

***Promoting Understanding of the Roles of Law
and Advocacy
at Local, State, National and International
Levels
in Creating Barriers or Supporting Diverse
Families***



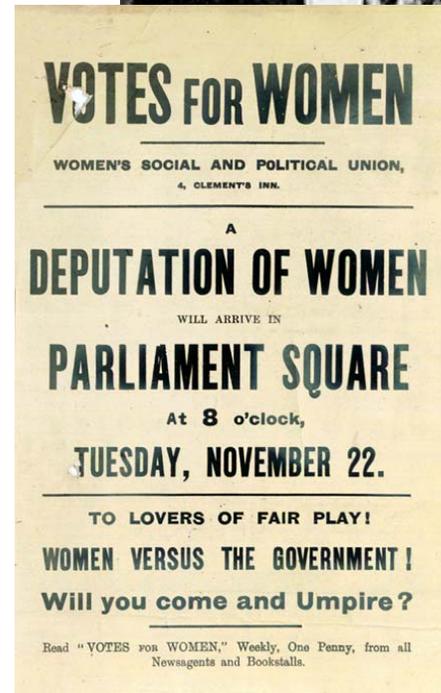
**Barbara H. Settles
University of Delaware
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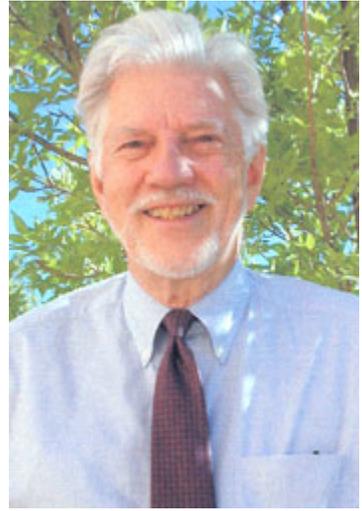
CHANGE DOES NOT JUST HAPPEN

AWARENESS & ACTION

- Often individuals and families pioneered these changes without the legal underpinnings which were needed for social and economic support.
- Informal & formal groups were formed to promote, demonstrate, propose legislation and sue for changes.



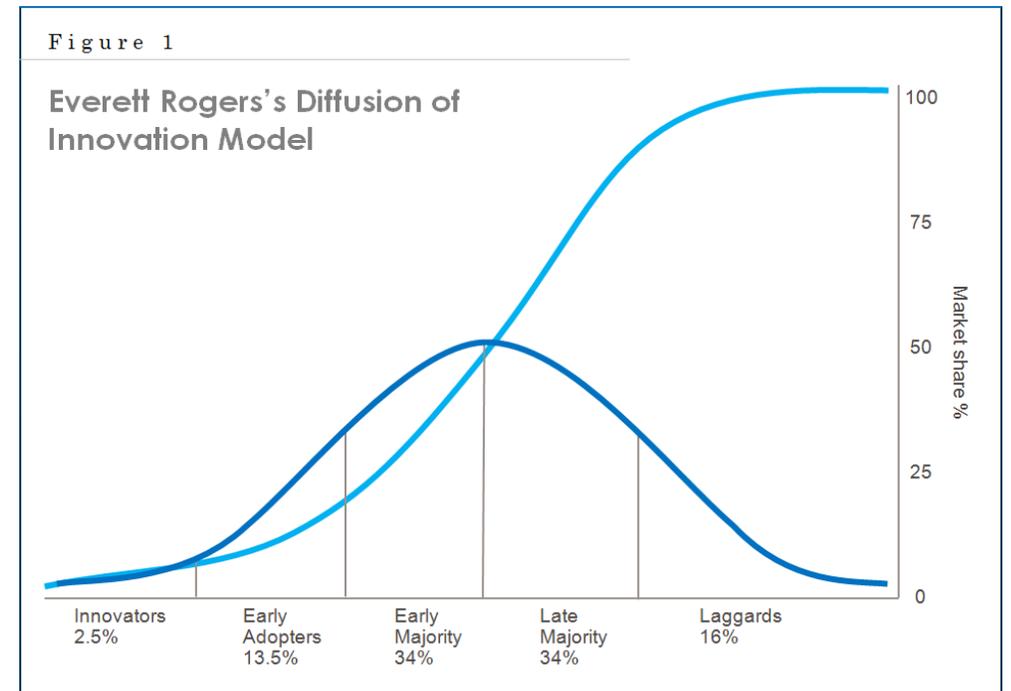
Increasing number of countries where women's suffrage is the law has been a major trend in the 20th century.



