

**Transcript of Log Lady / JD Vance quotes from women and people AFAB
(collected July 2025 - Jan 2026):**

1. *VM - Savannah, GA*

"Vance is offensive. The patriarchy is strong now. And it bothers me, because to keep the patriarchy in place, you need violence and control. He's dangerous. **And women deserve better. Humanity deserves better. Children, if there are any, deserve better than anything that's come out of Vance's mouth.**"

2. *Text - Savannah, GA*

"I find it sad for him and kind of selfish that he only cares about the future as it relates to his own offspring, and a bizarre thing for a public servant to say.

And it is of course sexist to single out women or "ladies" as being the ones primarily targeted by these statements, and it scares me that the culture seems to be headed in that direction. But on the other hand, **if his backwards thinking somehow gets us to paid maternity leave, at least that would be nice.**"

3. *VM - Philadelphia, PA*

"I am calling from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I find it incredibly offensive for a public official to state that women and nonbinary people who are unable to or uninterested in giving birth are less committed to the future of the country.

Many women and nonbinary people I know who've been unable to, or did not want to, raise children are able to give more time to community organizations, volunteer initiatives, ecological repair work, and aging populations. **The most important investments in the future of this planet are waging peace and healing the environment.** Thank you."

4. *Text - Baltimore, MD*

"Hi! My name is X and I live in Baltimore, MD. I am a mom of one, and hope to be a mom of two someday. My opinion on JD Vance's comments about childless women frustrates me. These days, women are more focused on their careers, cannot have children, or do not want to have children.

Women, whether you have children or not, should be concerned about protecting other women with the right to choose whether or not they want to have children. There should always be that option as a society for women. Women should not be put in a box. As a 34 year old woman, **I am committed to joining my community to help all women, regardless of background, orientation, race, or religion.**"

5. VM - Seaside, CA

"Hi, my name is X from Seaside, CA. Yeah, I... I honestly laugh at these kind of comments from men, because I think I was 8 years old when someone kind of suggested to me, at my all-girls school that I went to from 1st grade through 12th grade that, you know, I could **not** have children.

And I'm one of 5 kids, my mom had 5 kids and I love all my siblings, we're very close and my parents are still together. Most of my siblings are choosing to have children. **And I was 8 years old when someone suggested that to me and I was like, "Oh! That's what I want. I don't want kids."** And I've always been open to the idea of that maybe changing with the right person, but I've met people and I just... **"I love kids, but you don't even need to have kids to be part of a family or a community."**

And then we see all these studies and scientific data about how people who - whether it makes you happy or not, to have kids - **people who are having kids because they think that's what they're **supposed** to do, or they're pushed along that track.** I mean, I didn't know that I could not have kids until someone suggested it to me, I just didn't even think about it!

And it's making people miserable! We see scientific studies that people are ending up in the wrong marriages, in the wrong families; they're unhappy, they're depressed, they're unable to do anything about it. And not that their kids are making them miserable - you know, there's just so many nuances to the story.

But bottom line is, I don't want kids. And even if there's women who **can't** have kids, who have tried to have kids, who end up not having them for medical reasons... there's so many options here. But for me, I don't want kids. And that makes me happy.

And can you imagine having a kid when you don't want a kid? **Nothing will make you more miserable than that. And that's not fair to the kid.**

So, I guess that's my thoughts on it. And it's just getting harder and harder to see the Republican viewpoint as **anything** but insane.

6. Text - Savannah, GA

"I am very disappointed in what is going on today under our current leadership or lack thereof. As women, we must stand together and support one another. The following quote has a powerful message for us all:

"It's hard not to be a fighter when you're constantly under siege." - Cassandra Duffy

So we must continue to speak up and out, if not for ourselves, but for those women who will follow and be gravely impacted by what is happening today."

7. *Text - Cumming, GA*

"Hiiii! Leaving a text about art piece about JD Vance vs women. I'm X, and I'm in Cumming, GA, Atlanta suburb. **Vance's words, to me, as a 45 year old childfree woman, show only an increasing amount of how fragile and insecure a population of males must be. How threatened they are of women's power, women's competence, women's threat to positions held strictly because they were men.** How they expect their positions of power to be filled by them because they are men....

Valuing women, and their votes, by the ability or want to have children, is frightening. It's frightening in how men will try anything to keep suppressing women."

8. *Text - Tampa, FL*

"The value of a woman doesn't lie in what comes from between her legs but what lies between her ears."

9. *VM (multiple) - NYC, NY*

VM 1 (3 mins)

"You can't say "Don't tread on me," but then say, "You're being different and we don't like you." You can't have both."

"It's the hypocrisy of everything. There are plenty of men who are single. There are plenty of men who are doing nothing but offering mediocrity in this world, and it's totally okay for them, it's okay for them to be childless, to have multiple women, to be married multiple times, but for women it's "not okay." "

"I am 44, I am childless, I have 2 cats, so I am the epitome, I guess, of a witch." laughs

"I'm supposed to be getting uglier as I age, and I don't think that's the case at all."

"Nobody has "good genes." Everyone just has human genetics, that shift and change."

VM 2 (3 mins)

"I may be childless, but I have helped - since I was babysitting as a teenager - I have helped raise so many children. My own nieces and nephews, the children of my cousins...so to say that there's no value because I myself have not had children, is a fucking lie. I'm watching their journeys into adulthood and I am so proud of who they're becoming."

VM 3 (3 mins)

"As a woman, that has been one of the narratives of my life, oftentimes placed in the role of "work," so whether a job values me...the culture tells us that's where our value is. But **our value is in how we show up in the world and how we relate to other people.**"

"Culturally, we've stepped away from caring for the whole family, and helping see our parents through their end-of-life, and now just focus on our nuclear family, the married family."

"The level of "staying in your place," to soothe men and people in power, is...trifling." *laughs* "And it's gross and harmful..."

VM 4 (3 mins)

...because we could be doing so much more if we were able to step out of these paradigms, and say, "Actually, this isn't the life I'm living."

"I have a place in this society, and I will have a place in this society, as I age and as I fall into who I am and who I'm becoming. Whether I have children or not, are partnered or not, nothing takes that away. What people will remember about me are thing things I've done, the love I'm given, the hearts I find and share..."

"I don't know how J.D. Vance got into any of those elite colleges, because he's mediocre at best."

