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Your Vote is Our Future

As a young woman, I am defined by my past, present, and my future. I am defined by my past, as a young girl misunderstood and angry, silently struggling with sexual abuse. I am defined by coming to my parents after ten years of silent torment and finally letting myself break free of the suffering. I am defined by the last two years, as a young woman finding her voice and passion. I am defined by the present. I am defined by my current hard work in my studies, to become a woman in STEM. I am defined by my courage to speak my truths about my past to uplift others. I am defined by my future. I am defined by my freedom to love, my freedom to speak out, and my freedom to vote.

One hundred years ago a young girl like me would not have had the courage to speak out and stand up for herself. Young girls went unheard and unseen by a society that said they didn't matter and said that it would continue that way. One hundred years later, not only am I heard, I can press on and fight for others who may still feel unseen or unimportant. With my vote, I am more than a statistic, and more than a survivor. With my vote, I am an overcomer. I am no longer defined by the dirty blame and guilt, but as a powerful, strong woman fighting for others. I have a say in my body, my rights, and my future. I am not suppressed by a man or the pressure of settling down. I am independent, important, and equal.

A young woman's vote means more than anything now. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, nearly one in five women have been raped in their lifetime. A young woman has had to sit through embarrassing talks with her parents about receiving unwanted advances. Young women have to sit along in police stations with blood-stained underwear, becoming another statistic. A young woman's vote in our future. In one hundred years we have made so much progress, but what about in another one hundred. We can have a future where women are valued, respected, and strong. A future where we no longer live in fear for our bodies. With young women coming together to stand powerfully and strong, the future is bright.