**INSPIRATIONBASE**

*A collection of ethical leadership speeches*

Megan

Rapinoe



Megan Rapinoe is an American professional soccer player. She is a 2012 Olympic Gold Medalist, as well as 2015 and 2019 FIFA Women’s World Cup Champion, and has earned many individual titles and awards. As an activist and influencer, she advocates equal rights, such as women’s and LGBT rights, equal pay, sexual preference, gender, race, and refugee rights. In solidarity with former MFL player Colin Kaepernick, she also took a knee during the national anthem in protest of racial injustice and police brutality. (Source: various including USsoccer.com [link](https://www.ussoccer.com/players/r/megan-rapinoe))

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| **MR 1*. Megan Rapinoe’s Parents Taught Her That You Need To Help People, Period.*** | | | |  |
| Megan Rapinoe: It’s always worth to do it, whether people like it or not. […] I think, it’s just always worth it, to be honest. Use your voice in whatever way that you can. I truly believe that we all have a responsibility to make the world better in whatever way we can do best. So you’re a late night host, this is what you can do best. I shouldn’t be that. You know, I’m an athlete, and this, you know, country very much glorifies its athletes and gives us this huge platform, so I’m gonna leverage the platform for what I think is good. Maybe you’re a lawyer, and you donate time. Maybe you’re just, you know, a normal working person and you have one hour a month to knock on doors or to whatever it is, collecting, correct your people in your workplace or whatever it is, but it’s all important. And I think that some people need to get comfortable with and understand that, like, you don’t have to quit your job and be a full-time activist in the street every single day. Not everybody has the ability to do that. But everybody has the ability to do something.  Stephen Colbert: Well, you’re a tremendous athlete, you’ve got amazing skills and dedication to your play, and you match that with a social consciousness that has made you an icon to many people around the world. That’s not necessarily an easy thing to do. Where’s that come from for you? Why do you have that particular fire? Where do you get that?  Megan Rapinoe: I feel like it took me a little bit to get down to it, because as soon as I started kneeling, people were like, “What the hell! Where did this come from?” I’m from a pretty small conservative area in northern California, but honestly, it came from my mom and my dad. Both of them very much taught me that you just help people, period. You know, especially my mom, she grew up super poor, got made fun of all the time just for what she was wearing or what she wasn’t able to afford or whatever. And so I actually feel like seeing the sort of pain in her eyes of telling these stories really imparted on my sister and I - I’m a twin - you know, we were popular growing up, and we were good at sports from a young age, and she was basically like, “You aren’t cool because you’re cool, and you’re not cool because you’re popular. Like, that’s not how this is gonna go down. Like, you need to use your voice to stand up for yourself, for each other, and definitely for other people.” So I feel like we kind of have that sort of atmosphere and that kind of standard in our family always. | | | | |
| **Date** | 11/6/20  Accessed 14 Mar. 2021 | **Source** | The Late Show with Stephen Colbert on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r22dokLryrA>), min. 1:35 - 4:18; close captioning available | |

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| **BS 2*. Soccer Star Megan Rapinoe on living in a world created by men*** | | | |  |
| Judy Woodruff: Well, your political activism clearly comes through in the book [*One Life*]. You do write about the advantage you feel you have, the privilege of being white. But you also, of course, write about the disadvantage that women have living in a world created by men. How do you balance that out?  Megan Rapinoe: I try to just look at it, you know, really honestly, and just sort of keep it real. Clearly, being a women, being a gay woman in this country comes with disadvantages. I have been underpaid my entire life. I have only been able to legally marry five years in this country federally. So, you know, there’s some things obviously that we still need to work on. But when it comes to then putting that in comparison to, you know, the really sort of brutal and cruel racial history that we have in our country, I can see where I’m also incredibly privileged and incredibly advantaged. And I look at it not as something that’s negative, but I have this privilege, so I get to use this privilege in order to help dismantle all of these unfair systems and cruel systems, and, frankly, the just downright wrong systems in our country. And so I look at it almost as an advantage in breaking everything down rather than something that I don’t want to acknowledge. | | | | |
| **Date** | 24/11/20  Accessed 14 Mar. 2021 | **Source** | PBS NewsHour on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIy25h6fK9M>), min. 2:29 - 3:47; close captioning available | |

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| **MR 3*. Soccer stars speak out on gender discrimination*** | | | |  |
| Interviewer: […] You guys [Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe] have both said that this is not just about soccer and women on the field, that this is about standing up for all people, particularly young girls. What’s the big picture here?  Megan Rapinoe: I think the big picture ultimately is just giving that message that you should fight for what you believe in, you should fight for what you feel you earned, and never give up. It is difficult at times. Sometimes it feels like a David and Goliath type situation where you maybe have less resources, or have less experience in, but, you know, we know in our hearts and we know with effects that we have that. We’re on the right side of this, and I think just looking sort of at the broader picture, I don’t think anybody can argue that there’s gender inequities in this world, that there’s a pay gap, that there’s pay discrepancies. So for us it’s not only about leaving our sport in a better place, leaving it better for the young girls that will come after, but just in general inspiring women around the world to stand up for what they believe in. They have an ally in us, we are with them, we support them, and we will continue this fight as long as we need to. | | | | |
| **Date** | 11/3/19  Accessed 14 Mar. 2021 | **Source** | ABC News on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1gCNUgpl2Q>), min. 4:00 - 5:09; close captioning available | |

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| MR 4*. Megan Rapinoe’s full World Cup parade speech* | | | |  |
| This group [Rapinoe’s teammates] is so tough, so resilient, has such a sense of humor. It’s just so badass, like there’s nothing, nothing that can faze this group. We’re chilling, we got tea sipping, we got celebrations. We have pink hair and purple hair, we have tattoos and dreadlocks, we got white girls and black girls and everything in between. Straight girls and gay girls. Hey - I couldn’t be more proud to be a co-captain with Carli and Alex with this team. It’s my absolute honor to lead this team out on the field. There’s no other place that I would rather be, even in the presidential race.  […] I think I’ll just end with this: this is my charge to everyone. We have to be better. We have to love more, hate less, we gotta listen more and talk less. We gotta know that this is everybody’s responsibility. Every single person here, every single person whose not here, every single person who doesn’t wanna be here, every single person who agrees and doesn’t agree: it’s our responsibility to make this world a better place. I think this team does an incredible job of taking that on our shoulders and understanding the position that we have in the platform, that we have within this world. Yes, we play sports; yes, we play soccer; yes, we are female athletes; but we are so much more than that. You’re so much more than that. You’re more than a fan. You’re more than someone who just supports sports. You’re more than someone who just tunes in every four years. You’re someone who walks these streets every single day. You interact with your community every single day. How do you make your community better? How do you make the people around you better? Your family, your closest friends, the ten closest people to you, the twenty closest people to you, the most hundred closest people to you. It’s every single person’s responsibility. […] We have to collaborate, it takes everybody. This is my charge to everybody: do what you can. Do what you have to do. Step outside yourself. Be more, be better, be bigger than you’ve ever been before. | | | | |
| **Date** | 10/7/19  Accessed 13 Mar. 2021 | **Source** | Eyewitness News ABC7NY on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDrB2IestHs>), min. 0:30 - 1:24, 3:56 - 5:48; close captioning available | |

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