VM 5 (3 mins)

"Last year I ran for public office in my town, and it was very contentious. And it was very misogynistic and there were race politics at play, and there was a lot of bullying, and a lot of greed at play. But I was able to do that, as a woman who just has myself to take care of in this world. **Everytime I go out into the world and try to do something bigger and greater, I'm doing it out of a love that's collective, it's not a power grab, it's really just that I want things to be fair for all of us.**"

"I think we need to leave space for the people who have chosen alternative lifestyles, so that they can give back in a greater way."

10. *IG msg - Dahlonaga, GA*

"JD Vance's statement on childless women is so ignorant and blind to the fact that **women aren't here to repopulate our earth**. Biology might be a part of the equation here, but it's simply not our duty to have children. It's no female's duty to do so. Of any species."

11. *Text - St. Petersburg, FL*

"My name is X, and I live in St. Pete, Florida. Here's how I feel about Vance's "childless women with cats" comment: First, I'm a queer, childless cis woman—with dogs. I love not having children, and I also respect women who choose motherhood. I happen to love cats, too, but my spouse is allergic.

Vance's statement is rooted in tired tropes of sexism, misogyny, and oppression. It's outdated and simply reinforces old gender norms and the notion that women exist to reproduce and serve men. I'm not surprised by his comment, given the climate we're in, but it saddens me that after so much progress, some men still see women primarily in terms of their ability to provide for men—and that, without that, we are seen as less valuable.

This mindset also plays into the "ugly or fat woman" stereotype versus society's ideal of a slim, attractive woman. It's connected to diet culture, the objectification of women, and the ways cis men have tried to disempower women. This is intertwined with transphobia, homophobia, and white supremacy. **It's not just about women's capacity to have children—it's about what we mean to these men, and frankly, it's not much.**

Bold - lines I particularly liked **Green** - lines I was able to use in my art

We must always fight for the most vulnerable, stand up for all women, and work to dismantle these harmful ideas of what men think we should do with our minds and bodies. Motherhood is beautiful, and we all have the capacity to nurture—but that’s something we own, not men.

12. *VM - Savannah, GA*

“Hello, this is X from Savannah, Georgia. And what I would like to say is that **the patriarchy needs to get the F out of women’s uteruses**. It is none of their business if we produce, choose not to produce, put off producing, or never produce. I mean, it’s just ridiculous. Thanks, Tamara.”

13. *Text - Savannah, GA*

“I think Vance’s comment is so moronic it hardly warrants a response other than laughter at how ludicrously stupid it is and how dumb he looks, with his heavy eyeliner and thick pancake makeup, telling women what their worth is.”

14. *FB msg - Savannah, GA*

“Women are often seen as less than, but in what I have seen personally, **women’s resilience, courage, and determination, along with having gentle hearts and a nurturing nature, allow us to surpass any challenge that may stand in our way.**”

15. *VM - Seattle, WA*

“Hey JD Vance, **us childless women are not miserable. We care for ourselves, and not of our nonexistent children, too much to put ourselves through the lifechanging and sometimes lifethreatening demands of pregnancy, birth, and caregiving, only to have to raise those kids in a world shaped by narcissistic, patriarchal, misogynistic, and pedophilic men like Vance and his henchmen.**

If anything, we have more commitment to the future: women are outpacing men in college degrees, single women own more homes than single men, and unmarried women are more financially secure than their male counterparts.

So if anyone is not committed to the future, it’s not us - it’s men like Vance, clinging to the past, because you can’t keep up with women who are building it without you. Sincerely, a thriving, career-driven, and breadwinning childless woman with two amazing cats I’d much rather spend my time with, than a whiny manchild like Vance.”

16. *Text - Savannah, GA*

“Reading Vance’s words, I’m struck by how narrow and reductive his view of women’s worth is. **It feels like he’s measuring value only in terms of how we serve others, as mothers, wives, supporters, rather than as full human beings with our own identities, ambitions, and capacity to shape the world in countless ways.**

That kind of thinking is not just outdated; it’s dehumanizing. It reduces a person to a role, rather than honoring their full complexity. As a female I’ve been taught, subtly, that my value often lies in how well I can care for others, how much I can give, how agreeable I can be. **But my worth isn’t conditional. It’s not defined by what I can offer to a man, a family, or a community.**

That said, I do believe deeply in commitment, to others, to the future, to the environment, but not because that’s all I’m good for. **I care because I choose to. Because I see injustice and want to fight it.** Because the planet is dying and that terrifies me. Because people are hurting, and I don’t think we’re meant to walk through life ignoring that. Commitment, to me, is an act of strength, not submission. It’s not about fulfilling someone else’s expectations, it’s about making intentional choices to build a better world.”

17. *VM - Savannah, GA*

“This is X in Savannah, Georgia. Gloria Steinem said, “Some of us are becoming the men we wanted to marry.” I believe this is more true now than ever before. What is happening with our world? What is happening to our freedoms? **The fact that billionaires exist and there is still poverty tells us all that we need to know about insecurity, empathy, and power.”**

18. *Krista - text - Red Bank, NJ*

“I think about the future every single day. Not because I have children, but because I want future generations (whoever they are) to inherit a world that’s livable, full of wonder, and kind. That’s why I care about the climate. That’s why I protect animals. That’s why I create art. **My commitment is everywhere you look—it just doesn’t wear diapers.”**

19. *VM - Savannah, GA*

“Hi, this is X from Savannah, and when I think of JD Vance’s words, obviously I feel targeted as a childless woman. But more so, I just feel like he doesn’t really have any opinions that are his. I think he’s just pushing a narrative to get his end goal of power. And **right now, and those words in particular, are just a narrative to divide women. And a divided group is easier to control.** And a group that is easier to control is one that can be manipulated, and one that can secure his power. And I think the biggest problem with the administration right now is that pursuit of power, and disregard of all else.

And to be called out on my “commitment to the future of this country,” when what they’re pursuing is to limit my ability to control the future of this country - it just shows me that they don’t really care about the

pay-in, they just care about the end goal. And they're just calling out trigger points, to keep diving people. And **I'm more concerned about the division, because in separate groups we don't have the numbers, but if we all band together against a common evil, we can fight it.**

But the narrative is always about division. That's pretty frustrating."

20. *Text - Austin, TX*

"My city is Austin, TX. My first name is X. I will quote Toni Morrison here, as her words perfectly articulate my position on the role of choice: **"Freedom is choosing your responsibility. It's not having no responsibilities; it's choosing the ones you want."**

21. *Text - St. Louis, MO*

"Hi, this is X from St. Louis, making my contribution to your *AMAZING* art project. You can use the following blurb in its entirety:

I really wanted to write something deep and meaningful and poignant about how shocking and abhorrent it is that, in this day and age, women, who are doing amazing things every single day, are having to defend their place in society, to defend the important contributions they make in so many ways, aside from raising children. I wanted to rail against childbearing and rearing being spoken of as only women's responsibility. **I wanted to express my anger that men have never had to defend their actions, their contributions, their dreams and aspirations.**

But then I decided I'd probably just go straight for the kill shot and wrote this instead.

