It’s a Part of Life. Period
Menstruation and Access to Feminine Hygiene Products: Unjust Treatment of Women in the US and Abroad

Tag Words: Menstruation, Period, Homeless, Tampons, Pads, Tampon Tax, Gender Inequality, Hygiene Products, Hygiene Disparities, Gender Pricing

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Summary: Menstruation is taboo and considered dirty by some in the US and other countries which leads to issues such as shaming, isolating, or treating women as toxic during their cycles. In the US, homeless women are not properly supported by the community because of the lack of resources and the discomfort associated with this issue. The “tampon tax” adds another layer of inequality in the US that surrounds menstruation. The historical link to different cultures and practices and their association with why there is shame and discomfort associated with this natural part of life is explored. Bringing awareness locally about this issue was accomplished be requesting donations and giving them to the female homeless population.

Video: https://youtu.be/LaAy7idsrhA

The Issue: Menstruation’s taboo and defamation in the United States and abroad contributes to the lack of proper feminine hygiene, education, and support for women of all ages and cultures
For centuries, menstruation has been treated as taboo or toxic and these ideas have carried into today’s public discourse and social practices. In the United States, women feel socially compelled to keep their menstruation secretive by hiding their use of feminine products, sanitizing their language, and avoiding the subject altogether. By keeping feminine hygiene out of the conversation, it is often forgotten as an issue for impoverished women seeking shelter and support. Benefactors often forget or do not think to include tampons, pads, and other hygiene products when donating to homeless shelters.

In other countries, menstruation is more than just taboo; community members vilify this natural process. For example, in Nepal women are forced to remain in hazardous, dilapidated sheds during the course of their cycle for fear of them infecting others. This serves as an example of the all too common issues facing women of other countries. Many are shamed and isolated. Others do not have access to proper care products which leads to unhealthy practices. Young women often miss school to tend to their cycles which leads to an inadequate education. Such negative and misguided information promotes gender inequality socially and economically.

A Brief History of Menstrual Theorizing
Just as women have been menstruating for centuries, theories as to why this process occurs have also existed. Unsurprisingly, menstruation is treated negatively in important historical and cultural books such as the Bible.
Whenever a woman has her menstrual period, she will be ceremonially unclean for seven days. Anyone who touches her during that time will be unclean until evening. Anything on which the woman lies or sits during the time of her period will be unclean. If any of you touch her bed, you must wash your clothes and bathe yourself in water, and you will remain unclean until evening. Leviticus 15:19-33.

The Bible goes on to denounce more ways a menstruating woman creates an uncleanly environment. However, it is not the only important scripture to denounce this process as the Jewish Talmud also does this.

If three women were sleeping in one bed and blood was found under the middle one, they are all impure. Mishnah Niddah 9.

As these texts have dominated many cultures and beliefs, their teachings also dominate the way their readers view menstruation.

Aside from religious texts, historical texts as early as 79AD talk about menstruation. In Pliny’s The Natural History he writes about the effects of menstrual discharge and how a woman, during her cycle, will turn seeds sterile, sour and cause trees to go barren. He even goes as far as to say that just by looking, she can ruin steel and remove the gloss from ivory (1). Pliny’s text has withstood time as a very important anthology of much of the knowledge they had at the time.

Aside from authors, philosophers and scientists took it a step further citing menstrual blood and saliva as problematic and deadly. In 1920, Bella Schick, a pediatrician, created the idea of “menstrual toxin” or “menotoxin” as an explanation for the reason that flowers wilted after being held by menstruating women (1). This sparked researchers to test menstrual blood by injecting it into different animals, growing plants with it, and kill yeast with it. Researchers worked feverously to determine what compound caused the odor, the results they observed, and how they could prove menotoxins to be real.

Although the above examples are only a few selections among many historical texts and studies that have tried to understand menstruation, they depict where the negativity and vilification of bleeding began. Men and women have understood menstruation as a negative, and even harmful for centuries. This pervasive and ancient understanding has undoubtedly swayed our views today.

Menstruation and public discourse in the US today

The positive
As our cultures evolve, so does our view of menstruation. From a biological perspective, menstruation is viewed positively whereas socially it is treated as a taboo subject. As we know today, menstruation is necessary to shed the uterine lining thereby preparing for a new potential pregnancy. This biological knowledge offers a fresh, more positive perspective. Newer evolutionary theories have added to the positive discourse. For
example, Beverly Strassman, an anthropologist at the University of Michigan, theorizes that menstruation is an energy saving technique that turns off reproduction in times of stress or low nutrition (2). A different hypothesis was proposed by Colin Finn of the University of Liverpool who writes that it is the uterus’s way of defending the mother from a burrowing embryo because of the interplay between a mother needing nutrients and a baby needing nutrients (3).

