany, Abortion | 366 |
| Germany, Contraception | 367 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Germany, East (see East Germany) | 367 |
| Germany, Employment | 367 |
| Germany, Legislators, Women | 367 |
| Germany, Status of Women | 368 |
| Germany, Status of Women, History | 368 |
| Germany, West (see West Germany) | 370 |
| Ghana, Status of Women | 370 |
| Gilman, Charlotte Perkins | 370 |
| Girls | 370 |
| Glass Ceiling | 371 |
| Glass Ceiling, Countries (other than United States) | 372 |
| Glass Ceiling, Higher Education | 372 |
| Glass Ceiling, Legal Profession | 373 |
| Glass Ceiling, Politics | 373 |
| Globalization | 374 |
| Gould, Jane S. | 375 |
| Government Contractors, Women | 375 |
| Government, International | 375 |
| Great Britain, Abortion | 375 |
| Great Britain, Child Support | 376 |
| Great Britain, Citizenship | 376 |
| Great Britain, Colonies, Suffrage | 376 |
| Great Britain, Conservative Party | 376 |
| Great Britain, Contraception | 376 |
| Great Britain, Crime and Women | 376 |
| Great Britain, Divorce | 376 |
| Great Britain, Domestic Violence | 377 |
| Great Britain, Ecclesiastical Law | 378 |
| Great Britain, Education | 378 |
| Great Britain, Employment | 379 |
| Great Britain, Feminism | 380 |
| Great Britain, Filicide | 381 |
| Great Britain, Health Care | 381 |
| Great Britain, Illegitimacy | 381 |
| Great Britain, Immigrant Women | 381 |
| Great Britain, Labor Unions | 381 |
| Great Britain, Lawyers, Women | 382 |
| Great Britain, Legislators, Women | 382 |
| Great Britain, Lesbians | 382 |
| Great Britain, Marriage | 382 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Great Britain, Maternity Leave | 383 |
| Great Britain, Midwifery | 383 |
| Great Britain, Minimum Wage | 383 |
| Great Britain, Nursing Law | 383 |
| Great Britain, Occupational Segregation | 384 |
| Great Britain, Offenders, Women | 384 |
| Great Britain, Organizations | 384 |
| Great Britain, Patriarchy | 385 |
| Great Britain, Pay Equity | 385 |
| Great Britain, Police Officers, Women | 385 |
| Great Britain, Political Participation | 385 |
| Great Britain, Pornography | 386 |
| Great Britain, Prisoners, Women | 386 |
| Great Britain, Property | 386 |
| Great Britain, Prostitution | 386 |
| Great Britain, Rape | 387 |
| Great Britain, Reproductive Health | 387 |
| Great Britain, Reproductive Rights | 387 |
| Great Britain, Reproductive Technology | 388 |
| Great Britain, Retirement | 388 |
| Great Britain, Sex Crimes | 388 |
| Great Britain, Sex Shops | 388 |
| Great Britain, Single Mothers | 389 |
| Great Britain, Status of Women | 389 |
| Great Britain, Status of Women, History | 392 |
| Great Britain, Status of Women with Disabilities | 394 |
| Great Britain, Suffrage | 395 |
| Great Britain, Sweatshops | 396 |
| Great Britain, Violence Against Women | 397 |
| Great Britain, Welfare | 397 |
| Great Britain, Working Women | 397 |
| Great Britain, World War I | 398 |
| Greece, Status of Women | 398 |
| Gruter, Margaret | 398 |
| Guatemala, Status of Women | 398 |
| Guinea-Bissau, Status of Women | 399 |
| Guinier, Lani | 399 |
| Guns and Women | 399 |
| Guyana, Status of Women | 399 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Haley, Margaret A. | 400 |
| Hamer, Fannie Lou | 400 |
| Harem | 400 |
| Harper, Martha Matilda | 400 |
| Harvard Law School | 400 |
| Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers | 400 |
| Hate Crimes | 400 |
| Hate Speech | 400 |
| Hawaii, Status of Women | 401 |
| Heads of Households, Women | 401 |
| Health Care | 402 |
| Health Care, Countries (other than United States) | 403 |
| Health Care, Drugs | 404 |
| Health Care, International | 404 |
| Health Care, Professionals | 404 |
| Health Care, Reform | 405 |
| Health Care, States | 405 |
| Health Care System | 405 |
| Health Consequences of Gender Discrimination | 406 |
| Health, Cost of Living | 407 |
| Health Insurance | 407 |
| Health Issues, in the Workplace | 407 |
| Health Legislation | 407 |
| Health Movement | 407 |
| Health Reform | 408 |
| Health Research | 408 |
| Health, Women's, International | 408 |
| Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich | 408 |
| Hercegovina, Status of Women | 408 |
| Heroin | 408 |
| Hijab (see Purdah) | 408 |
| Hill, Anita | 408 |
| Hill, Octavia | 409 |
| Hill-Thomas Hearings | 409 |
| Hindu Women | 410 |
| Hinduism | 411 |
| Hispanic Women | 411 |
| History of Women, International | 412 |
| History of Women, United States | 412 |
| HIV/AIDS | 413 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Hobbes, Thomas | 415 |
| Holloway Prison | 415 |
| Home Labor | 415 |
| Homeless Women | 415 |
| Homemakers (see also Individual States, i.e., Kentucky, Status of Women) | 416 |
| Homicide | 417 |
| Homicide, Domestic | 417 |
| Hong Kong, Status of Women | 418 |
| Hooker, Isabella Beecher | 418 |
| Hopkins, Ann Branigar | 418 |
| Housing | 418 |
| Hull House | 419 |
| Human Rights Project | 419 |
| Human Rights Watch | 419 |
| Hungary, Status of Women | 420 |
| Idaho, Status of Women | 420 |
| ILGWU (International Ladies Garment Worker's Union) | 421 |
| Illegitimacy | 421 |
| Illinois, Status of Women | 421 |
| Immigrant Women | 421 |
| Immigrant Women, Biography | 422 |
| Immigrant Women, Citizenship | 422 |
| Immigrant Women, Countries (other than United States) | 422 |
| Immigrant Women, Group Rights | 423 |
| Immigrant Women, Health | 423 |
| Immigrant Women, History | 423 |
| Immigrant Women, International | 423 |
| Immigrant Women, Legislation | 424 |
| Immigrant Women, Prostitution | 424 |
| Immigration Policy | 424 |
| Incest | 424 |
| India, Abortion | 425 |
| India, Contraception | 425 |
| India, Education | 425 |
| India, Employment | 426 |
| India, Fertility | 426 |
| India, Infant Mortality | 426 |
| India, Lawyers, Women | 426 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| India, Marriage | 426 |
| India, Mass Media | 426 |
| India, Political Participation | 426 |
| India, Politics | 427 |
| India, Population Control | 427 |
| India, Prostitution | 427 |
| India, Prostitution, Involuntary | 427 |
| India, Sati | 427 |
| India, SEWA (Self-employed Women's Association) | 427 |
| India, Sex Crimes | 428 |
| India, Status of Women | 428 |
| India, Status of Women, History | 434 |
| India, Violence Against Women | 434 |
| India, Working Women | 434 |
| Indiana, Status of Women | 435 |
| Indonesia, Status of Women | 435 |
| Industrial Age and Women | 435 |
| Infant Mortality | 435 |
| Infanticide (see also Filicide) | 436 |
| Infertility | 436 |
| Inheritance | 436 |
| Institutions | 436 |
| Insurance | 437 |
| Inter-American Commission on Human Rights | 437 |
| International Human Rights Organizations | 437 |
| International Humanitarian Law | 437 |
| International Labour Organization | 438 |
| International Organizations | 438 |
| International Relations | 438 |
| International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women | 439 |
| International Trade | 439 |
| International Trafficking | 440 |
| International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women | 440 |
| International Women's Suffrage Alliance | 440 |
| International Women's Year | 440 |
| International Working Group on Feminist Politics | 440 |
| Internet | 440 |
| Interracial Marriage | 441 |
| Iowa, Status of Women | 441 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Iran, Status of Women | 441 |
| Iraq, Status of Women | 442 |
| Ireland, Status of Women | 443 |
| Irigaray, Luce | 444 |
| Islam (see also Muslim Women) | 444 |
| Islam, Countries (other than United States) | 446 |
| Islam, Divorce | 447 |
| Islam, History | 447 |
| Islam, International | 448 |
| Islam, Legislation | 448 |
