



"We, as a culture, do not take women seriously on a profound level. We do not believe women. We do not trust women. We do not like women." says Lindy West in a [New York Times Opinion piece](#).

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Indeed.

Whatever conclusion you come to about how Hillary Clinton lost the presidency this week, there can be no doubt that her gender was a significant factor.

Unfortunately, the scenario is all too familiar for us: First Shift's clients suffer from the same attitudes, which prevent them from shattering their own glass ceilings - or even getting a *glass of water* as a pregnancy accommodation.

Hillary's loss felt like a personal loss, for me and all the women that First Shift serves. Women like:

**Angela**, fired from her job at a coffee shop at 7 weeks pregnant and then required to provide her doctor's contact information as a condition of receiving unemployment so that her fitness for work could be verified.

**Adrienne**, fired from her job as a server at a high-end restaurant at 8 1/2 months pregnant because she called out sick for a shift.

**Tonya**, a security officer who quit her job after her supervisor repeatedly refused to allow her time or a place to pump breastmilk for her baby.

**Valerie**, a lunch assistant at a charter school whose employer did not respond to her request for a pregnancy accommodation; as a result, she was injured at work, restricted to bed rest because of the injury, and ultimately terminated.

These are just some of the clients that have come to us in recent weeks. Women suffer indignity after indignity, and yet they continue to persevere, for themselves and their families.

Want to support women's rights? Then support our work, to empower women to speak up for themselves despite the attitudes that pervade our culture.

We are coming to the end of our [Run Like a Mother campaign](#). Thanks to those of you who have already donated - so far we have raised \$6500, including off-line donations. Our goal is to get to \$8000 - help us make it by Sunday! [Donate here](#).

We will keep fighting for women: lifting them up when they are battered down, and pushing them to persevere until they get what they are legally entitled to.

Thank you for your support.

Laura.

Executive Director

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