Ramirez, Soysal, & Shanahan (1997) in ASA using 133 countries to show that using a base line of 1890 women not having the franchise less than 20% of men, by 1994, 96% of women & men were eligible to vote.

More countries are still being added:

1993, Kazakhstan, Moldova, 1994, South Africa, 2005, Kuwait, 2006, United Arab Emirates, 2011, Saudi Arabia (Nellie McClung Foundation).



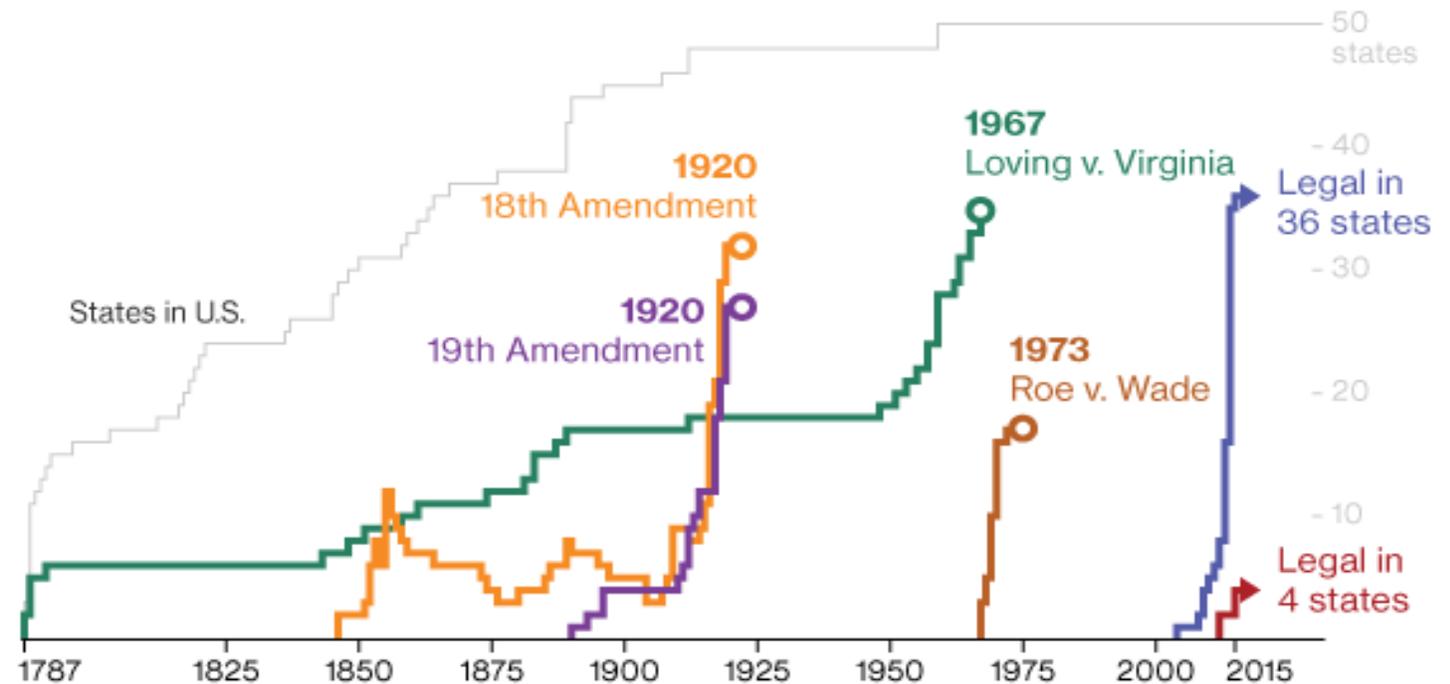
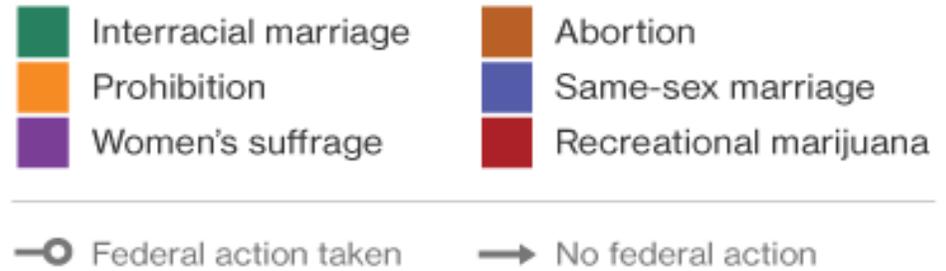
Legal change is crafted & advanced by creating awareness, advocacy & government action.