| Islam, Marriage | 448 |
| Israel, Status of Women | 448 |
| Italy, Status of Women | 450 |
| IUD (Interuterine Device) | 451 |
| | |
| Jacobs, Aletta Henrietta | 451 |
| Jamaica, Status of Women | 451 |
| James, Kay Coles | 452 |
| Jane (Abortion Services) | 452 |
| Japan, Abortion | 452 |
| Japan, Citizenship | 452 |
| Japan, Contraception | 453 |
| Japan, Employment | 453 |
| Japan, Executives, Women | 453 |
| Japan, Family Law | 453 |
| Japan, Fertility | 453 |
| Japan, Occupational Segregation | 453 |
| Japan, Sex Roles in the Workplace | 454 |
| Japan, Status of Women | 454 |
| Java, Status of Women | 456 |
| Jefferson, Thomas | 456 |
| Jex-Blake, Sophia | 456 |
| Jimenez, Rosaura | 457 |
| Jordan, Status of Women | 457 |
| Journalism | 457 |
| Journalists, Women | 457 |
| Judaism | 458 |
| Judges, Women | 459 |
| Judicial Education | 461 |
| Judicial Misconduct | 461 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Jury Selection | 461 |
| Juvenile Courts | 461 |
| Kali for Women | 462 |
| Kansas, Status of Women | 462 |
| Keller, Evelyn Fox | 462 |
| Kelley, Florence | 462 |
| Kentucky, Status of Women | 462 |
| Kenya, Status of Women | 463 |
| Kettler, Ernestine Hara | 464 |
| Kibbutz and Women | 465 |
| King, Carol Weiss | 465 |
| Kollontai, Aleksandra | 465 |
| Koran and Women | 465 |
| Korea, Status of Women | 465 |
| Korean-American Women | 466 |
| Kosovo, Status of Women | 466 |
| Kristeva, Julia | 466 |
| Kuwait, Status of Women | 466 |
| Kyi, Aung San Suu | 466 |
| Labor Laws | 466 |
| Labor Movement | 467 |
| Labor Unions | 467 |
| Labor Unions, Countries (other than United States) | 469 |
| Labor Unions, Harvard Clerical Workers | 470 |
| Labor Unions, History | 470 |
| Labor Unions, International | 471 |
| Labor Unions, Mother Jones | 471 |
| Labor Unions, Sexual Harassment | 471 |
| Labor Unions, Sexual Orientation | 471 |
| Labor Unions, States | 471 |
| Labor Unions, World War II | 471 |
| Labour Party | 472 |
| Land Use Planning | 472 |
| Language | 472 |
| Language, Countries (other than United States) | 473 |
| Language, Courts | 474 |
| Language, History | 474 |
| Language, Non-sexist | 474 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Language, Rape | 474 |
| Language, United States Code | 474 |
| Lanier, David | 475 |
| Laos, Status of Women | 475 |
| Latin America, Contraception | 475 |
| Latin America, Education | 475 |
| Latin America, Feminism | 475 |
| Latin America, Illegitimacy | 476 |
| Latin America, Political Participation | 476 |
| Latin America, Reproductive Rights | 476 |
| Latin America, Sex Roles | 476 |
| Latin America, Status of Women | 476 |
| Latin America, Violence Against Women | 478 |
| Latin America, Women Activists | 478 |
| Latin America, Women's Movement | 478 |
| Latin America, Working Women | 478 |
| Latinas, Employment | 478 |
| Law Firms | 479 |
| Law Reform | 479 |
| Law Schools | 479 |
| Law Schools, Countries (other than United States) | 480 |
| Law Schools, States | 481 |
| Law Schools, Women Faculty | 481 |
| Lawyers and Sexual Orientation | 481 |
| Lawyers and Women | 481 |
| Lawyers, Women | 481 |
| Lawyers, Women, African-American | 483 |
| Lawyers, Women, Biography | 484 |
| Lawyers, Women, Countries (other than United States) | 484 |
| Lawyers, Women, Mass Media | 485 |
| Lawyers, Women, Mediation | 485 |
| Lawyers, Women, Minority | 485 |
| Lawyers, Women, Periodicals | 485 |
| Lawyers, Women, States | 485 |
| Leaders, Women | 486 |
| Leadership and Women | 486 |
| League of Women Voters | 487 |
| Lebanon, Status of Women | 487 |
| Legal Literacy | 487 |
| Legal Profession | 488 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Legislation, Federal | 489 |
| Legislators, Women | 489 |
| Legislators, Women, Abortion | 490 |
| Legislators, Women, Countries (other than United States) | 490 |
| Legislators, Women, States | 491 |
| Leroyer, Marie-Sophie | 491 |
| Lesbian Legal Theory (see also Sexual Orientation) | 491 |
| Lesbianism (see also Sexual Orientation) | 492 |
| Lesotho, Status of Women | 492 |
| Lewinsky, Monica | 492 |
| Liberalism | 492 |
| Librarians, Status of | 492 |
| Literature and Women | 493 |
| Literature and Women, Countries (other than United States) . . | 494 |
| Literature and Women, History | 496 |
| Lithuania, Status of Women | 497 |
| Litigation and Women | 497 |
| Locke, John | 497 |
| Los Angeles Police Department | 497 |
| Louisiana, Status of Women | 497 |
| LSAT (Law School Admission Test) | 497 |
| Lunden, Blue | 498 |
| Luscomb, Florence | 498 |
| Luxemburg, Rosa | 498 |
| | |
| Mackworth, Margaret Haig Thomas | 498 |
| Madsen v. Women's Health Center | 498 |
| Maine, Status of Women | 498 |
| Malabar, Status of Women | 498 |
| Malaysia, Status of Women | 499 |
| Maldives, Status of Women | 500 |
| Management, Women in | 500 |
| Manson, Charles | 500 |
| Marc, Hannah | 500 |
| Marital Agreements | 500 |
| Marital Property | 501 |
| Marital Property, Countries (other than United States) | 501 |
| Marital Property, History | 501 |
| Marital Property, Older Clients | 502 |
| Marital Property, States | 502 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Marital Relations, Jewish Law | 502 |
| Marital Rights, History | 502 |
| Markham, Violet | 502 |
| Marriage | 502 |
| Marriage, Africa | 504 |
| Marriage, Anthropological Studies | 504 |
| Marriage, Asia | 504 |
| Marriage, Australia | 504 |
| Marriage, Botswana | 505 |
| Marriage, Cameroon | 505 |
| Marriage, Canada | 505 |
| Marriage, China | 505 |
| Marriage, Christianity | 505 |
| Marriage Contract | 506 |
| Marriage, Cross-cultural | 506 |
| Marriage, Ethiopia | 506 |
| Marriage, Europe | 506 |
| Marriage, France | 506 |
| Marriage, Great Britain | 506 |
| Marriage, Greece | 508 |
| Marriage, Guides and Handbooks | 508 |
| Marriage, Hindu | 508 |
| Marriage, History | 508 |
| Marriage, India | 509 |
| Marriage, International | 509 |
| Marriage, Interracial | 510 |
| Marriage, Iran | 510 |
| Marriage, Islam | 510 |
| Marriage, Italy | 510 |
| Marriage, Jewish Law | 510 |
| Marriage, Korean-American Women | 510 |
| Marriage, Malaysia | 510 |
| Marriage, Middle East | 511 |
| Marriage, Mormon | 511 |
| Marriage, Muslim Women | 511 |
| Marriage, Names | 511 |
| Marriage, Nationality | 511 |
| Marriage, Puerto Rico | 511 |
| Marriage, Rome | 511 |
| Marriage, Russia | 512 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Marriage, Sex Roles | 512 |
| Marriage, Sexual Orientation | 512 |
| Marriage, States | 512 |
| Marriage, Widows | 512 |
| Marriage, Zimbabwe | 513 |
| Married Women | 513 |
| Married Women's Property Act, New York | 513 |
| Marsden, Dora | 513 |
| Marshall, Catherine | 513 |
| Marxism | 514 |
| Maryland, Status of Women | 514 |
| Mass Media | 514 |
| Mass Media, Countries (other than United States) | 516 |
| Mass Media, International | 516 |
| Mass Media, States | 516 |
| Massachusetts, Status of Women | 517 |
| The Masses, Periodical | 517 |
| Maternal Health Services, Legislation | 517 |
| Maternity Leave, Great Britain | 518 |
| Matriarchy | 518 |
| Maxwell, Edith | 518 |
| McGough, Sheila | 518 |
| Mediation | 518 |
| Mediation, Divorce | 518 |
| Mediation, Marital | 519 |
| Mediation, Women Lawyers | 519 |
| Medical Education | 519 |
| Medical Ethics | 519 |
| Medical Profession | 520 |
| Medical Research | 521 |
| Menchu, Rigoberta | 521 |
| Mental Health | 521 |
| Merchants, Women | 522 |
| Mexico, Status of Women | 522 |
| Michigan, Status of Women | 523 |
| Middle-Class Women, Asia | 524 |
| Middle East, Status of Women | 524 |
| Midwifery | 526 |
| Mifepristone (see RU486) | 526 |
| Migrant Women | 526 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Migrant Women, Countries (other than United States) | 526 |
