

Serena Williams On Women's Equality, Motherhood and Her Future

By [Lauren Moraski](#) 02/12/2020 05:45am EST | Updated February 12, 2020



It's no question that Serena Williams is a powerhouse on the court. But the tennis star and mom also uses her power off the court. She has long fought for women's rights and equality, not shying away from calling out discrimination in her sport.

She has stood up for herself time and time again, speaking out against double standards in sports, the gender pay gap and sexist remarks.

(...) On the heels of the news, Williams spoke with HuffPost about her new role, gender discrimination, motherhood and what's next.

“Do you think we're making strides when it comes to achieving gender equality? Or do you think we have a long way to go?”

“I think we've made really big steps, but I also think we've got a really long way to go. Just across the board, women's sports — whether you're thinking of tennis or soccer or basketball — there's so much space to improve on them. And it's important to realize that, yeah, we've come a long way but we're not done, and we have a really big way to go.” (...)

“In terms of the sport, can you talk about a time where you were discriminated against for your gender? And what did you do to overcome it?”

“Well, that happens a lot to me in particular. I think, maybe, as one of the leaders in women's sports, it just happens a lot. I mean every day. But sometimes in tournaments, I have to fight for other players to make sure that they're seen on the big court — because they'll just put all the men on the big courts and it's like this is a men's and women's tournament. They need to have big courts. I think my sport has come a really, really long way, but women aren't allowed to argue with umpires¹, or they'll get games taken away, and men tend to spit on them and nothing happens. (...)

“What are the things that you hope your daughter doesn't have to go through that our generation had to, whether it's in sport or something else?”

I'm thinking inequality, gender. Because she is going to be a Black woman, even though she is of mixed race, it's going to be harder for her. But those are things that I hope won't be as hard. I mean, it wasn't as hard for me as it was for my mom, and hopefully then maybe for my daughter, it will be a little less or a lot less.

Finally, what kind of role model do you hope to be for women, for Black women in sports?

Well, I just want my whole impact to be to cheer each other on, and the success of one woman should be the inspiration to the next. And I think it should be, instead of anything else, we should just inspire each other. And that's literally ... that's it, you know?

¹ umpire[ˈʌm.pɪ(ə)r]: (in some sports) an official who watches a game or match closely to enforce the rules and arbitrate on matters arising from the play.