In addition to new theories about the evolution of menstruation as a protection for women, menstruation is very much associated with the health and wellbeing for women. Historically, the act of bleeding was thought to be cleansing the body of toxins. Today, physicians and medical professionals use menstrual cycles to establish their female patient’s health in terms of hormonal regulation, nutrition status, and to diagnose abnormalities. The integral relationship between menarche and female health stresses the importance that menstruation should be viewed as a positive discussion. Historically, menstruation was silenced to the privacy of the individual or the family. By relegating menstruation to these quieted spheres, women no longer had access to education about their bodies. They also lost female interaction about these topics and they also loss dominion over the public sphere and thus they loss equality (4). This is particularly upsetting because women need to understand their natural processes to care for their health.

**The negative**

Despite the importance on female health, menstruation still has a negative spin in social discourse. Due to menstruation’s taboo nature, Americans hold the beliefs that women are delicate and prone to overreaction during their cycle. Some beliefs even differ based on gender. Men tend to believe that women are incapacitated while menstruating whereas women find it inconvenient (4).

This negative view may in part be due to the inundation of media with negative messages. They come in a myriad of forms like stereotypes, jokes, cartoons, song lyrics, on television, advertisements, movies, cards, and other forms of communication (3). With all of these avenues for negative messages, it is plausible that women come to view menstruation in a bad light.

As menstruation can be viewed as debilitating or bothersome, many women try to hide their monthly cycle. They want to appear as though they are the same or that they can complete any task as a man can. It is the push for normalcy that we look at menstruation as being abnormal (3). Women may hide the use of pads, or tampons in order to combat the prevalent ideas that she is “dirty,” “moody,” or “incompetent. This behavior reinforces the belief that menstruation is bad and that women should be ashamed, or treated as lesser because of their biological process.

**Other Countries’ Practices**

Women of different countries are faced with additional challenges beyond simply taboo conversations. Some issues include lack of clean and adequate ways to care for their health during their cycle. Some women are isolated or condemned by their cultures while
they are menstruating. Many cultures interact with menstruation differently but Kenya, Nepal, Malawai, India and Iran are a few worth mentioning.

In Kenya, purchasing feminine hygiene products is expensive, so women turn to dirty cloths, foliage, scraps of paper, mattress stuffing and mud to care for their flow (5). These practices can lead to infection and disease. In Nepal, a long-standing tradition called chaupadi dictates that women who are menstruating are banished outdoors until its completion. Many women and girls are forced to live in sheds that minimally protect against the elements. They are not allowed inside for fear of poisoning their home and their families (6). This cultural tradition results in practices that are unsafe and unhealthy. Malawi parents keep menstruation a secret and do not teach their daughters what is happening to them (7). Sanitary facilities are inadequate and proper hygiene products are unavailable. Many young women are even taken out of school to be married once they begin their cycles as menarche is viewed as a sign of sexual maturity (8). In India, menstruating women are forced to stay away from food for fear that their simple touch will spoil or pollute food (5). These beliefs are borne out of the belief that menstruation is dirty and impure (9). For these reasons, many women have mixed information about their period and feel a sense of shame or confusion. Couple their shame with the fact that they over 23% of girls in India drop out of school after they start their cycles, it is clear why gender inequality remains persistent (9). Women are socially and educationally disadvantaged and then they eventually become economically disadvantaged too due to lack of schooling.

These issues are so widespread that UNICEF’s study showed that 1 in 3 girls living in South Asia did not know what menstruation was before they had their first period. They also found the 48% of Iranian girls and 10% of Indian girls thought they have a monthly unexplained illness (10). To address this lack of proper education, many non-profits, such as UNICEF, have taken on the task of educating young women about what their period means.

It seems the most widespread issue across the globe is that women lack information and the messages they are receiving are misguided, isolating, and problematic. For those who understand or do not, many do not have the proper tools or facilities to care for their cycles leading to more isolation, infection, and absence from schools. This widespread problem affects more than the obvious and it becomes integral to improving gender gaps both home and abroad.