| Migrant Women, International | 527 |
| Migrant Women, Prostitution | 528 |
| Milan Women's Bookstore Collective | 528 |
| Military | 528 |
| Military, Domestic Violence | 530 |
| Military, International | 530 |
| Military, Sexual Harassment | 530 |
| Military, Sexual Orientation | 531 |
| Mill, Harriet Taylor | 531 |
| Mill, John Stuart | 531 |
| Minimum Wage | 532 |
| Minnesota, Status of Women | 532 |
| Minority Women | 532 |
| Minority Women, Countries (other than United States) | 534 |
| Minority Women, Drugs | 534 |
| Minority Women, Education | 534 |
| Minority Women, Employment | 535 |
| Minority Women, Group Rights | 535 |
| Minority Women, Health | 535 |
| Minority Women, HIV/AIDS | 535 |
| Minority Women, International Studies | 535 |
| Minority Women, Multiculturalism | 536 |
| Minority Women, Science | 536 |
| Minority Women, States | 536 |
| Minority Women, Television | 536 |
| Minority Women, Violence | 536 |
| Misogyny | 536 |
| Mississippi, Status of Women | 537 |
| Missouri, Status of Women | 537 |
| Mitsubishi | 537 |
| Mobility, in Employment | 537 |
| Mondragón Cooperatives | 538 |
| Mongolia, Status of Women | 538 |
| Montana, Status of Women | 538 |
| Mormon Women | 538 |
| Morocco, Status of Women | 538 |
| Moskowitz, Belle | 539 |
| Mother Jones | 539 |
| Motherhood | 539 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Motherhood, Drugs | 540 |
| Motherhood, Employment | 540 |
| Motherhood, International | 540 |
| Motherhood, Lesbian | 541 |
| Motherhood, Liberalism | 541 |
| Motherhood, Prisons | 541 |
| Motherhood, Single | 541 |
| Motherhood, Teenage | 543 |
| Motion Pictures (see Film) | 543 |
| Motley, Constance Baker | 543 |
| Mott, Lucretia | 543 |
| Mozambique, Status of Women | 543 |
| Mukurasi, Leticia, Trials | 544 |
| Multiculturalism and Women | 544 |
| Municipal Housekeeping Movement | 544 |
| Murderers, Women | 544 |
| Murray, Pauli | 545 |
| Muslim Countries, Family Law | 545 |
| Muslim Girls, Great Britain | 545 |
| Muslim Women (see also Islam) | 545 |
| Muslim Women, Africa | 548 |
| Muslim Women, Arab Countries | 548 |
| Muslim Women, Asia | 548 |
| Muslim Women, Bangladesh | 548 |
| Muslim Women, Divorce | 548 |
| Muslim Women, Egypt | 548 |
| Muslim Women, Female Genital Mutilation | 549 |
| Muslim Women, India | 549 |
| Muslim Women, International | 549 |
| Muslim Women, Iran | 550 |
| Muslim Women, Middle East | 550 |
| Muslim Women, Saudi Arabia | 550 |
| Muslim Women, Spain | 550 |
| Myerson, Bess | 550 |
| Myrdal, Alva Reimer | 550 |
| Mythology | 550 |
| NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) | 551 |
| Names, Personal | 551 |
| National Action Committee | 551 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| National Association of Women Lawyers | 551 |
| National Center for State Courts | 552 |
| National Consumers' League | 552 |
| National Council for Research on Women | 552 |
| National Council of Jewish Women | 552 |
| National Employment Law Project | 552 |
| National Federation of Women's Institute | 552 |
| National Land Committee (South Africa) | 552 |
| National Organization for Women v. Scheidler | 553 |
| National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies | 553 |
| National Woman's Party | 553 |
| National Women's Studies Association | 553 |
| Nationalism | 553 |
| Native Americans, Status of Women | 554 |
| Nazi Germany | 555 |
| Nebraska, Status of Women | 555 |
| Nemow, Africa, Case Studies | 555 |
| Nepal, Status of Women | 555 |
| Nepotism | 556 |
| Netherlands, Status of Women | 556 |
| Networking | 557 |
| Nevada, Status of Women | 557 |
| New Deal | 557 |
| New England, Status of Women | 558 |
| New Hampshire, Status of Women | 558 |
| New Jersey, Status of Women | 558 |
| New Mexico, Status of Women | 559 |
| New Right and Feminism | 559 |
| New York Academy of Sciences | 559 |
| New York, Status of Women | 559 |
| New Zealand, Status of Women | 560 |
| Newfoundland, Status of Women | 560 |
| Newspapers, Women Prisoners | 560 |
| Nicaragua, Status of Women | 561 |
| Niger, Status of Women | 561 |
| Nigeria, Status of Women | 561 |
| Non-governmental Organizations | 562 |
| Non-profit Organizations | 563 |
| Norplant | 563 |
| Norris Case | 564 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| North Carolina, Status of Women | 564 |
| North Dakota, Status of Women | 564 |
| Northern Ireland, Status of Women | 565 |
| Norway, Status of Women | 565 |
| NOW (National Organization for Women) | 566 |
| Nuns | 566 |
| Nursing | 566 |
| | |
| O'Connor, Sandra Day | 567 |
| O'Hare, Kate Richards | 567 |
| OAS (Organization of American States) | 567 |
| Obscenity | 568 |
| Occupational Segregation | 568 |
| Occupational Segregation, Countries (other than United States) | 570 |
| Occupational Segregation, International | 571 |
| Offenders, Women, Case Studies | 574 |
| Offenders, Women, Countries (other than United States) | 574 |
| Offenders, Women, Domestic Violence | 576 |
| Offenders, Women, Gangs | 576 |
| Offenders, Women, History | 576 |
| Offenders, Women, Homicide | 576 |
| Offenders, Women, International | 577 |
| Offenders, Women, Journalism | 577 |
| Offenders, Women, Periodicals | 577 |
| Offenders, Women, Serial Killers | 577 |
| Offenders, Women, States | 577 |
| Office Workers, Women | 578 |
| Ohio, Status of Women | 578 |
| Oklahoma, Status of Women | 578 |
| Older Women | 578 |
| Older Women's League | 579 |
| Oman, Status of Women | 579 |
| Oregon, Status of Women | 579 |
| Organization of Angolan Women | 580 |
| Organizational Change | 580 |
| Organizations and Women | 580 |
| Organizations, Women's | 581 |
| Organizations, Women's, Africa | 582 |
| Organizations, Women's, Canada | 582 |
| Organizations, Women's, Caribbean | 582 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Organizations, Women's, Chile | 583 |
| Organizations, Women's, Costa Rica | 583 |
| Organizations, Women's, El Salvador | 583 |
| Organizations, Women's, Germany | 583 |
| Organizations, Women's, Great Britain | 583 |
| Organizations, Women's, Guyana | 584 |
| Organizations, Women's, History | 584 |
| Organizations, Women's, India | 584 |
| Organizations, Women's, International | 585 |
| Organizations, Women's, Italy | 586 |
| Organizations, Women's, Jewish | 586 |
| Organizations, Women's, Kuwait | 586 |
| Organizations, Women's, Latin America | 586 |
| Organizations, Women's, Middle East | 586 |
| Organizations, Women's, Nigeria | 587 |
| Organizations, Women's, Press | 587 |
| Organizations, Women's, Russia | 587 |
| Organizations, Women's, Soviet Union | 587 |
| Organizations, Women's, States | 587 |
| Organizations, Women's, Urban | 588 |
| Organizations, Women, United Nations | 588 |
| Organizers, Women | 588 |
| Organizing | 588 |
| Organizing, Countries | 589 |
| Organizing, Grassroots | 590 |
| Organizing Grassroots, Countries (other than United States) | 592 |
| Organizing, Grassroots, Food Industry | 593 |
| Organizing, Grassroots, Harvard Clerical Workers | 593 |
| Organizing, Grassroots, International | 593 |
| Organizing, Grassroots, Pay Equity | 594 |
| Organizing, Grassroots, States | 594 |
| Organizing, International | 594 |
| Organizing, Research | 594 |
| Organizing, Sexual Harassment | 594 |
| Organizing, States | 595 |
| Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History | 595 |
| Otieno, Wambui Waiyaki | 595 |
| Ottoman Empire, Status of Women | 595 |
| Pacific Area, Status of Women | 595 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Pacifism | 596 |
| Packwood, Robert | 596 |
| Painters, Women | 596 |
| Pakistan, Status of Women | 596 |
| Palestine, Status of Women | 597 |
| Palestinian National Movement | 599 |