I can see how finding a woman that will not only allow you to have sex with her, but allow you to procreate with her, is a more fulfilling life for you JD, given from whence you (literally) came, fucking couches. I will admit, I can see how your life is so much more satisfying now. However, the rest of us are not couch fuckers. As such, we lead pretty fucking amazing lives at baseline compared to you. No screaming, life-sucking gremlins required.

America was created for people to be FREE, to live their lives in accordance with their own choosing. **To try to pigeonhole someone into living a narrative that is anything but the one written on their heart is the least American thing one can do."**

22. *VM - Savannah, GA*

"How can someone be so shut down, and disembodied that they truly feel that the only value a female body has is to gestate and birth a baby. To know a woman is to know compassion, empathy, creativity, connection, innovation. Women bring heart, care, and nurturing kindness to all, in times and places that

even men were afraid to go. Look at Mother Teresa and all the amazing humanitarian work she did, childless. She never would have been able to help all those countless people if she had had children.

Watching women thrive and succeed despite all the barriers and hardships blocking their way, over and over again, women are out-achieving men in so many aspects of society, all while overcoming discrimination, glass ceilings, and closed doors. This administration - Vance et al - with their ridiculous agenda, is just a pathetic attempt to try and oppress women back into submission because they constantly feel their inadequacies as a human being, seeing the power of a woman in all their glory.

Despite the hardships, despite carrying the weight of a family unit, despite doing the full-time job of running a household while also working a full-time job, not to mention what women who *don't* have a family with children at home achieve, because they aren't working two full-time jobs. It is the power of the feminine and the fragile egos of these small-minded men, that need to be put into THEIR proper place.

Strip THEM of their social standing, strip THEM of their lawmaking ability. It is utter NONSENSE that in this day and age someone could utter these words about 50% of the population and are holding offices that dictate how society is run. We want peace, we want unity, we want connection and love of our fellow humans. It's time to de-platform this dumpster fire patriarchy bullshit, and evolve our society to embrace EVERYONE."

23. *Text - Savannah, GA*

"To hold the narrow view that women only hold value when they bear children is to negate not only half of our population, but to also to disregard half of the leadership within the Catholic Church that he claims to believe in and follow. No Catholic doctrine backs his statements. Do all of the nuns in the church hold less power because they don't bear children? Quite the opposite.

Anyone who looks at the church knows that it is on the back of nuns that it survives. On the backs of nuns who devote their lives to serve, teach, and model the teachings of their Christ. Would he boldly say that a childless Mother Theresa did nothing for society? Would he boldly say those words to Mother Theresa herself if she were still alive? **Our collective power is in the quiet and loud successes we have that don't need validation from someone who thinks we're invisible.**

For it is written: "Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband." Galatians 4:27

This is open to interpretation, but I think it's emphasizing the importance of having more time for community service/ helping others:

Bold - lines I particularly liked **Green** - lines I was able to use in my art

In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul emphasizes against marriage - By recommending singleness, Paul implied that remaining unmarried would also mean remaining childless, which he saw as a way to better serve God."

24. VM (multiple) - Detroit, MI

VM 1 (2min)

"Hey Tamara, this is X. I haven't been able to organize my thoughts, and I think it's because I'm so angry. I'm very emotional about this. JD Vance. I don't know how he even can think the way he thinks. There's no logic to it, and there's no basis for it. And I don't understand how you can even have a child - being a parent - as the standard for what state you have in the world we live in. And I say this as a parent, but it's not like I can't remember a time when I wasn't a parent! And **even though I am the mother of one child, I don't identify my entire being with that one part of my life, even though it's a big part of my life, an amazing part of my life.**

It feels like we are living in A Handmaid's Tale. **When Margaret Atwood was interviewed on Fresh Air, Terry Gross asked her an interesting, pretty simple question: "Where did you get the idea for what you write about?" and she answered, and it gives me chills: "Oh Terry, none of my ideas are new or made up, they're things that are either happening right now, or have happened in history."**

So, that is bonechilling. And here we have this guy JD Vance, who decides to put this artificial standard on who gets to have a stake, and how big that stake is, in the world we live in. There's no direct line between having children and caring about the world we live in, it's clear to me and it should be clear to everyone that caring about the world we live in, could be just that."

VM 2 (2min)

"It's clear to me that it's not a baseline for whether a person is able to care or be invested in our world. And I know so many people who don't have children who care more than so many people that I know that **have** children. I should say my standard, what I consider care, which is that they want the environment to be good for the Earth and for everyone, that they want fairness and equity...I could go on and on about the things that to me make you a person that cares about the world we live in. And it doesn't correlate with whether a person has children or not.

Just because you have a child or children, and you're able to say, "I want the world to be better or good for my children, for my offspring," does not mean that you care more than someone else, or that you should have a bigger stake or more votes or whatever.

So it just makes me makes me angry, it makes me sad, and it worries me, because we've been reduced to - on the one hand we're second class citizens, and on the other hand we're very valued, for but for what? like for our child bearing abilities? And so that's another thing, you know? we can't be valuable just as human beings that are part of the world? I dont know, it's just...none of it makes sense to me.

And so, I was worried that I wasn't going to be able to say anything, and I guess I had a lot to say! I may even call back if more thoughts pop into my head, but that is how I feel. And thank you for doing this project, Tamara. Thank you."

25. *Text - Savannah, GA*

"For centuries women have been handed a narrow script - wife, mother, home-caretaker. That script pretends to be natural, but what it actually enforces is a closed economy of worth - that a woman's entire value is measured by how well she fills the roles that serve others.

Women have evolved - we are teachers, coders, artists, musicians and mechanics, leaders and healers in forms that don't always look like traditional roles.

And these roles are no less meaningful.

Yet many (not all) men refuse to evolve at the same pace. They expect women to carry emotional and domestic labor, as if adulthood for them means remaining perpetual dependents.

They want caregivers that soothe, organize, and support their lives and dreams.

I feel like these demands are rooted in fear - fear of shared responsibility, fear of equality, fear of change and loss of power.

When a man clings to the idea that a woman's highest use is to support his life rather than live her own, he traps both of them. He stays emotionally, creatively, and morally stunted, while the woman shoulders the impossible job of growing for two.

