



## Discussion Questions for Session 1: Where Are We Now?

*The following questions can be used to guide or frame your group's discussion, but feel free to add your own.*

1. Does the increasing number and influence of women in the workforce necessarily mean a decline in the status of men? Must women's success threaten men's status?
2. Why is it that women have managed to move into traditionally masculine roles, but men have been reluctant to try out previously feminine roles? Are men and women ready to perform the same types of jobs that exist in our economy?
3. How have changing gender roles affected marriage?
4. As women become more educated than men, many women, especially black women, face a lack of "appropriate" partners. Men have long been happy to marry women with less status, but women seem to struggle with this choice. What does this say about women's willingness to engage as full partners with men?
5. What do you make of female political candidates who do not support the issues and policies that feminists have traditionally thought of as good for women (reproductive choice, ERA, family-friendly work policies, etc.)?
6. Given the great strides women have made in recent decades, how can we explain the persistence of commercials, sitcoms, and reality TV shows that seem to be stuck in another era?
7. In Sarah Palin's video, she describes her followers as "women, concerned about their kids' futures" who are having a "mom awakening." This argument upset many feminists who complained that Palin was peddling antiquated, anti-feminist ideas and policies under the guise of a new motherhood movement. What do you make of Palin's argument?
8. What does it mean to be a "real man" in 2011? How can men empower themselves without harming women? Should men who earn less money than their spouses or become stay-at-home-dads feel emasculated?
9. Are women equal to men in every aspect? Should they be? In what areas is change happening faster, and where is it not happening fast enough? How much farther do we, as a society, have to go?