



50 YEARS AFTER

THE LANDMARK CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

IMPACT ON THE NATION AND NASA

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I can't think of any personal example that I have - have experienced as far as, you know

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like an obvious sort of discrimination against me because I was a woman.

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It's more subtle than that.

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There's no doubt that the Civil Rights Act was a huge turning point in our history and

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a good one and I think it's one that has enabled women like myself to be able to work at a

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place like NASA -- to be able to work in technical fields, and there's still a lot of progress

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that we have to make in order to make sure gender equality is happening in the work place

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but NASA is making really great strides in that direction.

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And I think a lot of that starts with kids, you know -- encouraging girls -- telling them

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that they can do every bit as good as boys -- that they can do the hard stuff.

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Of course NASA is a really great place to work on those big challenging programs and

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so a lot of what I do at NASA, in addition to my science is I try to go out and talk

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to girls and talk to school kids and tell the girls, 'that you can be anything you want

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to be, you can do anything you want to do.'

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I've always been pulled towards NASA.

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I think when I was younger I probably didn't really ever dream that I would actually ever

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work here.

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So, it's really is still a thrill to work at an agency that I believe is tackling the