Women who grow into fullness may find themselves alienated from men who cling to the old models of authority and dominance.

Men who refuse to evolve will try harder to cling to control through money or intimidation - attempts to shame, silence, or diminish women.

This clash shows up in politics, the workplace, and family dynamics.

And because of this, **many men will often end up isolated, without evolving and without true intimacy. Women are evolving, whether men chose to come along or not. We're accepting life's invitation to wholeness."**

26. *VM - Bothell, WA*

"Hi, this is X calling from Bothell, Washington. Thinking for a few days about what I might want to say about JD Vance's position on women without children, or however it was he put it. And I realized in reflecting on it, that one of the things that bothers me the most, is that when JD Vance or other people of his ilk make comments like that, that are just intentionally offensive or cruel or trolling people, it feels like it creates a situation where I feel like the affected people we're always on our back foot.

Like trying to figure out, how do I position myself in relation to what was said? Like in a defensive place. And it's so limiting to be in that position! to feel like whatever view I want to express has to be in reaction to what was said. And I think that one thing that this project... thinking about this in an artistic way, is that that kind of stance can feel so uncreative, like it's so limited, what you could say.

So, I've been thinking a lot about creativity recently, and how in this moment especially, how the choices you make about your life that are unconventional, or the ways that you see yourself as a woman, as a person with reproductive potential, in the patriarchy. I think what I want to say about JD Vance's shitty opinion here, is that **I can choose to live my life in a way that's aligned with *my* values and not necessarily about responding to him directly, because what he said is so limiting and minimizes the creative potential that we have, to make the right choices for us, and and live in a way that feels true.**"

27. *Text - Alamosa, CO*

"There are so many ways to move through life as a woman. To have a leader of the US say that one way is the only way that matters is abhorrent. Women, whether they have children or not, carry the burden of the mental load in the majority of spaces in which they exist.

That unseen labor is used to propel others forward. Because it is unseen it is taken for granted. Women contribute to society in so many ways but a big collective way is women keep things running and make sure others' needs are met. **I truly believe if women disappeared for a week our society would collapse. JD Vance is perpetually on vacation, and yet deadlines are still met, people are cared for, and communities exist. Really, despite him and his hateful rhetoric.**

Note: keep fighting the good fight. You are an inspiration to me as an artist and small business owner."

28. *VM (multiple) - Columbus, OH*

VM 1 (2 mins)

"Good morning, this call is coming from Columbus, Ohio. My name is X, I'm almost 40, I don't have kids. I have thought about this kind of on-and-off a little bit for a long time, and I think in the end it's just sad and miserable that we have space for this commentary still in our society, because we are all human beings.

You know, we preach this "created equal" thing, even though I know that's not what people really think in the United States. But I think with that comes: we are all human beings, we're all people, and by contributing to society and communities in our best way, we need to have the opportunity to be our truest fullest selves, and to be able to do what makes us happy and fulfilled. And by trying to say someone's fulfilled or not by having children just seems like a bunch of crap. Right?

You can be very fulfilled and you can be very giving to your community without having kids. I know for me: I protest, I write postcards, I give in certain ways to certain organizations, to support community and society, because I know that that's important. And it doesn't matter if I have a kid or if I if I don't.

There's a part of me, in thinking about this before, about how I've been in education for my 17th year, and how ridiculous to think that I don't care about society and kids when it's my career. But again, it doesn't matter. Because again, we're all just people, and we all need to be our fullest selves and do what we feel passionate about, to be able to be contributing members of society, and live our lives in a way that we want, in a way that we choose."

VM 2 (1 min)

"Columbus X again, just also reflecting on you know, why would he say this? Why would JD Vance do this? And **I wonder if it is projection. I feel like a lot of what the Republican Party proclaims and puts out there to hate is a reflection of themselves**, like is he just jealous that he doesn't have the ability to do whatever he wants?

Because I'm certainly not miserable - I went to Maine this summer by myself, and it was incredible, and I had a great time. Does he feel like he can't do stuff like that, and that's why he's so angry and attacking women? It just sucks that the second-in-command of our country is attacking women like this, and I mean, *and* the head of our country, right?!"

29. *Text - Savannah, GA*

"JD is saying his god was wrong to make nuns, along with men and women who can't have children. He's using oversimplification to enrage us. JD is wrong by his own standards and by mine."

30. *Text - NYC, NY*

"Somebody asked Margaret Atwood if Handmaid's Tale can actually happen here. "Honey, it already is" was basically her response. I looked at Vance's words again, and **as a (non-childbearing) woman of color I can tell you he is not talking about me - this is part of a white supremacy agenda. IMO the eradication of DEI and Roe v Wade was primarily about keeping white women at home having babies.**"

31. *VM - Savannah, GA*

"Well, JD Vance is an idiot, as I think many people would agree. The saddest part is he's a male who has bought into that homocentric idea that he is the center of the universe because he's male, and everything else just serves him, whether it be animals, women, or whatever.

So, I think my thoughts are is that JD Vance is a type, he's a sad type. **He doesn't understand that human beings are of two varieties that come together to create other human beings when they want to,**

and when it is good for the family unit to be together. What he sees is that women have babies, men do other stuff. Sad fuck, that's all I can say about him. Thank you."

(443 number - a man)

32. *Text - Savannah, GA*

"In many ways, JD Vance is living under a rock! Unbelievable that he would make such a statement that "childless women aren't doing anything helpful for society." Who is he to SHAME us for personal decisions about what's right for each of us. To OBLITERATE the feelings and desires of millions of women, my daughter included, who would give anything to have a family, but it's not possible for them.

Our investment is to be good citizens of this country, to use our talents to make things better for everyone, and to see that as half of the population, we have a voice in good governance, a clean environment, and eyes to see the ills of society and try to make changes for those who either don't have a voice or need our help. It's like saying if you are childless, you don't matter and be gone with you. How ignorant and pathetic it sounds."

33. *VM - Savannah, GA*

"Hey, my name is X and I am living in Savannah, GA. I'm child free, have been this way since my whole life, I'm 60. And I'm really discouraged by people pitting women against each other in general, and especially women who have children and women who don't have children, because that's just not true. As a woman who has not has not birthed children, I have a few friends that I'm very close with, and their children are just as valuable to me as if they were my own.

