The daughters of a prominent South Carolina slaveholder, Angelina and Sarah Grimké became abolitionists after being sent to Philadelphia for education. In this article, Angelina Grimké explains how participation in the movement against slavery led her to a greater recognition of women's lack of basic freedoms.

Since I engaged in the investigation of the rights of the slave, I have necessarily been led to a better understanding of my own; for I have found the Anti-Slavery cause to be ... the school in which human rights are more fully investigated, and better understood and taught, than in any other [reform] enterprise. ... Here we are led to examine why human beings have any rights. It is because they are moral beings. ... Now it naturally occurred to me, that if rights were founded in moral being, then the circumstance of sex could not give to man higher rights and responsibilities, than to woman. ... When I look at human beings as moral beings, all distinction in sex sinks to insignificance and nothingness; for I believe it regulates rights and responsibilities no more than the color of the skin or the eyes. My doctrine, then is, that whatever it is morally right for man to do, it is morally right for woman to do. ... This regulation of duty by the mere circumstance of sex ... has led to all that [numerous] train of evils flowing out of the anti-christian doctrine of masculine and feminine virtues. By this doctrine, man has been converted into the warrior, and clothed in sternness ... whilst woman has been taught to lean upon an arm of flesh, to ... be admired for her personal charms, and caressed and humored like a spoiled child, or converted into a mere drudge to suit the convenience of her lord and master. ... It has robbed woman of ... the right to think and speak and act on all great moral questions, just as men think and speak and act. ... The discussion of the wrongs of slavery has opened the way for the discussion of other rights, and the ultimate result will most certainly be ... the letting of the oppressed of every grade and description go free.