| Pankhurst, Sylvia | 599 |
| Papua New Guinea, Status of Women | 599 |
| Paralegals, Women | 599 |
| Parental Leave | 599 |
| Parenthood | 600 |
| Paris, Prostitution | 601 |
| Parkes, Bessie | 601 |
| Partial Birth Abortion Ban | 601 |
| Patriarchy | 601 |
| Patriarchy, Countries (other than United States) | 602 |
| Patriarchy, History | 603 |
| Patriarchy, International | 603 |
| Patriarchy, Language | 603 |
| Paul, Alice | 603 |
| Pauley, Frances Freeborn | 604 |
| Pay Equity | 604 |
| Pay Equity, African-American Women | 608 |
| Pay Equity, Cases | 608 |
| Pay Equity, Countries (other than United States) | 609 |
| Pay Equity, Education | 610 |
| Pay Equity, Health Care Professionals | 610 |
| Pay Equity, International | 610 |
| Pay Equity, Legal Profession | 611 |
| Pay Equity, Legislation | 611 |
| Pay Equity, Litigation | 612 |
| Pay Equity, Periodicals | 612 |
| Pay Equity, Sports | 612 |
| Pay Equity, States | 612 |
| Pay Equity, Statistics and Surveys | 612 |
| Pay Equity, World War II | 613 |
| Peace | 613 |
| Peace Education | 613 |
| Peace Movement | 613 |
| Peacocke, Emilie | 614 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Pedagogy, Feminist | 614 |
| Pelletier, Madeleine | 614 |
| Pennsylvania, Status of Women | 614 |
| Pensions | 615 |
| Periodicals | 615 |
| Peru, Status of Women | 618 |
| Perón, Eva | 619 |
| Pesotta, Rose | 619 |
| Philippines, Status of Women | 619 |
| Philosophy and Feminism | 621 |
| Physicians, Women | 621 |
| Planned Parenthood Federation of America | 622 |
| Planned Parenthood v. Casey | 622 |
| Playwrights, Women | 622 |
| Polacheck, Hilda Satt | 622 |
| Poland, Status of Women | 623 |
| Police and Women | 623 |
| Police Officers, Women | 624 |
| Police Training | 625 |
| Policing, Community | 625 |
| Political Campaigns | 625 |
| Political Correctness | 625 |
| Political Organizations | 625 |
| Political Participation | 626 |
| Political Participation, Africa | 629 |
| Political Participation, African-American Women | 630 |
| Political Participation, Arab Countries | 630 |
| Political Participation, Argentina | 630 |
| Political Participation, Asia | 630 |
| Political Participation, Australia | 630 |
| Political Participation, Brazil | 631 |
| Political Participation, Canada | 631 |
| Political Participation, Chile | 631 |
| Political Participation, China | 632 |
| Political Participation, Communism | 632 |
| Political Participation, Congress | 632 |
| Political Participation, Costa Rica | 632 |
| Political Participation, Denmark | 632 |
| Political Participation, Developing Countries | 632 |
| Political Participation, Egypt | 633 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Political Participation, Europe | 633 |
| Political Participation, European Union | 633 |
| Political Participation, Finland | 634 |
| Political Participation, France | 634 |
| Political Participation, Germany | 635 |
| Political Participation, Great Britain | 635 |
| Political Participation, Greece | 636 |
| Political Participation, History | 636 |
| Political Participation, Hong Kong | 638 |
| Political Participation, India | 638 |
| Political Participation, International | 639 |
| Political Participation, Iran | 641 |
| Political Participation, Islamic Countries | 641 |
| Political Participation, Israel | 641 |
| Political Participation, Italy | 641 |
| Political Participation, Japan | 642 |
| Political Participation, Jordan | 642 |
| Political Participation, Kuwait | 642 |
| Political Participation, Latin America | 642 |
| Political Participation, Lebanon | 643 |
| Political Participation, Malaysia | 643 |
| Political Participation, Mass Media | 643 |
| Political Participation, Middle East | 644 |
| Political Participation, Morocco | 644 |
| Political Participation, "New Right" | 644 |
| Political Participation, Nigeria | 644 |
| Political Participation, Northern Ireland | 644 |
| Political Participation, Norway | 645 |
| Political Participation, Palestine | 645 |
| Political Participation, Periodicals | 645 |
| Political Participation, Philippines | 645 |
| Political Participation, Puerto Rico | 646 |
| Political Participation, Right-Wing Extremists | 646 |
| Political Participation, Russia | 646 |
| Political Participation, Scandinavia | 646 |
| Political Participation, South Africa | 647 |
| Political Participation, South Korea | 647 |
| Political Participation, Soviet Union | 647 |
| Political Participation, Spain | 647 |
| Political Participation, States | 647 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Political Participation, Sudan | 649 |
| Political Participation, Taiwan | 649 |
| Political Participation, Thailand | 649 |
| Political Participation, Tunisia | 649 |
| Political Participation, Turkey | 650 |
| Political Participation, Uganda | 650 |
| Political Participation, Venezuela | 650 |
| Political Participation, Vietnam | 650 |
| Political Participation, Virgin Islands | 650 |
| Political Participation, West Germany | 650 |
| Political Participation, Zimbabwe | 651 |
| Political Parties | 651 |
| Political Parties, Countries (other than United States) | 652 |
| Political Parties, History | 652 |
| Political Parties, International | 652 |
| Political Science | 652 |
| Politicians, Women | 652 |
| Politicians, Women, Countries | 654 |
| Politicians, Women, International | 655 |
| Politics, Antinuclear Movement | 655 |
| Politics, Black Feminism | 655 |
| Politics, Childcare | 656 |
| Politics, Communications | 656 |
| Politics, Conservative | 656 |
| Politics, Cross-cultural Studies | 656 |
| Politics, Feminist | 656 |
| Politics, Feminist, Countries | 661 |
| Politics, Feminist, International | 661 |
| Politics, France | 662 |
| Politics, India | 662 |
| Politics, International | 662 |
| Politics, Islam | 662 |
| Politics, Language | 663 |
| Politics, Leadership | 663 |
| Politics, North Carolina | 663 |
| Politics, Social Movements | 663 |
| Politics, Suffrage | 663 |
| Politics, Women Activists | 663 |
| Politics, Women Cabinet Officers | 664 |
| Politics, Women Legislators | 664 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Politics, Women Presidents | 664 |
| Politics, Women Prime Ministers | 664 |
| Politics, Women Rulers | 664 |
| Polygamy | 664 |
| Poor Women | 665 |
| Popular Education | 666 |
| Population | 667 |
| Population, Control, International | 667 |
| Population, Countries (other than United States) | 668 |
| Population, International | 669 |
| Populism | 670 |
| Pornography | 670 |
| Pornography, Bibliography | 675 |
| Pornography, Cases | 675 |
| Pornography, Christianity | 675 |
| Pornography, Computer Network | 675 |
| Pornography, Countries (other than United States) | 675 |
| Pornography, Domestic Violence | 676 |
| Pornography, Feminist Jurisprudence | 676 |
| Pornography, Feminist Theory | 676 |
| Pornography, Film and Women | 677 |
| Pornography, Free Speech | 677 |
| Pornography, Hearings | 677 |
| Pornography, International | 677 |
| Pornography, Literature | 677 |
| Pornography, Mass Media | 677 |
| Pornography, Prostitution | 677 |
| Pornography, Research | 677 |
| Pornography, Sexual Harassment | 678 |
| Pornography, States | 678 |
| Pornography, Supreme Court, United States | 678 |
| Pornography, Violence Against Women | 678 |
| Portugal, Status of Women | 678 |
| Postcolonialism | 679 |
| Postmodernism | 679 |
| Poverty | 680 |
| Poverty, Countries (other than United States) | 681 |
| Poverty, Developing Countries | 681 |
| Poverty, Domestic Violence | 682 |
| Poverty, Drugs | 682 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Poverty, Employment | 682 |
| Poverty, International | 682 |
| Poverty, Older Women | 682 |
| Poverty, Theology | 682 |