In fact I look at all children as just as valuable, because as a nation, as a world, as a humanity, I think it's our role, our job, to take care of all children. And when you start talking about "my children, my children," you're excluding other children. So not saying that all parents who just say "my children" are excluding children, but that just shows you cannot speak in generalizations. So, our current vice president is sexist, misogynist, and clueless when it comes to the role of women. We are equal, we have just as much skills and talents as men, and women are definitely the ones of the human race that give birth to things more than men.

Women give birth to creative projects, to businesses, and we nurture them as children. And you can even see that difference in how men lead businesses and how women lead businesses - and not a generalization, but you know, specifically there is an element of nurturing that is found in women. And not that it's not found in men, but we need to nurture that element in men!

So this is the 21st century. **It's time to remember that every person has a role, and we need to remember that it's not our lifetime that we're looking to make better, but the generations and**

generations...our children's children's children's children. We need to make that world the best. So let's do what we can do, it's possible. All right, thank you."

34. *Text - (American living in) Alajuela, Costa Rica*

"I'm a woman without children. I must either be sad or selfish. Sad if I couldn't have them due to infertility; selfish if I didn't have them due to choice. And **while I'm accused of having less of a life, I'm writing novels, I'm researching endangered animals in the forests of Costa Rica, I'm helping translate the needs of locals to better protect the land from fire. But still, I am useless, and my life is meaningless.**

I'm a woman without children. And so I must be empty. My heart is not full. I don't know how to feel or love. People make these assumptions about me without asking about my childhood, if I felt like my mother wanted kids, or if her mother wanted kids. Because the answer is a resounding no—I believe they did it because they were pressured to. **I believe it's better to be called empty and sad than to do something that made the women in my lineage actually feel empty and sad.**

I am a woman without children, and men project their fears onto me. They are afraid of dying alone, of losing their minds, of having no legacy. And because I am not a vessel for their children, I become a vessel for their lack of imagination."

35. *VM - Kerhonkson, NY*

"Hey Tamara it's X, up here in Kerhonkson, NY. I'm so sorry it's taken me so long to call and talk to this, but I feel like I have a million different things to say each day, and thinking that it'll coalesce, and it doesn't, it just keeps compounding. So here we are. I mean this childless cat lady JD Vance thing, it's so long ago it almost feels like it happened during the COVID years, is that even possible? I think maybe it is. Time doesn't exist anymore.

But I have been having this thought lately, and I can only tiptoe into the news anymore, it's total protectionist mode at this point, because, what the fuck? What the flying fuck? Holy fuck! How can we not be?

But I've had this thought lately, that really if we all lived our lives with the notion that our job is to take care of the most Tender Hearts amongst us, like if that was our ethos, our moral guide in life, like our job as a society, as a human population...if our job was to take care of the most Tender Hearts amongst us - wouldn't we all be in such a better place? Those Tender Hearts will then become protectors, they will grow into protectors, to then nourish and protect the the most Tender Hearts amongst *them*, and what a wonderful reciprocal way of just living in this world, right?

I think women are way more capable of that than men, personally. **I wish we could raise men and protect men in a way that they then become protectors of Tender Hearts. That should be a goal. I'm**

sorry to say that JD Vance and his whole entourage, like that's just not what they do. That's not their moral guide, their ethos. Money speaks, man, money speaks...I, hmmm.

Let's just get a commune! Let's all go away! Let's just start a commune...like, I don't know where that would be, I don't know. It's dark, dude, but you know what? We have to keep making art. That's it. I mean that's a whole nother phone call. Should I just call back and talk about that?

I'm so glad you're doing this. I adore you, friend. I'll probably call back soon. All right, take care love, bye."

36. *Text - Leesburg, VA*

"I am a mother of two children but I do not believe my worth as a woman or to society/community comes because I have children. I believe my worth as a woman comes from how I show up for myself and others. In speaking up for those women who can't or are afraid to. In opening my heart and home to my kids' friends who don't come from loving, supportive parents. In being an example of what a woman is capable of doing and being, when she believes in herself and straightens other women's crowns.

As a mom and woman, I am incredibly grateful for the woman in my life without children who have stepped up and support me and my kids along the way. I applaud women who are standing up and choosing to live their lives in ways that are best for them, and not based on decades-old stereotypes. We should be continuing to celebrate and support women, however they choose to live their lives."

37. *VM - Washington, DC*

"Hi, this is X from Washington, DC. Women have demonstrated from the beginning of time, and all over the world, that we have much to offer society. Compassion, thoughtfulness, generosity, intelligence, tenacity, inner strength, physical strength, critical thinking. We have contributed to the fields of medicine, science, education, business, the arts, and the military.

And as leaders, we have demonstrated the ability to sustain long-term success, with positive results, for entire populations. **In fact, historically, more than a third of the countries of the world have been led by a woman. But, we've demonstrated that we are not ready for that here in the United States,** so sadly, this can also be seen as a distinctly American problem.

Since Vance is just a tool of a psychotic regime, who himself has serious psychosocial depravities, it may be worth considering the larger landscape, of how we as a society have allowed him to occupy one of the highest positions in our land. If it's true that we get the leaders that we deserve, then the larger question is how enough of our country feels leaders like Vance are acceptable, and what we're going to do to change that.

The lunacy, chaos, depravity, and cruelty on display every day by the largely white male leadership

Bold - lines I particularly liked **Green** - lines I was able to use in my art

of our country makes it abundantly clear that men in general do not innately have the demeanor to rule our land. With apologies to Barack Obama.

I'd offer my opinion that there are at least two things at the root of men who, historically, as you say Tamara, "are denigrating the purpose and character of 50% of the population." One is latent homosexuality. I believe that many man, way more than anyone would believe, possibly even most men, harbor a serious anger, frustration, and, at its worst, a real hatred for women, because they are forced to be with women rather than expose their deep-seated desire to be homosexual or bisexual. I think this is happening with Vance.

The second is a genetic disposition men have had since the time that we shared caves with them: to have power and control over women, to protect us from saber toothed tigers and bands of other marauding cave dwellers, for the purpose of ensuring the species' ability to propagate. Evolution simply has not bred that gene out of men, and may never do. In modern times, this shows up as misogyny, patriarchy, oppression, and violence against women and girls.

As women fought for, earned, and now exercise their rights and their willingness to be independent, including to choose to be unmarried, to choose to not have children, to prioritize things other than traditional relationships with men, and families, the threat that poses to men sparks a real anger and helplessness that leads to oppression and misogyny. Thank you for this platform!"

