

## IS IT TIME FOR A WOMAN TO BE PRESIDENT?

During the course of the 20th century companies and governments around the world have developed a new perception of the role of women in the workplace and in positions of power. Little by little women have risen to higher positions in academia, politics, and the professions. These women have shown that they can be as confident and as effective as men. As Nuria Chinchilla, a professor of business in Madrid, Spain, stated at a recent women's conference, *"Feminine genius and energy will transform society and modern companies during the 21st century."* According to Professor Chinchilla, *"Every woman must directly deal with difficult obstacles in order to achieve the ambition of a good life that fulfills professional goals and roles of a mother, wife, and citizen. To achieve total integration and harmony, they must move toward a new concept of success that involves freedom and flexibility in their corporate cultures as well as social conditions."*

Government plays a helpful role by instituting policies that assist and promote participation by women in all aspects of life including politics, business, and the family. Professor Chinchilla, who conducts conferences of modern-day women, says that women in general have a much higher ambition level than men although, to achieve success, both genders must work together. As Chinchilla offers, *"No two people are alike. So why not talk about diversity instead of equality."* She asserts that fraternity is a term that can refer to either maternity or paternity and, as such, emphasizes the need for all people to be accepted equally.

In their broadest sense, success in life and respect for the individual are

fundamental in all cultures. Women are well adapted to working without reward or remuneration. An example of this is the many hours women labor to care for children and life partners. Many women believe, however, that they must give up their career ambitions to care for their families because it seems impossible to pursue both their personal and professional goals. As a result, many talented people are lost along the way. Within the discussion of whether a woman should be president is the necessary and fundamental question of whether, as the main goal of modern civilization, we can achieve a healthy balance between work and family. It certainly would seem that if we expect our human species to continue and for us to realize the full advantage of the creativity and expertise of women, then retaining women with talent in the workplace and allowing them to fulfill both their personal and professional needs will save a great deal of money and contribute a great deal of value to both government and the private sector.

As a poet once said, we live in interesting times. If a woman is going to be president it will certainly necessitate a major shift in individual attitudes to one that is based on acceptance of diversity and equality. We will need to strive for the inclusion of all people in our society at every level. When this happens our future will be brighter and our focus on basic human needs will be stronger.

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