**The Female Tax**
Tampons, pads, and other essential items needed to maintain health and wellness for women in the United States are taxed as luxury items in ~40 states. This seems inconsistent as menstruation occurs once a month for years and women do not have the luxury of boycotting the use of these products. This can amount to significant dollars (estimated to be ~$70 per year) spent as women average about 450 periods in a lifetime (11) with the average cost of a box of tampons containing about 36 is $7. It is also important to note that, in addition to tampons, women buy pads, panty liners, new underwear, Midol, heating pads, birth control and more in response to their monthly cycle
This economic burden on women is significant and should be addressed to remove the tax from tampons and pads which are absolutely essential in today’s social and cultural climate.

Gender pricing, charging women more than men, goes beyond just feminine hygiene products. In a study by the Department of Consumer Affairs in New York City, they found that women had to pay an average of 7% more than men for the similar items (13). These items include toys and accessories, children’s clothing, adult clothing, personal care products, senior/home health care products. In fact, the DCA show 42% of the time women’s products are priced higher whereas men’s products only have a higher price about 18% of the time (13). When they analyzed the total amount over a lifetime, they found that women paid a gender tax of about $1,351 yearly. Over a lifetime, these numbers add up to inequality.

Recently, six states have exempted sanitary napkins from taxation and they include Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. Currently, Christina Garcia is an assembly member in California advocating for banning the taxation of these necessary products. She has jumpstarted this initiative for a few main reasons. One, that they are necessary, not luxuries, and therefore they should be treated as such. Two, their high expense puts an undue burden on poor and impoverished women. Three, it is particularly unjust that women who are being paid $0.79 to every $1 men receive in the current pay gap are paying extra for these necessities monthly (14). By initiating this campaign for change, women are seeking equality while making these products more available and affordable for others (15).

**Feminine hygiene and the homeless**

Impoverished and homeless women in the United States face many issues in regards to their periods including lack of proper care items, infection, general hygiene and shame or discomfort. Many homeless women use what they can find such as socks, rags, and other odd pieces of dirty clothing. Because they are not made to be absorbent, they often bleed through their clothing and soil themselves only worsening their hygiene. The risks then increased more because they are subject to vaginal infection and a weakened immune system by sitting in dirtied clothing for long periods of time (16). Also, as many homeless women are unable to shower for extended periods of time, women are forced to remain in their soiled clothing. This can bring embarrassment and shame which may exacerbate any mental health problems they may have. These women undergo significant humiliation from having to care for their periods outside where they are ashamed and even at risk for rape (17).

Part of this problem stems from inadequate support for our homeless populations in the United States. The number of shelters available for women to sleep, eat, and shower are inadequate. Furthermore, feminine hygiene products such as tampons and pads, more often than not, are not available as donations if these products are rare. This is both because benefactors do not think to donate them and because volunteers feel uncomfortable asking for these specific donations (18).
Raising Awareness
“The Homeless Period” campaign initiated in Apr 2015 in the UK raised awareness by sharing videos and requesting individuals to sign their change.org petition https://www.change.org/p/help-the-homeless-on-their-period-thehomelessperiod . Although the petition is now closed with 111,735 supporters, the impact of the campaign reached around the globe. New York City donations of feminine hygiene products to homeless shelters quintupled this past year as a result of the campaign. Earlier, the Camden NJ based nonprofit “Distributing Dignity” was founded to specifically collect sanitary products and bras to give to domestic violence shelters in the US northeast (NY, NJ, PA) to help provide for American women who make up one third of all homeless people in shelters (19).

Community Action: Seeking donations of Feminine Hygiene Products
To address and bring awareness to the lack of feminine hygiene products available for homeless women, donations of boxes of tampons and pads to were sought after to be distributed to homeless women. It was felt that Elijah’s Promise in New Brunswick, NJ would be a good place to donate to as they interact with the homeless on a daily basis. Elijah’s promise provides 100,000 meals a year with an average of 300 meals a day. It is estimated that less than half of those meals were received by women who were menstruating. At the very most, they may serve about 100 menstruating women a day. In order to donate tampons and pads, multiple large companies including Proctor and Gamble, CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens, and Walmart were contacted. These companies either did not respond or did not offer to help (see some of the correspondence below).

It was decided to try to get donations by reaching out to the sororities on the Rutgers University New Brunswick campus including: Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Omega Epsilon, Delta Gamma, Gamma Phi Beta, Omega Phi Alpha, Phi Mu, Phi Sigma Sigma, (see some of the correspondence below). A tampon and pad drive was held within the Greek organizations and these products were donated to the “Dina’s Dwellings” collection at the Livingston Student Center. Making even a small difference in the lives of these women felt good.