38. *Email - Savannah, GA*

"If J.D. Vance believes that being childless indicates a lack of "investment in the future of this country," then it's worth asking a very simple question: what about childless men? His statements focus overwhelmingly on "childless ladies," painting women in particular as selfish, "miserable," or uncommitted to society if they haven't had children. Yet **he never applies this same criticism to men who do not have children—some by choice, some by circumstance, and many of whom hold positions of power, wealth, and influence.**

The selective targeting reveals the real issue: it isn't about parenthood at all. It's about policing women's value and tying their worth to reproduction.

Women invest in the future of this country in countless ways—through their work, their art, their service, their innovation, their mentorship, their advocacy, and their leadership. Their contributions are not invalidated because they do not have children. Parenthood is one meaningful path, but it is not the only one, and certainly not the measure of whether someone cares about society.

It's also deeply concerning for a public servant to imply that a huge portion of the population is less deserving of representation or civic power. Suggesting that parents should receive extra votes is not only undemocratic—it's an attempt to rank citizens based on their personal lives.

If Vance wants to argue that childless women contribute nothing, then he must be prepared to make that claim about childless men as well. But he doesn't. And that double standard speaks volumes.

Women don't need any man—politician or otherwise—to define their value. They determine it themselves through the lives they build, the communities they strengthen, and the world they shape every day.”

39. VM - *(American living in) Pyeongtaek, South Korea*

“When JD Vance leaned into the “childless cat lady” trope, it echoed something bigger than one sound bite. It reflected a familiar pattern used around the world to diminish women’s voices, by tying their work to motherhood. Here in Korea, my borrowed home for the last 4 years, the 4B Movement emerged in direct opposition to that mindset. It wasn’t about rejecting family; it was about rejecting a society that treats women as resources, rather than citizens.

It’s a bold lifestyle choice for women: rejecting traditional expectations of marriage, childbirth, dating, and sex. Women everywhere are rethinking rules and reclaiming autonomy. They understand you don’t have to earn your humanity through motherhood, and that your voice is valid, whether you have kids, cats, neither, or both. The louder that dismissal becomes, the clearer it is why our voices really matter.”

40. Email - *Margate, NJ*

“Being childless has worked just fine for me as it has for quite of lot of celebrities such as Oprah, Jennifer Aniston, Dame Helen Mirren, Tracee Ellis Ross, Stevie Nicks, Ellen DeGeneres, Dolly Parton, Ava DuVernay, Allison Janney, Renee Zellweger, Lily Tomlin, Miley Cyrus, Liza Minnelli, Chelsea Handler, Margaret Cho, Kim Cattrall, and, of course, Gloria Steinem.

JD Vance should look to his past as to why he would insult so many women with his "Childless Cat Lady" comments. According to a January 18, 2025 article in People, JD Vance was raised in the Appalachian communities of Ohio and had a difficult relationship with his parents growing up. **After his dad walked out on his family when he was a toddler, and his mom struggled with substance abuse, he was placed in the care of his grandparents. They were union Democrats whom he credits for his upbringing.**

My suggestion is JD Vance get therapy and stop attacking women on their choice to not to have kids. We are happily childless, with or without a cat.”

41. VM - *Savannah, GA*

“Reporting live from Savannah, GA, thinking about JD Vance’s words. You know, I thought for the longest time that I had to be married to be a whole human. I’ve never once had the feeling that I should birth a

child, I've never had that hormonal feeling, but I empathize with women who do and really want those children.

But, here I am 37 years old and I'm not married, and I'm living the best I could imagine (besides being ridiculously rich). But I travel constantly, I have the most fulfilling relationships with my friends, female and male, and I guess I live life on my own terms. I realized years ago that, as privileged as I am to say this, freedom is the thing that means the most to me. And **I'm so thankful I've somehow deconstructed the societal pressure, for me, to conform, and live my life the way I thought I was supposed to, because I don't think it would have made me happy.**

But I hold space and I love the women who are happy having those things, having a wonderful marriage and children. I think that's really beautiful and I think that's part of the freedom, is just being able to do, as a woman, what you please, not just what JD Vance thinks you should be doing.

I'm investing in my country. **I teach children, I work in accessibility to make the world more equitable for people with disabilities. I'm *really* contributing to this country.** I don't think me having another child, in an overpopulated country, is contributing to the country. I think if I fostered or adopted, that would be contributing more.

And again, living your American Dream and your authentic self, that's what I think is most important for women. And I'm so thankful that I didn't get married to the man I thought I was going to get married to, and didn't settle, I didn't lower my standards, because I worked on myself, I learned to love myself, and maybe there's still somebody out there I want to spend the rest of my life with or get married to, but I'm glad he would get to meet me as my best self. But I really do love that, instead of pouring my love into another man, I got the chance to pour it into myself. Thank you."

42. *IG msgs - Atlanta, GA*

Msg 1

"X in Atlanta, reporting in with some thoughts on a faux-hillbilly grifter what goes by the name JD Vance. First of all, fuck this guy and his too-small-for-his-head face. Old boy hit every single goddamn branch when he fell out the ugly tree.

His conception of what women and AFAB people bring to the table is as small as his beady little rat eyes. He's about as mediocre as it gets, a sad wannabe-badass who tries to act tough, but is really just stomping his little foot hoping Tangerine Daddy will pat him on the head and tell him he's a very good boy.

He has no values that he truly stands by (remember when he was a "never Trump-er?") so he assumes other people have the same empty, sucking void where his morals should be. But actually, the rest of us don't have to procreate to give a shit about our country or our world, and we don't have to be directly impacted by something to be educated or to care about it.

He can't fathom loving anything but himself and his narcissistic extensions-of-self (kids), but the childfree/childless women I know, we love our communities deeply. We don't just care about our kids, we care about all kids. We are often the ones doing the community organizing, the demonstrating, the phone-banking, and all of the other work that parents are often too busy to do. And we do it because we consider our communities "ours" and feel that we have a stake in them just because we are good citizens."

Msg 2 (post-Renee Good)

"I just watched the press conference where Vance said, "We're going to make it easier for the American people's administration to enforce the American people's law." Who exactly is he referring to here? What law? Because last I heard, nearly 75% of the country is unhappy with the current administration. An administration that has nothing but contempt for the law and flagrantly breaks it whenever it suits their purposes, including depriving thousands of innocent people of their LEGAL RIGHT to DUE PROCESS.

When he says "American people" what he really means is the loud minority who are foaming-at-the-mouth MAGA cultists. **The rest of us don't count as "real Americans," which is convenient because then they don't have to respect our civil liberties.**

It's clear that for all his talk about the importance of motherhood, that only applies to the "well-behaved" MAGA tradwives. By all accounts, Renee Good was a loving mother, a kind person, and a good neighbor who loved her community.

