



Built for Whom?

Gender discrimination against women isn't limited to derogatory comments or the withholding of opportunity to female-identified people. It's also embedded deeply into products available for consumers, what we understand about medicine and the needs of the human body, and other societal systems and structures. These resources explore some of the ways in which we all inhabit a world and reality built for men rather than for everyone.

Conversation Starters

1. In what ways has your gender affected your experiences at home? At work? In general?
2. Should there be a difference in pricing of products intended for women versus those intended for men?
3. How does gender discrimination affect society? How does it affect your life and the lives of your family members?

Read

“The Deadly Truth about a World Built for Men—From Stab Vests to Car Crashes” by Caroline Criado-Perez in *The Guardian*

<https://bit.ly/2twVa2s>

This news feature investigates the myriad commonplace modern objects and processes that were designed with men as test subjects, and that potentially exclude women from optimal use and benefits—including everyday items like smartphones and the driver's seat of cars.

“The Pink Tax—The Cost of Being a Female Consumer” by Candice Elliott in *Listen Money Matters*

<https://bit.ly/2K74hAU>

The “pink tax” is a term meant to describe when goods of the same design and function cost more when marketed toward women rather than men. This article digs into costs for typical items and services, including clothing and personal care products, to understand the impact of the pink tax.





“The Dangerous Problem of Gender Bias In Healthcare Design” by Dan Formosa and Natalia Bednarek in *Fast Company*

<https://bit.ly/2oigHfO>

Although women make up the majority of workers in the healthcare industry, medical equipment and supplies are designed with male users in mind. This brief article considers the impact and suggests ways to change the current gender-biased options.

“The Bewildering and Sexist History of Women’s Pockets” from *VERVE*

<https://bit.ly/2oaSb0d>

If you’ve ever noticed that clothes designed for infant boys have more functional pockets than some designed for adult women, you’ve stumbled upon the reality that men’s and women’s pockets have never been created equal. This piece explores the history and continued impact of disproportionate pocket design.

“Do Clinical Trials Have a Sex Problem?” from *Elysium Health*

<https://bit.ly/2P4KeTB>

This article explores the realm of what we “know” about health thanks to biomedical research—and the ways in which women have historically been excluded from the trials that ultimately lead to what we consider scientific consensus on a medical issue.

“Cold, Male-Friendly Offices May Be Taking a Toll on Women’s Productivity” by Katherine J. Wu in *Nova Next*

<https://to.pbs.org/2JCpSkJ>

Although thermostats themselves haven’t been designed with a particular type of user in mind, the temperatures at which they’re typically set in mixed-gender spaces do tend to accommodate the comfort and needs of men rather than women. This article looks at the potential impact of biased thermostat settings on female employees’ productivity.