| Powell, Bernadette | 683 |
| Power, Institutional | 683 |
| Powers, Georgia Davis | 683 |
| Practising Law Institute | 683 |
| Pregnancy | 683 |
| Pregnancy, Drug Abuse | 684 |
| Pregnancy, Employment | 684 |
| Pregnancy, India | 685 |
| Pregnancy, Teen | 685 |
| Pregnant Women | 685 |
| Prehistory | 686 |
| Preuptial Agreement | 686 |
| Press Organizations, Women's | 686 |
| Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins | 686 |
| Prime Ministers, Women | 686 |
| Prison Reform | 686 |
| Prisoners' Wives | 687 |
| Prisoners, Women | 687 |
| Prisoners, Women, Cases | 690 |
| Prisoners, Women, Countries (other than United States) | 690 |
| Prisoners, Women, Health Care | 691 |
| Prisoners, Women, History | 691 |
| Prisoners, Women, International | 691 |
| Prisoners, Women, Journalism | 691 |
| Prisoners, Women, Lesbian | 691 |
| Prisoners, Women, Periodicals | 692 |
| Prisoners, Women, Sexual Behavior | 692 |
| Prisoners, Women, States | 692 |
| Prisons | 692 |
| Privacy | 693 |
| Pro-Choice Movement | 694 |
| Pro-Life Movement | 696 |
| Pro-Life Movement, Abortion Clinic Violence | 698 |
| Products Liability | 698 |
| Professions and Women | 699 |
| Prohibition | 700 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Property | 700 |
| Property, Countries (other than United States) | 701 |
| Property, International | 702 |
| Property, Marriage | 702 |
| Property, States | 703 |
| Property, Women as | 703 |
| Prostitutes Rights Movement | 703 |
| Prostitution | 703 |
| Prostitution, Cases | 705 |
| Prostitution, Countries (other than United States) | 705 |
| Prostitution, Drugs | 708 |
| Prostitution, Girls | 709 |
| Prostitution, History | 709 |
| Prostitution, HIV/AIDS | 709 |
| Prostitution, International | 709 |
| Prostitution, Involuntary | 709 |
| Prostitution, Involuntary, Countries (other than United States) | 711 |
| Prostitution, Literature | 711 |
| Prostitution, States | 711 |
| Prostitution, War | 712 |
| Psychotherapy | 712 |
| Public Administration | 712 |
| Public Prosecutors | 712 |
| Puerto-Rico, Status of Women | 712 |
| Punishment | 713 |
| Purdah | 713 |
| | |
| Race and Gender | 714 |
| Race and Gender, Cases | 716 |
| Race and Gender, Countries (other than United States) | 716 |
| Race and Gender, Criminal Justice System | 716 |
| Race and Gender, Employment | 717 |
| Race and Gender, Feminism | 718 |
| Race and Gender, History | 718 |
| Race and Gender, International | 718 |
| Race and Gender, Liberalism | 718 |
| Race and Gender, Pay Equity | 718 |
| Race and Gender, Pornography | 718 |
| Race and Gender, Poverty | 718 |
| Race and Gender, States | 719 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Race and Gender, Violence | 719 |
| Race and Gender, Women's Movement | 719 |
| Radio | 719 |
| Rape (see also Date Rape; Violence Against Women) | 719 |
| Rape, African-American Women | 724 |
| Rape, Biology | 724 |
| Rape, by Physicians | 724 |
| Rape, Cases | 724 |
| Rape, Countries (other than United States) | 725 |
| Rape, Criminal Justice System | 727 |
| Rape, Drug | 727 |
| Rape, Education, Higher | 727 |
| Rape, Feminist Theory | 728 |
| Rape, Gang | 728 |
| Rape, History | 728 |
| Rape, International | 728 |
| Rape, Intervention | 728 |
| Rape, Investigation | 729 |
| Rape, Juries | 729 |
| Rape, Language | 729 |
| Rape, Law Reform | 729 |
| Rape, Literature | 729 |
| Rape, Marriage | 729 |
| Rape, Mass | 730 |
| Rape, Mass Media | 730 |
| Rape, Medical Evidence | 730 |
| Rape, Politics | 730 |
| Rape, Pornography | 730 |
| Rape, Prevention | 731 |
| Rape, Prisons | 731 |
| Rape, Prosecution | 731 |
| Rape, Research | 731 |
| Rape, Sports | 732 |
| Rape, States | 732 |
| Rape, Statistics and Surveys | 732 |
| Rape, Statutory | 733 |
| Rape, Trials | 733 |
| Rape, Victims | 733 |
| Rape, War | 735 |
| Rape Crisis Centers | 736 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Rapists, Serial | 736 |
| Red Thread | 736 |
| Reform Schools | 736 |
| Reformers, Women | 736 |
| Refugee Women | 738 |
| Religion and Women (see also specific religions, i.e., Islam; Christianity) | 738 |
| Remarriage | 740 |
| Rena Weeks v. Baker and McKenzie | 740 |
| Reno, Janet | 740 |
| Renooz, Celine | 740 |
| Reproductive Hazards | 741 |
| Reproductive Health | 741 |
| Reproductive Health, Bioethics | 742 |
| Reproductive Health, Communications | 742 |
| Reproductive Health, Countries (other than United States) ... | 742 |
| Reproductive Health, International | 743 |
| Reproductive Rights | 743 |
| Reproductive Rights, Countries (other than United States) ... | 748 |
| Reproductive Rights, Education | 749 |
| Reproductive Rights, History | 749 |
| Reproductive Rights, HIV/AIDS | 750 |
| Reproductive Rights, International | 750 |
| Reproductive Rights, States | 751 |
| Reproductive Rights Movement, International | 751 |
| Reproductive Technology | 751 |
| Reproductive Technology, Bioethics | 754 |
| Reproductive Technology, Countries (other than United States) | 755 |
| Reproductive Technology, International | 755 |
| Republican Party | 755 |
| Research, Arab Women | 755 |
| Researchers, Women, Great Britain | 755 |
| Retirement | 756 |
| Retirement Equity Act of 1984 | 757 |
| Revolutions and Women | 757 |
| Rhode Island, Status of Women | 759 |
| Rhodesia, Status of Women | 759 |
| Richardson, Nancy | 759 |
| Right to Life Party | 760 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Robins, Margaret Dreier | 760 |
| Roe v. Wade | 760 |
| Roman Law, Status of Women | 760 |
| Romania, Status of Women | 761 |
| Roosevelt, Eleanor | 761 |
| Rosaldo, Michelle Zimbalist | 761 |
| Rose, Ernestine L. | 761 |
| RU486 | 761 |
| Rulers, Women | 762 |
| Rural Women | 762 |
| Rural Women, Countries (other than United States) | 762 |
| Rural Women, International | 763 |
| Rural Women, States | 764 |
| Rural Women, Technology | 764 |
| Russia, Status of Women | 764 |
| Rust v. Sullivan | 766 |
| Rwanda, Status of Women | 767 |
| | |
| Sade, Marquis de | 767 |
| Sanger, Margaret | 767 |
| Santiago, Lourdes | 767 |
| Sardinia, Status of Women | 767 |
| Satellite Factory System, Taiwan | 767 |
| Sati | 768 |
| Saudi Arabia, Status of Women | 768 |
| Scandinavia, Status of Women | 768 |
| School Administrators, Women | 769 |
| Schreiner, Olivia | 769 |
| Science | 769 |
| Scientific Research | 770 |
| Scientists, Women | 770 |
| Scotland, Status of Women | 770 |
| Scott, Rose | 770 |
| Security, International | 771 |
| Seider, Laura Ellsworth | 771 |
| Self-defense | 771 |
| Senators, Women | 771 |
| Seneca Falls Convention | 771 |
| Seneca Women's Peace Encampment | 772 |
| Senegal, Status of Women | 772 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Sentencing, Great Britain | 772 |
| Separation | 772 |
| Serbia, Status of Women | 772 |
| Serial Killers | 773 |
| SEWA (Self-employed Women's Association) | 773 |
| Sex Crimes (see also specific crimes, i.e., Rape; Date Rape) | 773 |
| Sex Crimes, by Professionals | 775 |
| Sex Crimes, Cases | 775 |
| Sex Crimes, Computer Network | 775 |
| Sex Crimes, Countries (other than United States) | 775 |
| Sex Crimes, Education, Higher | 776 |
| Sex Crimes, History | 776 |
| Sex Crimes, Incest | 776 |
| Sex Crimes, Law Reform | 776 |
| Sex Crimes, Literature | 776 |
| Sex Crimes, Periodicals | 776 |
| Sex Crimes, Pornography | 776 |
| Sex Crimes, Prostitution | 777 |
| Sex Crimes, Psychiatrists | 777 |
| Sex Crimes, States | 777 |
| Sex Crimes, Statistics and Surveys | 778 |
| Sex Crimes, Trials | 778 |
| Sex Education | 778 |
| Sex Offenders | 778 |
| Sex Roles | 778 |
| Sex Roles, Anthropological Studies | 781 |
| Sex Roles, Countries (other than United States) | 781 |
| Sex Roles, Divorce | 783 |
| Sex Roles, Economic Aspects | 783 |