She died after trying to protect that community and while attempting to DE-ESCALATE a situation caused by unvetted, barely-trained, masked thugs profiling Brown people and getting their rocks off by intimidating normal citizens.

She was queer and she pissed them off because she wasn't afraid to question their authority, and even though she was clearly trying to get away, they murdered her and called her a "fucking bitch." **That's all any of us are to them - we're well-behaved Madonnas meekly accepting our "place" in the home with the children, or we're bitches, whores, cat ladies, dykes, Jezebels, "nasty women." They dehumanize us and kill us and if we complain we're told we're "real fun at parties."**

Vance got up there and lied to our fucking faces about what we saw with our own eyes. He is an unprincipled liar, a grifter who sold his soul for proximity to power. He doesn't even have the spine to stand up for his own Brown, non-Christian wife and the kids *he chose* to create with her. And he started it all by throwing his people, his community, under the bus. **I come from rednecks and hillbillies and we don't need his fucking "elegies." We need a government in which corporate money doesn't equal speech, and we need law enforcement that's not full of domestic abusers, rapists, and racists."**

43. VM - Savannah, GA

“JD Vance’s words are lies. They do put me on edge, because he is an eloquent speaker. **I worry that, with repetition, Vance is capable of turning his hateful, anti-female theories into a widely held belief that tens of millions of Americans, especially men, accept.** This will further oppress all American women, but of course that is the aim of Vance and his cronies.

Barefoot and pregnant...bring back the 1920s. Vance not only thinks that childless women don’t have a stake in our country, but that we actively “look down on people who have kids,” which is a manipulative lie. Does JD salute all moms? including the black woman with four kids who receives food assistance and housing support from the government? Or is he just praising the white moms, or the moms who are not poor? I don’t know of one childless woman who looks down on parents. Statistics show that childless people usually volunteer in hospitals, community service organizations like Meals on Wheels, the arts, animal welfare programs, and other fields that support and enhance life in the United States.

Surely that shows that we have “skin in the game” as Vance puts it. In my case, I spend hundreds of hours each year trying to be of service in my wider community, both my city and my country. Parents that I know spend hundreds of hours each year serving on PTAs and their children’s schools, and then other youth-focused arenas, and together we cover a lot of ground in a country that is failing all but its wealthiest citizens.

By the way, did I mention that Vance is not the little Country Bumpkin he purports to be? He graduated from Yale and he’s worth 12 million dollars. Hmmm. **I’m wondering when good ole JD is going to start adopting some of those children that forced pregnancies have brought into this world. What a fucking hypocrite JD Vance is.** What a fucking misogynist.”

44. Text - Savannah, GA

“As a woman, I’m offended by the idea that my value—or my right to a political voice—depends on whether I have children. Women invest in the future in countless ways: through work, care, creativity, leadership, and community. **A public servant who dismisses childless women isn’t protecting the future—he’s trying to narrow who gets to belong in it.** No one gets to decide what women are worth.”

45. VM - Savannah, GA

“I live in Savannah, my name is X, and I’m a woman in my mid-40s. My husband and I have been together for over 20 years, in a really solid, committed relationship, and we talked a lot about having kids along the way, and ultimately decided that that wasn’t going to work for us.

And so we decided not to have kids. We both have passions that we’ve wanted to dedicate our lives to pursuing, and we’ve been really happy with our decision. Personally, as an artist and a musician and an educator, pursuing these passions and really dedicating my life to them, takes a lot of time, and that’s where I’ve decided to put my efforts.

And it's not something that I take lightly. **I really like kids, and I feel like if you decide to be a parent it's a really serious decision that should not be taken lightly, and if you don't feel like you can commit to that 100% for the rest of your life, then I don't think you should do it. And honestly, I don't think that a lot of people think about it that thoroughly.** But that is neither here nor there - if you make a decision to have kids, or you don't, it is nobody else's business, and the comments that JD Vance made are just really offensive.

You know, I am a contributing member of society, and I get pretty offended when people bring up the kids question, because it really is just not of anybody's business. You know, there are a lot of women who **can't** have kids, and it's pretty offensive to ask them why they don't have kids, just for one example, and there are so many scenarios.

You know, my first reaction is to be offended, and then honestly, I almost feel exhausted, and you know...there's no way to reason with someone like that. You know? **There's no way that JD Vance is ever gonna understand where someone like me is coming from. My priorities are not his priorities,** and...I just am at a loss for words, because there is no way to argue with someone like that. I'm just left with frustration, but also a little bit of...apathy, at this point. At this point I think we just need to keep doing what we believe in and hopefully things don't implode too much."

46. *FB msg - Savannah, GA*

"I think VP Maybelline is a fascist, misogynistic clown! Women are not birthing machines. If a woman wants to have a child, that's great. But not all women want, or can, have children. We are not less-than because of this. Not all men want children either. **America was founded on independence and separation of church and state (although you wouldn't know it anymore).** So get your grubby mitts off my body, Vance! And don't even get me started re: his views on cats! 🐱"

47. *VM - Savannah, GA*

"Hello, this is X from Savannah, GA. And I wanted to talk about commitment to the future, and when I think about that, I think about the seven women who founded the Historic Savannah Foundation in 1955. At the time, bricks from historic homes were being torn out and reused to build things on the southside. **They didn't have any political power, and they were dismissed and called the "Hysterical Society," but they were tenacious, and they raised the money to buy the Davenport House, and made Savannah what it is today, because preservation is investment in the future.**"

48. *Text - Savannah, GA*

"I think that J.D. Vance needs to get his facts straight. First of all, some childless women have dogs not cats. Yes, that is a bit of a joke.

Being a woman does not require that you must be a mother. Many famous women, women who have advanced our culture and sometimes the world, in many positive ways, never had children. This could be choice or circumstance.

We give back through teaching, volunteering in our communities, setting examples of strength and good will. **We are creative and loving women. Miserable? Not at all. Our lives are filled with adventure, creativity, exploration of the human condition, both within and outside of ourselves.**

Personally, I love children. I fostered a child for a little while and it was a rewarding experience. I am an aunt, very close to my niece. I have been engaged with friends who have children and the children themselves.

I do not regret my choice, I embrace it. My life is full and satisfying, exciting, creative, and engaging. J.D. Vance, get your facts straight! All people, no matter their gender, are important, and should be fulfilled and follow their own paths to happiness, with or without raising children.

