



**Birth control advocate and radical thinker Margaret Sanger established *The Woman Rebel* in 1914. The following statement, which explained the philosophy behind her publication, demonstrates how she linked women's freedom to conceptions of social class and sexuality. "Why the Woman Rebel?" by Margaret Sanger, *The Woman Rebel*, March 1914.**

- Because I believe that deep down in woman's nature lies slumbering the spirit of revolt.
- Because I believe that woman is enslaved by the world machine, by sex conventions, by motherhood and its present necessary child-rearing, by wage-slavery, by middle-class morality, by customs, laws and superstitions.
- Because I believe that these things which enslave woman must be fought openly, fearlessly, consciously.
- Because I believe she must consciously disturb and destroy and be fearless in its accomplishment.
- Because I believe in freedom, created through individual action.
- Because I believe in the offspring of the immigrant, the great majority of whom make up the unorganized working class to-day.
- Because I believe that this immigrant with a vision, an ideal of a new world where liberty, freedom, kindness, plenty hold sway, who had courage to leave the certain old for the uncertain new to face a strange new people, new habits, a strange language, for this vision, this ideal, certainly has brought to this country a wholesome spirit of unrest which this generation of Americans has lost through a few generations of prosperity and respectability.
- Because I believe that on the courage, vision and idealism of the immigrant and the offspring does the industrial revolution depend.
- Because I believe that through the efforts of the industrial revolution will woman's freedom emerge.
- Because I believe that not until wage slavery is abolished can either woman's or man's freedom be fully attained.
- Because I have six months to devote to arousing this slumbered spirit in the working woman, and if within this time I shall have succeeded in arousing my own laggard self I shall have succeeded sufficiently to continue this paper until all the slumbered spirits have awakened to its assistance or its destruction.