| Sex Roles, Education | 783 |
| Sex Roles, Employment | 784 |
| Sex Roles, Hispanic Women | 784 |
| Sex Roles, History | 784 |
| Sex Roles, in the Workplace | 784 |
| Sex Roles, International | 785 |
| Sex Roles, International Relations | 786 |
| Sex Roles, Literature | 786 |
| Sex Roles, Marriage | 786 |
| Sex Roles, Mass Media | 786 |
| Sex Roles, Policing | 786 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Sex Roles, Politics | 787 |
| Sex Roles, Religion | 787 |
| Sex Roles, States | 787 |
| Sex Roles, Statistics and Surveys | 787 |
| Sex Shops, Great Britain | 787 |
| Sex Workers, International (see also Prostitution) | 788 |
| Sexual Coercion | 788 |
| Sexual Harassment | 788 |
| Sexual Harassment, Communications | 790 |
| Sexual Harassment, Countries (other than United States) | 790 |
| Sexual Harassment, Economics | 791 |
| Sexual Harassment, Feminist Jurisprudence | 791 |
| Sexual Harassment, Free Speech | 791 |
| Sexual Harassment, Guides and Handbooks | 791 |
| Sexual Harassment, History | 791 |
| Sexual Harassment, in Education | 791 |
| Sexual Harassment, in Higher Education | 793 |
| Sexual Harassment, in Politics | 794 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Federal Workplace | 794 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Legal Workplace | 795 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Military | 796 |
| Sexual Harassment in the Workplace | 796 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace, Cases | 801 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace, Conference Proceedings .. | 802 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace, Countries (other than United States) | 802 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace, Documents | 802 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace, Guides and Handbooks .. | 802 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace, in Nontraditional Occupations | 802 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace, International | 803 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace, Litigation | 803 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace, Prevention | 803 |
| Sexual Harassment, in the Workplace, Trials | 804 |
| Sexual Harassment, International | 804 |
| Sexual Harassment, Prevention | 804 |
| Sexual Harassment, States | 804 |
| Sexual Harassment, Supreme Court, United States | 804 |
| Sexual Orientation | 805 |
| Sexual Orientation, Countries (other than United States) | 806 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Sexual Orientation, Education | 806 |
| Sexual Orientation, Employment | 807 |
| Sexual Orientation, Families | 807 |
| Sexual Orientation, Gay Rights | 807 |
| Sexual Orientation, International | 809 |
| Sexual Orientation, Labor Unions | 809 |
| Sexual Orientation, Military | 810 |
| Sexual Orientation, Sexual Harassment | 810 |
| Sexual Orientation, Violence | 810 |
| Sexual Slander | 810 |
| Sexual Slavery (see Prostitution, Involuntary) | 810 |
| Sexual Violence (see Rape; Date Rape; Domestic Violence; Violence Against Women) | 810 |
| Shaarawi, Huda | 810 |
| Shafik, Doria | 811 |
| Shaw, Anna Howard | 811 |
| Shelters, Women's | 811 |
| Shoplifting, History | 811 |
| Sierra Leone, Status of Women | 811 |
| Silkwood, Karen | 811 |
| Singapore, Prostitution | 811 |
| Sisterhood Is Global Institute | 812 |
| Skeffington, Hanna Sheehy | 812 |
| Slavery | 812 |
| Slovak Republic, Status of Women | 812 |
| Slovenia, Status of Women | 812 |
| Small Business | 813 |
| Smith, Margaret Chase | 813 |
| Smith, William Kennedy | 813 |
| Smyth, Ethel | 813 |
| Social Democratic Federation, History | 813 |
| Social Democratic Women's Movement | 813 |
| Social Movements | 814 |
| Social Scientists, Women | 814 |
| Social Security | 814 |
| Social Security, International | 816 |
| Social Work and Women | 816 |
| Socialism | 817 |
| Socialism, Countries (other than United States) | 818 |
| Socialism, International | 820 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Societal Stockholm Syndrome | 820 |
| Sociobiology | 821 |
| Sociology of Gender | 821 |
| Soldiers, Women | 821 |
| Soledad Correctional Training Facility | 821 |
| Solidarity | 821 |
| Sommers, Tish | 821 |
| Sorabji, Cornelia | 821 |
| South Africa, Status of Women | 822 |
| South Carolina, Status of Women | 823 |
| South Dakota, Status of Women | 823 |
| South Korea, Status of Women | 824 |
| Southern States, Status of Women | 824 |
| Soviet Socialist Republic, Status of Women | 825 |
| Soviet Union, Status of Women | 826 |
| Spain, Status of Women | 827 |
| Spiritualism, Women's Movement | 828 |
| Sports and Women | 828 |
| Sri Lanka, Status of Women | 829 |
| Stalking | 830 |
| Stanton, Elizabeth Cady | 831 |
| Starr Report | 832 |
| State Constitutions | 832 |
| State Laws | 832 |
| States and Gender Discrimination | 832 |
| Steel Workers, Women | 832 |
| Steinem, Gloria | 833 |
| Stereotypes | 833 |
| Sterilization | 833 |
| Stokes, Rose Pastor | 833 |
| Stone, Lucy | 833 |
| Stowe, Harriet Beecher | 834 |
| Sudan, Status of Women | 834 |
| Suffrage | 835 |
| Suffrage, African-American Women | 838 |
| Suffrage, Anti-suffrage Movement | 839 |
| Suffrage, Comparative Studies | 839 |
| Suffrage, Countries (other than United States) | 839 |
| Suffrage, Documents | 842 |
| Suffrage, Dramas | 843 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Suffrage, International | 843 |
| Suffrage, Nursing | 843 |
| Suffrage, Periodicals | 843 |
| Suffrage, Political Parties | 843 |
| Suffrage, States | 844 |
| Suffragists, African-American Women | 845 |
| Suffragists, Women | 845 |
| Suicide | 849 |
| Supreme Court, United States | 849 |
| Surnames | 850 |
| Surrogate Mothers | 850 |
| Sweatshops | 853 |
| Sweden, Status of Women | 853 |
| Switzerland, Status of Women | 854 |
| Syria, Status of Women | 854 |
| | |
| Tailhook Scandal | 855 |
| Taiwan, Status of Women | 855 |
| Taliban, Afghanistan | 855 |
| Tanzania, Status of Women | 855 |
| Tax Discrimination | 856 |
| Taylor, Helen | 856 |
| Technology and Women | 856 |
| Teenage Women | 858 |
| Telephone Operators, Women | 858 |
| Television and Women | 858 |
| Temperance | 859 |
| Tennessee, Status of Women | 859 |
| Texas, Status of Women | 859 |
| Textile Workers | 860 |
| Thailand, Status of Women | 860 |
| Thatcher, Margaret | 861 |
| Theater and Women | 861 |
| Third World Legal Studies | 862 |
| Third World Women (see Development, Women in) | 862 |
| Thomas, Clarence | 862 |
| Thomas-Hill Hearings | 862 |
| Thompson, William | 862 |
| Thygeson, Silvie | 862 |
| Title IX | 862 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Title VII | 864 |
| Togo, Status of Women | 865 |
| Trafficking in Women (see Prostitution, Involuntary) | 865 |
| Training, Non-traditional Jobs | 865 |
| Transsexualism | 865 |
| Transportation | 866 |
| Trials, Abortion | 866 |
| Trials, Murder | 866 |
| Trials, Rape | 867 |
| Trials, Sex Crimes | 867 |
| Trials, Various | 867 |
| Trials, Women's Rights | 869 |
| Tristan, Flora | 869 |
| Tunisia, Status of Women | 869 |
| Turkey, Status of Women | 870 |
| Twentieth Century Fund | 871 |
| Tyson, Michael | 871 |
| Uganda, Status of Women | 871 |
| Ukraine, Status of Women | 872 |
| Undocumented Workers | 872 |
| Unemployment Compensation | 873 |
| Unemployment Insurance | 873 |
| UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) | 873 |
| Unitarian Universalist Service Committee | 875 |
| Unitarianism, Great Britain | 875 |
| United Nations | 875 |
| United States Code | 877 |
| United States Dept. of Labor, Women's Bureau | 878 |
| United States Institute of Peace | 878 |
| United States Sanitary Commission | 878 |
