

# **I Apologize: An Open Poem to My Mother (Freda C. Ellis) and All Hardworking Women Who Are Misunderstood**

By Dr. Goddess

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Because the personal is political . . .

I apologize

For all the times I looked at you askew

For tilting my head in 45 degree confusion

For being so shortsighted,

Thinking there was something wrong with you

I apologize

For all the times I tried to rationalize

How you should make your goals anew

I wondered if you needed a motivational crew

To assure you that you could do better than you were

I wondered why you worked so hard but could never get too far

My analysis was subpar

And

I apologize

For thinking there could possibly be something inherently

Residing in your disposition

That prevented you from being treated equally

My thought process was silly

And immature

I was sure

You could do better

I never understood the system that was designed to

Make you work just as hard as a man

But still end up earning a wage that was lesser-than

You're getting 70 cents for every one of his

The Women's Movement is not over

because that's no way to live

So I will work for equality

So women get equal pay

I will work for equality

So no other mother has to live this way

I will work for equality  
Because justice is that important to me  
You see  
I accused my own glorious example of maternity  
Of not living up to her potential  
When it was the entire society  
In which she lived  
All the while she worked harder  
'til she had nothing but love to give  
So I cease and desist the way I fussed over this

I insist on justice  
So women get equal pay  
I will work for equality  
So no other mother has to live this way

And in this city, in particular  
Where the stats dip much lower, anyway  
I insist on being a better daughter  
I insist because living here, you earned 69 cents on the dollar  
It's an understatement when Marvin Gay sang  
About these being the types of conditions that  
Makes me wanna holler  
and  
Now I'm all the wiser  
But for all the times  
I was lacking  
in my analysis  
Passing judgments  
Misunderstanding  
Her circumstances  
For all the work she did and got underpaid  
For not understanding the relationship between every second and third job  
And every extended day  
I apologize for blaming you  
For women's unequal pay  
So today  
I say now  
Publicly to all who witness this injustice

And maintain their variety of sobriety  
While keeping their pain inside  
I apologize

And I insist on justice  
So women get equal pay  
I insist on justice  
So no other mother has to live this way  
I insist on justice  
So women get equal pay  
I insist on justice  
So I don't have to live this way  
I insist on justice  
So women get equal pay  
I insist on justice  
So we don't have to live this way

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Dr. Goddess

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