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Menstruation Matters: Making Law and Society Responsive to Human Needs

Approximately half the population menstruates for a large portion of their lives, but law is mostly silent about the topic. Until recently, many would have said that periods are private matters not to be discussed in public. But the last few years have seen a new willingness among girls, women and their allies to speak openly about menstruation and its economic, social, and political consequences. From the “tampon tax” to the need for accessible products in schools, prisons, and other public buildings, matters related to menstruation have acquired new salience.

In *Menstruation Matters*, Crawford and Waldman ask how existing law addresses issues of affordability, accessibility, and safety of menstrual products, along with the related needs for breaks and privacy to use those products. They explore issues including whether the imposition of state sales tax on menstrual products amounts to unconstitutional gender discrimination, and whether Title IX requires schools to provide students with accessible menstrual products. Building on other advocates’ work, Crawford and Waldman explain how issues surrounding menstruation implicate numerous social justice concerns. They urge a reimagining of law and society to take into account the biological needs of all people, and provide concrete suggestions for what is needed.