

# WOMEN'S SOCIAL LIFE IN THE 1920'S

## A BRIEF OVERVIEW

As a result of their work in the war- as factory workers, farmers, and more- the role of women changed in the 1920s. The number of working women increased to 25%. Some were liberated. Women began to wear clothing more conveniently and stopped wearing corsets and long skirts. The young women, known as flappers, even smoked in public, danced, and were sexually liberated. They actively worked to show their contempt for societal expectations of women. Furthermore, divorce became more easily accessible, and the rate of divorce doubled. Despite all of these changes, most women were still housewives whose freedom fell beneath that of their husbands.

## DOUBLE STANDARD & 19TH AMENDMENT

**“If Congress refuse to listen to and grant what women ask, there is but one course left then to pursue. What is there left for women to do but to become the mothers of the future government?”**

—Victoria Claflin Woodhull

The double standard is the belief that men and women are expected to act differently in terms of sexual conduct, which was especially prevalent in the 1920s.. Men were rewarded for “heterosexual sexual contacts” whereas women were looked down upon for it. The standard suggests sexual norms vary based on gender and socioeconomic class.

The 19th amendment was ratified on August 18th, 1920 and is as follows:  
**“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex”**

## FLAPPERS

A generation of fashionable young women who lead a frivolous lifestyle and enjoyed themselves, rebelling against the standards for women's behavior at the time. Created what many referred to as, “The New Woman.”



<https://allthatsinteresting.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/four-flappers-drinking-1.jpg>



<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/dec/14/planned-parenthood-margaret-sanger-biopic-jennifer-lawrence>

## MARGARET SANGER

Margaret Sanger (1879-1966) was an American birth control activist, writer, and nurse. She opened the first birth control clinic in 1916. For this, she was put in jail for 30 days and tried in court. She continued advocating for women's rights into the 1920's, all while facing resistance from doctors and the church. She felt that the ability to control family size was crucial in ending female poverty. Her efforts eventually led to the legalization and widespread usage of contraceptives nationwide.

## IMPACT ON LIFE IN U.S.

By the end of the 1920's as women used their newfound right to vote and voice in politics and were now better represented on local, state, and national political committees. This caused more of a focus on protective laws for child labor and prison reform. The increase women in paid employment also caused an expansion of the range of jobs in medicine, education, and industry. With women now represented in politics and in American industry, this era marks the beginning of a long road to equality.



<https://www.insider.com/photos-show-life-like-women-100-years-ago>



<https://silentlyology.wordpress.com/2018/03/01/the-history-and-mythology-of-1920s-flapper-culture/>



<https://www.history.com/news/flappers-roaring-20s-women-empowerment>