(Sorry for the late response. Wish I could think of something more insightful to write, but his statements are so ridiculous that I could only respond with the obvious. Your work looks great so far.)”

49. VM - Savannah, GA

noise

“...oh that was a cat that was just meowing as I walked by. You know, there was a time when I really wanted to maybe have a child, and was even concerned about how it might affect my ability to run one of my businesses at the time. But, that didn’t work out. And here’s the situation - it’s the fact that they feel that they are not engaged because they don’t have children, so they are not invested in the community, which is essentially saying that the only way to be invested in community, is through your ability to pop a child out of your vagina and raise it well.

Now, as we know, there are many terrible parents out there, who do not have a vested interest in their children, or are abusive, and while that is to a small degree, a parent does not make you a person necessarily invested in the future of your community *or* your world. I feel that us many so-called “childless cat mothers” (and I’m looking at several right now) actually invest themselves more.

We go out and engage in the community in ways to help, whether it’s through organizations for children in need, like CASA, which I have been a volunteer, or in pet charities like Renegade, like GRRR, like Red Clay Cat Rescue... **we usually have the time and the ability to actually invest ourselves even more, into what is happening in our world. Not just for the 1, 2, 3, 5 children that we can produce, but for our entire communities!** Whether it’s elderly people that need resources, children that have been abused and need resources, the animals in our community that need resources...it is women like us, that don’t necessarily have children, that really have more time and ability to pursue investing themselves, and helping the whole outlook.

And beyond that, these so-called men that say they are worried about how we are invested in the future of our country, they themselves do more to damage those options, by taking away food for elderly people and/or children and/or poor families, taking away medical research, those male individuals are so ethnocentric, so egocentric, that they only see women as viable who can produce children.

In many cultures and tribal communities that are rich with appreciation of their Elders, those women are highly respected, and thought of for their wisdom, and their ability to show empathy and love and connection. So, utilizing those innate attitudes that women are able to convey really explicitly makes us more capable of being concerned about our community - childless or otherwise - than any of these assholes. Okay? They do nothing to serve the higher good, except go around trying to define what our roles should and need to be. And so I say fuck them. And that is Shelley Smith, Savannah, GA, signing off. Thank you.”

50. *FB msg - Savannah, GA*

“When I hear comments that question a woman’s worth or her commitment to the future, I think about how strong women already have to be — every single day. Being a woman in this world means constantly proving yourself, balancing expectations, carrying emotional weight, and still showing up with compassion and courage.

We build, we care, we create — in countless ways that have nothing to do with whether we have children. And when life is already this hard for women, the last thing we should do is make it harder for each other. I believe our real power comes from support, not judgment — from helping one another rise, instead of gossiping or competing.

A woman’s value is not measured by motherhood or status, but by her humanity, her kindness, and her strength to keep going in a world that often misunderstands her.”

51. *VM - Savannah, GA*

“I think that JD Vance’s thoughts around “childless cat ladies running the country”...you know, he’s not ***wrong*** that women do often run communities and governments and countries at the level where operation actually happens. I think a good example of that I when I go to vote in my precinct, it is ***solely*** run by women.

Maybe I’ll see 1 out of 10? But the people who volunteer their time and energy to making sure our elections run smoothly - they’re all women. And whether they’re childless or not - you’d never know if someone was - but also, it’s not always up to them, whether they have children, right? There are biological reasons why women don’t have children. And also, choice.

And it doesn't really matter. We can't have public servants or leaders who only place value in citizens who are biologically capable of birth. We can't have public servants who make assumptions about the people they lead and are responsible for. **And it is concerning to me that any person who is attempting to lead, speaks about their constituents in that way. They should have respect and care for the people that they lead.** Otherwise they just shouldn't be in a leadership position. And that's just my personal opinion. Thanks."

52. *Email - Savannah, GA*

"He is our current Vice President under Trump. **He was against Trump, but, when asked to be VP he took the job. How do you trust someone like that,** when you hate Trump and all of the people he posted to the government jobs for this second administration?"

No one in those positions are qualified. They are all Trump sycophants. According to Wikipedia, he has some military experience as a Marine Corporal, earned a Yale law degree, and he has some U.S. Senate experience representing Ohio. He met his wife in law school and they have 3 children. He has written a memoir about his life growing up, which was made into a movie - Hillbilly Elegy - BUT, he is opposed to immigration, abortion, same-sex marriage, gun control, and seems to treat woman as second class citizens, and is against U.S. support for Ukraine.

He has also told lies about Haitians eating their pets. **He wants woman to have more children, even though the administration now denies funding SNAP for feeding children, and refused to renew health insurance for 20 million low-income U.S. citizens.** He has touted "childlessness is making more people sociopathic and our country less mentally stable."

How do these people sleep at night? I don't know which of these problems is more frightening: food scarcity, no medical insurance, or the fact that he would be President when Trump becomes even more incapacitated for the presidency. There is much more about him easily found on Wikipedia. I would never support this man for any government job.

And now he has stepped into the the new lie cesspool, regarding the woman murdered in Minneapolis. People at the top are supposed to keep us calm and appropriately informed. That never happens and his remarks just make me sick."

53. *VM - Charlottesville, VA*

"X in Charlottesville, Virginia. What's striking to me about commentary like this is not just how narrow it is. It's actually how he completely and deeply misunderstands what commitment actually even looks like in the first place.

Commitment to community, to others, to the future, to the environment...it's not about prescribing women's lives or reducing them to a single role. It's not about who stays, who leaves, who marries, who

mothers, or who sacrifices themselves quietly for someone else's idea of order. Commitment is a practice, not a constraint. **And commitment to community isn't enforced through limitation. It's actually through sustained trust, shared responsibility, and respect for women's full humanity.**

It shows up in *how* women build communities, care for elders and children, lead organizations, create livelihoods, steward resources. And think generations ahead, often while holding systems together that were never designed with them in mind in the first place. Women don't need lectures about responsibility. Wake up! They're already carrying it. All of them - economically, emotionally, physically, and culturally.

What we need instead is leadership that recognizes reality. Thriving societies - hello?! - are built when people are trusted to shape meaningful lives, when care is shared rather than assigned, and when the future is strengthened through inclusion rather than nostalgia. **A real commitment to community doesn't narrow women's choices; it expands everyone's capacity to belong, contribute, and thrive.** And that's not ideology; that's called stewardship.

Makes me think of Calamity Jane's quote: "If a girl wants to be a legend, she should go ahead and be one." Well, J.D., wake up, my friend. We got a bunch of new sheriffs in town. Yippee Kiyay!"