| Universal Declaration of Human Rights | 878 |
| Unpaid Work | 878 |
| Urban Planners, Women | 879 |
| Urban Women | 879 |
| Utah, Status of Women | 880 |
| Utilitarianism | 880 |
| Van Houten, Leslie | 880 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Van Waters, Miriam | 880 |
| Veil (see Purdah) | 880 |
| Venezuela, Status of Women | 881 |
| Vermont, Status of Women | 881 |
| Veterans' Benefits | 881 |
| Veterans, Women | 881 |
| Vietnam, Status of Women | 881 |
| Vietnam War and Women | 882 |
| Violence Against African-American Women | 882 |
| Violence Against Lesbians | 882 |
| Violence Against Older Women | 882 |
| Violence Against Women (see also Rape; Date Rape; Domestic Violence; Sex Crimes) | 882 |
| Violence Against Women, Athletes | 885 |
| Violence Against Women, Bibliography | 885 |
| Violence Against Women, Countries (other than United States) | 885 |
| Violence Against Women, Dating | 888 |
| Violence Against Women, Disabilities, Women with | 888 |
| Violence Against Women, Guns | 888 |
| Violence Against Women, Health Care | 888 |
| Violence Against Women, Higher Education | 888 |
| Violence Against Women, HIV/AIDS | 888 |
| Violence Against Women, International | 888 |
| Violence Against Women, Investigation | 889 |
| Violence Against Women, Legislation | 890 |
| Violence Against Women, Lesbians | 890 |
| Violence Against Women, Literature | 890 |
| Violence Against Women, Mass Media | 890 |
| Violence Against Women, Nursing | 890 |
| Violence Against Women, Periodicals | 890 |
| Violence Against Women, Pornography | 891 |
| Violence Against Women, Rape | 891 |
| Violence Against Women, Research | 891 |
| Violence Against Women, States | 891 |
| Violence Against Women, War | 891 |
| Violence Against Women Act | 891 |
| Violence, Women | 892 |
| Virgin Islands, Status of Women | 892 |
| Virginia Military Institute | 893 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Virginia, Status of Women | 893 |
| Virginité, Brazil | 893 |
| Voilquin, Suzanne | 893 |
| Voters, Women (see Gender Gap, in Elections; Political Participation) | 893 |
| Waitresses and Labor Unions | 893 |
| Waka, Yamada | 893 |
| Wales, Status of Women | 894 |
| War and Women | 894 |
| Ward, Mary | 897 |
| Washington State, Status of Women | 897 |
| Wattleton, Faye | 897 |
| Weather Underground Organization | 897 |
| Webb, Beatrice | 897 |
| Webster v. Reproductive Health Services | 898 |
| Weddington, Sarah | 898 |
| Weeks v. Baker and McKenzie | 898 |
| Welfare and Women | 898 |
| Welfare Reform | 900 |
| Welfare States | 901 |
| Wells, Ida B. | 901 |
| West Bank, Status of Women | 901 |
| West Germany, Status of Women | 902 |
| West Virginia, Status of Women | 902 |
| Wheeler, Anna | 902 |
| Whig Party, Virginia | 902 |
| Widows | 903 |
| Willard, Frances | 903 |
| Willebrandt, Mabel Walker | 903 |
| Wisconsin, Status of Women | 904 |
| Witchcraft | 904 |
| Witchcraft Trials | 904 |
| Wollstonecraft, Mary | 905 |
| Woman's Exchange Movement | 905 |
| Woman's Hour (Radio Program) | 905 |
| Women in Africa and the African Diaspora (WAAD) | 906 |
| Women's Bureau, United States Dept. of Labor | 906 |
| Women's Christian Temperance Union | 906 |
| Women's International League for Peace and Freedom | 906 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Women's International Sport Movement | 907 |
| Women's Legal Education and Action Fund | 907 |
| Women's Movement (see also Feminism) | 907 |
| Women's Movement, Africa | 909 |
| Women's Movement, Angola | 910 |
| Women's Movement, Asia | 910 |
| Women's Movement, Belize | 910 |
| Women's Movement, Brazil | 910 |
| Women's Movement, Canada | 911 |
| Women's Movement, Caribbean | 911 |
| Women's Movement, Chile | 912 |
| Women's Movement, China | 912 |
| Women's Movement, Contraception | 912 |
| Women's Movement, Costa Rica | 913 |
| Women's Movement, Cuba | 913 |
| Women's Movement, Developing Countries | 913 |
| Women's Movement, Directory | 913 |
| Women's Movement, Documents | 913 |
| Women's Movement, Egypt | 914 |
| Women's Movement, Europe | 914 |
| Women's Movement, Finland | 915 |
| Women's Movement, France | 915 |
| Women's Movement, Germany | 916 |
| Women's Movement, Great Britain | 917 |
| Women's Movement, Guatemala | 918 |
| Women's Movement, History | 918 |
| Women's Movement, Hong Kong | 920 |
| Women's Movement, Hungary | 920 |
| Women's Movement, India | 921 |
| Women's Movement, International | 921 |
| Women's Movement, Iran | 925 |
| Women's Movement, Ireland | 925 |
| Women's Movement, Israel | 925 |
| Women's Movement, Italy | 925 |
| Women's Movement, Japan | 926 |
| Women's Movement, Java | 926 |
| Women's Movement, Kuwait | 926 |
| Women's Movement, Latin America | 926 |
| Women's Movement, Legal History | 927 |
| Women's Movement, Lithuania | 927 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Women's Movement, Mass Media | 927 |
| Women's Movement, Middle East | 927 |
| Women's Movement, Morocco | 928 |
| Women's Movement, Nigeria | 928 |
| Women's Movement, Norway | 928 |
| Women's Movement, Nursing | 928 |
| Women's Movement, Palestine | 928 |
| Women's Movement, Puerto Rico | 928 |
| Women's Movement, Russia | 929 |
| Women's Movement, Scandinavia | 929 |
| Women's Movement, Socialism | 929 |
| Women's Movement, South Africa | 929 |
| Women's Movement, Soviet Union | 929 |
| Women's Movement, Spiritualism | 929 |
| Women's Movement, States | 930 |
| Women's Movement, Sudan | 930 |
| Women's Movement, Ukraine | 930 |
| Women's Movement, Venezuela | 930 |
| Women's Movement, Vietnam | 930 |
| Women's Movement, Wales | 930 |
| Women's National Action Agenda | 930 |
| Women's Peace Party | 931 |
| Women's Peace Union | 931 |
| Women's Rights | 931 |
| Women's Rights, Australia | 941 |
| Women's Rights, Bibliography | 941 |
| Women's Rights, Canada | 942 |
| Women's Rights, Cases | 942 |
| Women's Rights, Conference Proceedings | 943 |
| Women's Rights, Developing Countries | 943 |
| Women's Rights, Documents | 943 |
| Women's Rights, Europe | 943 |
| Women's Rights, European Union | 943 |
| Women's Rights, Great Britain | 944 |
| Women's Rights, Guides and Handbooks | 944 |
| Women's Rights, History | 945 |
| Women's Rights, India | 945 |
| Women's Rights, International | 945 |
| Women's Rights, International, Statistics and Surveys | 948 |
| Women's Rights, Ireland | 949 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Women's Rights, Periodicals | 949 |
| Women's Rights, Research and Theory | 950 |
| Women's Rights, Self-help | 950 |
| Women's Rights, States | 951 |
| Women's Rights, Statistics and Surveys | 951 |
| Women's Rights as Human Rights | 951 |
| Women's Shelters | 953 |
| Women's Social and Political Union | 954 |
| Women's Studies | 954 |
| Women's Trade Union League | 954 |
| Women Strike for Peace | 954 |
| Woodhull, Victoria | 955 |
| Workfare | 955 |
| Working Women | 955 |
| Working Women, Countries (other than United States) | 957 |
| Working Women, Developing Countries | 960 |
| Working Women, History | 960 |
| Working Women, International | 960 |
| Working Women, Labor Unions | 961 |
| Working Women, Periodicals | 961 |
| Working Women, States | 962 |
| Working Women, Steel Workers | 962 |
| Working Women, Welfare | 962 |
| World Bank | 962 |
| World Conference on Women | 963 |
| World Health Organization | 963 |
| World Institute for Development Economics Research | 964 |
| World War I | 964 |
| World War II | 964 |
| Wright, Frances | 965 |
| Writers, Women | 965 |
| Wyoming, Status of Women | 965 |
| Yemen, Status of Women | 965 |
| Yugoslavia, Status of Women | 965 |
| Zambia, Status of Women | 966 |
| Zetkin, Clara | 966 |
| Zimbabwe, Status of Women | 966 |