First signing of a bill in 2009 was on extending time limits on equal pay suits.



Tracking Change

Number of states that have removed a ban, by year
(Prohibition shows the number of states that enacted)

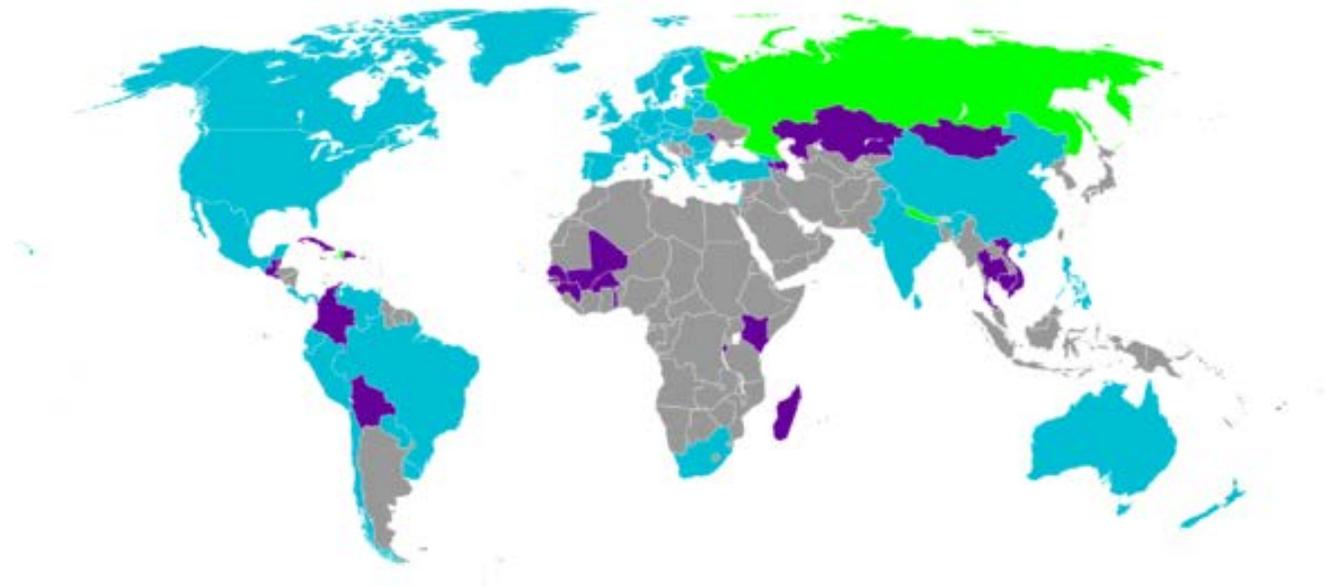


June 2015--Supreme Court Ruling Makes Same-Sex Marriage a Right Nationwide

- “No longer may this liberty be denied,” Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote for the majority in the historic decision. “No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were.” (NYT 6/ 26/15). Justice Kennedy rooted the ruling in a **fundamental right to marriage**.



In a global perspective, the importance of leadership from international organizations in promoting national changes has often been overlooked by family science.



Treaties such as the Hague Convention have also been significant for influencing best practice in many different countries, including adoption and prevention and intervention in abduction of children.

I know my time is short, so I just want to suggest some of the approaches I have used in teaching with a **global law** emphasis:

Techniques for including international families in our family science education:

- Case studies on same topic in different countries or regions.
- Teams assigned to different world regions who have several assignments that are presented to the class.
- Research papers that ask for international comparisons.
- Development proposals & critiques that address specific countries.
- Proposals for cross national research or simply using some of the great studies.
- Including international studies on reading lists across the curriculum.
- **Active learning:** Study abroad and international collaborations.

Selected Topics for International Comparisons:

- Personal rights & family rights.
- Relationships of local, national & international legal issues.
- Different legal systems.
- Problems of violence.



This addition to the curriculum adds depth, helps build interest in global issues, and attacks ethnocentrism at its core.



Legal Clinic for Domestic Problems

Sun Yet Sun University PRC

