

**Dimple Adjmera**

**January 20, 2018**

Sisters – Good Morning!

Look around you. What a powerful, beautiful and colorful crowd we have here!

Let's thank women's march founder, Jan Anderson and her amazing team of all volunteers.

Also, I want to thank all women for paving the way for millennials like myself and younger generations. Yes, we made a history last year with electing the first African American woman mayor, Vi Lyles, but it was only possible because of women like yourself.

We have some amazing strong women today who work tirelessly for women's rights every day – Jane Whitley, Cozzie Watkins, Mary Klenz, Cynthia Wallace, Toni Mingo, Tracy Morgan, Leigh Altman, Susan Harden and many more. Sorry if I missed you. I promise you it wasn't intentional.

Last, but not the least – We can't forget to thank men who also fight for women's rights, especially all men attending women's march today. You all deserve a big hand!

Last year I faced many challenges and negative attacks from my national origin to how I dressed so my mentor, Astrid Chirinos suggested I watch this documentary, Miss Representation. I highly recommend watching it if you haven't already. It sheds light on challenges girls and women face in today's society, especially when they pursue leadership roles.

There is a reason why we're 90<sup>th</sup> in the world in terms of women in national legislatures. We are 51% of the total population, yet we only make up 17% of the congress.

I'm going to share a few examples of challenges:

1. The more power women get, the stronger the backlash against them. If you don't believe it, look at the last presidential election.
2. I'm sure you probably heard this 'she didn't win on her merit.'

Many young women like myself hear this and see how women in leadership roles are crucified, and feel that we're not conducive to put up with this.

That's why we need a women's march and a movement like this!

### **Action steps**

A movement for all women – White, African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic and Native Americans. A movement where we fight for equal pay, healthcare, funding for title 9 programs and our respect and our dignity. A movement where we stand in solidarity. A movement that's going to build future women leaders for 2018, 2020, for a decade and for the century to come. It'll be a movement of women leadership.

This movement is only possible when we religiously practice 3 important steps:

#1 Support one another and reach across cultural divides which means being uncomfortable and meeting someone who doesn't look like you. We must embrace our diversity!

#2 Challenge media when you see they're being unfair towards women leaders and hold them accountable. Write an op-ed in a newspaper, tweet, facebook, Instagram - use your power to support another woman when they're not treated fairly by the media. Last year I firsthand experienced the strong women force holding the media accountable when I faced a lot of negative media for calling out trump values and his supporters for turning a blind eye or even worst, openly supporting misogyny, bigotry and hatred towards women. We should never be afraid to stand up for what's right.

#3 Support first time woman candidates – It takes a lot of courage to run for an office, especially if you're a woman. Thanks to some amazing volunteers who helped me when I ran for an office. Shreya Mantha, Nidiya Gaspar and Nancy Nance.

Last, but not the least: Never underestimate the power of you. Be strong, confident and seize every day for you, your family and your community.

Because -

**United We Stand and United We're Unstoppable! Thank you!**