Introduction



My research for this book has led me to a single conclusion: Gender equality continues to be elusive. Nowhere in the world have women achieved the access to economic, social, and political benefits that has been awarded to men throughout the ages. In the United States in the late 1960s and early 1970s, a flurry of state and federal legislation followed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect women from gender discrimination in various areas of their lives. In 1973 Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment (although it was ratified by only 35 of the required 38 states), affirming the idea that women as a class have a constitutional right to equal protection of the law in the United States. In recent years the international debate has revolved, at least in part, around the question of whether women would be better off under a regime of “special rights” or would ultimately fare better by relying on human rights in general. In any case, much has been written about the fundamental relationships among gender, equality, and the law. Providing access to this literature and its information is the object of this work.

As I have explored the topic through its literature, I have been struck by the intertwined nature of the issues. To understand the disparity between how the law treats women and men, one needs to examine the roles women play in the social, cultural, religious, and political aspects of life. To examine this range of materials was an ambitious, but thoroughly exciting project. The result of my research is this bibliography whose range of topics includes social history and policy, feminist theory and history, biography, racism, feminist legal theory, crime and the criminal justice system, domestic violence, health, reproductive rights, immigrant women, language and literature, legal education, sexual harassment, employment, and the political participation of women. In all cases, the works cited in this bibliography contain information that may be useful to the researcher interested in the status of women and their “rights” and how their status and inequality are reflected in, or related to, the law. In short, the citations are to works that consider, directly or indirectly,

gender discrimination and bias and the status of women in societies and their institutions; specific practices, such as prostitution and pornography, that contribute to women's subordination; empowerment, with women in development and various kinds of organizing and activism; biological differences, in the contexts of domestic violence, rape, and reproductive rights; and many other issues related to gender discrimination.

Audience

This bibliography was compiled to provide organized access to materials of interest to those instructors, researchers, legal scholars, and students seeking information about women and the vast array of status issues affecting them. It will give the user an overview of the immense range of concerns and issues that are of interest to feminist legal activists and scholars in this field. These materials are often multi-disciplinary and scattered throughout the range of both scholarly literature and more popular works. I do not claim to have created a comprehensive listing or record of literature published on the topic. Such a list would be impossibly large and unwieldy. I have made a serious effort to bring together in one place, a wide-ranging selection of the monographic materials that have been published on the relevant topics.

Scope

The core 100 or so entries for this bibliography were identified for a collaborative class project in collection development at the University of Tennessee School of Library and Information Science a decade ago. An additional eight years of my own work and research have accomplished this compilation. Local collections in the Joel A. Katz Law Library and in the John C. Hodges Library, both at the University of Tennessee, were mined on an almost book-by-book basis for suitable entries. Reading lists, bibliographies, and publisher catalogs were searched, as were other university library catalogs and WorldCat, the 36 million record database of materials cataloged by OCLC member libraries around the world.

Because a comprehensive bibliography on women's rights, covering materials published from 1960-1975, was compiled and published in 1977 (Marija Matich Hughes, *The Sexual Barrier: Legal, Medical, Economic and Social Aspects of Sex Discrimination*), I used the 1975 date as the beginning point in my search for material for this current endeavor. I decided to work only with monographic materials because of the facility that keyword searching in periodical databases provides to the researcher looking for material in that

format. Journal articles in most scholarly publications are indexed and abstracted by the authors and publishers to facilitate retrieval and are fairly easily identified by the skilled researcher and student in one or several of the online databases or periodical indexes. The same ability to identify monographs is not available. Currently, the most efficient method of finding monographs on a particular topic is with the subject headings used in the Library of Congress classification system. This system uses generalized terms to provide broad access to monographic material, but is slow to adapt to new terminology and concepts. I have attempted to use a more flexible and varied vocabulary to describe the material found in my search, and have generally used the vocabulary of the works themselves to determine the headings under which they should be listed.

This bibliography cites works printed in English, except for a few that are bilingual. Generally, I have not included works with fewer than 100 pages to eliminate ephemeral, pamphlet material that would perhaps be difficult for the researcher to locate. A select number of United States government documents have been included to give the user a representative sample of the materials that may be found in that category of publications. Many international materials are included, as well as both national and comparative works on gender discrimination and the law. Many entries cite works published since 1975 that are historical in nature and deal with situations and happenings prior to 1975.

Organization

I have personally scrutinized each book cited in this bibliography and chosen keywords to describe each work, using the authors' own terminology whenever possible. Time constraints prevented complete screening of each video, but they have been indexed in some depth and will be found by title under their appropriate topical keywords. Books that cover a wide range of topics received more than one keyword to provide more than one access point for the user to retrieve them. Finally, I attempted to arrange the bibliography in the most user-friendly way possible. The typical bibliographical arrangement requires the researcher to use an index to find citation numbers of potentially relevant entries. To eliminate this time-consuming process, I have arranged the citation entries directly under the indexing terms that have been used to describe them. This allows the user to scan or browse the citations and efficiently determine their usefulness. This also means that citations may be found in multiple topical areas, depending on the complexity of the work and the number of keywords used to describe the work.

Each citation is followed by the keywords used to index that work. I hope that scholars will find this feature useful. It provides immediate information about the scope of the book or video and may point to other concepts that may be searched for other relevant materials. The user will want to search the bibliography for words that are commonly used to describe the issue or subject for which she wants to find materials. Topics that have relatively few entries are grouped together with no further subdivision. Topics about which much has been published have been subdivided to enable the user to focus more quickly on the materials she may need.

Several conventions have been used to group like materials together. Since much of the material I have found has been published in the United States and is about sex discrimination and women's rights in the United States, I have used the designation "United States" very infrequently. If no location is given, the work generally contains material about the United States. The phrase, "status of women," is used as a catch-all phrase to describe both general and specific situations in particular countries, states, and regions of the world. If much material is included for a particular country, that material is subdivided further. If few works were found, all citations are grouped together under the topical entry. The word, "countries," has been used as a subdivision to group citations that have to do with situations in particular countries. "Abortion, countries," for example, contains citations for works about abortion in Great Britain, France, Thailand, etc. The word, "states," has been similarly used to describe works about particular states of the United States. "Abortion, states," contains citations for works about abortion in Kansas, Wyoming, etc. The word, "international," has been used to designate materials that are regional or global in coverage. "Abortion, international" contains citations to works about abortion in Asia or Latin America, as well as materials about the global politics of abortion, etc. "See" references have been used when more than one term is commonly used for the same or similar concepts. At "acquaintance rape" there is a see reference to "date rape," for instance. A very few "see also" references are provided where related terms may be noted for the user, but the user is advised to check several related topical headings to be sure she is finding all the relevant materials. Both biographies and bibliographies are grouped together by format to allow users interested in that material easy access to it. While I have tried to be consistent in my application of the keyword terminology, the scope of the project inevitably creates some inconsistency. The general format of the citations follows the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

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There are a number of people and facilities whose assistance contributed to the creation of this book. I have relied heavily on the resources of the University of Tennessee's Joel A. Katz Law Library and John C. Hodges Library. When those two libraries did not contain the volumes needed, they both provided them through interlibrary loan capacities. I am grateful for their assistance. I am deeply indebted to my colleagues at the University of Tennessee College of Law. Cheryn Picquet, Associate Director and Head of the Technical Services Department where I am the Acquisitions Librarian, provided the initial impetus and long-time support for the scope and nature of this project. She has been available for feedback and suggestions all along the way. Reba Best, Head of the Cataloging Department, has been my mentor and friend and an important source of encouragement. Cathy Cochran, our Computer Services Librarian, carried me through some of the most difficult times when my database mysteriously became corrupted and unusable. Her knowledge and cool persistence in dealing with the technology overcame the difficulties and allowed me to finish the work without having to totally reconstruct it. Judy Cornett, Associate Professor in the Law College, provided both feedback and suggestions. I am most grateful for all this assistance and support.

Special thanks go to the student research assistants who entered much of the data into the database that was used to produce the citation list. The work was tedious and time-consuming, but was done with great dedication and accuracy. A series of students over the years did their part—Valerie J. Frey, Heidi Thomas, Riley Altizer, and Dawn Adkins. Dawn also deserves a special thanks for her diligent assistance with the mechanics of indexing the books and with the final preparation of the manuscript.

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