The Rutgers University club called “Friends of UNFPA” decorated boxes for collecting feminine hygiene products to be set out at a future conference. They donate their collections to Women Aware, a domestic violence safe house in New Brunswick, NJ. After decorating these feminine hygiene donation boxes with the Friends of UNFPA and learning about Women Aware, the center was called to ask if they found the lack of hygiene products to be a problem. Barbara Perkins, the Director of Development for Women Aware” said that that money was more of a concern and that they usually have enough donations of goods. She did mention that “Asking for feminine hygiene products is awkward from an organizational standpoint.” I found this particularly poignant because this added another layer of complexity to the issue. Not only do donors not think to give feminine hygiene products, but the people running the shelters feel discomfort asking for them. Therefore, homeless women have an even greater difficulty getting the care they need.
Raising Awareness
By reaching out to some of the clubs and Greek life on campus, we helped raise awareness at Rutgers University of the issues that homeless women face here in the US. We also signed the “No Tax On Tampons: Stop Taxing Our Periods! Period” petition (https://www.change.org/p/u-s-state-legislators-stop-taxing-our-periods-period) to add our support to end taxation on feminine hygiene products like pads and tampons. In signing, we commented “It makes no sense to tax feminine hygiene/menstrual products. Check out our YouTube video entitled "Menstruation and Access to Feminine Hygiene Products: Unjust treatment of Women in the US and Abroad" Go to: https://youtu.be/LaAy7idsrhA”. The petition received the attention of “Newsweek” and was published as their cover story on Apr 4, 2016 issue (20). It is hoped that the petition, when sent to our US State Legislators, will persuade our legislators to remove the tax on these products.

Letter To Companies

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Nicole Scaramella and I am senior at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. I am currently working on a community action project entitled “It’s Part of Life. Period,” with Dr. Julie Fagan, and I believe you can help.

My project seeks to address the lack of feminine hygiene products available for homeless women, specifically in New Brunswick. This is a common issue for homeless women across the nation as donors do not think to donate tampons or sanitary pads as part of their contribution. Therefore, homeless women are forced to seek other avenues to care for this very basic female need. Every month, women on the streets struggle to clean themselves properly which can lead to infection. I am emailing you today on behalf of these women. Would you be willing to donate pads, tampons, and other feminine hygiene products to Women Aware, a safe home for survivors of domestic violence and Elijah’s Promise, a community soup kitchen in New Brunswick? As they are non profit organizations, we can provide a tax deduction for your generous contribution.

If you are willing to donate, we have provided an address below where we will collect and distribute the donations. Also, please provide an email to which a tax deduction receipt can be sent to. Thank you for your consideration and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Nicole Scaramella
nicolescaramella@gmail.com

Julie Fagan, Ph.D.
fagan@rutgers.edu

Please send donations to address below:
Nicole Scaramella  
109 Bartlett Hall  
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences  
Rutgers the State University of New Jersey  
84 Lipman Dr.  
New Brunswick, NJ 08903  

**Letter to Elijah’s Promise and Email Chain**

February 23, 2016  
Dear Ms. Jennifer Shukaitis,  

Hello, my name is Nicole Scaramella and I am a senior at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. I am currently working on a community action project with Dr. Julie Fagan entitled “It’s Part of Life. Period.” as part of an Ethics seminar. My project seeks to address the lack of feminine hygiene products available for homeless women, specifically in New Brunswick. Over the past few months, I have been researching the state of feminine hygiene in the homeless population and I have found it to be very troubling. As donors do not think to contribute tampons, pads, and other sanitary products, many women are forced to find alternative solutions. These solutions can lead to infection. After learning about this issue, I would like to get involved and support women in one of their most basic of needs.

I am emailing you today to inquire if you find this to be an issue in New Brunswick? Do women ask for these items? Are these items donated? About how many women frequent your establishment weekly? Do you know of any health or human services that addresses this issue in New Brunswick? If there is a substantial need, I am prepared to contact a company and request donations for women in our community. I wanted to get a better understanding of the issue locally before I took this step. Thank you for your help and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Scaramella  
nicolescaramella@gmail.com  

Julie Fagan, Ph.D.  
fagan@rutgers.edu

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February 24, 2016  
Hi Nicole,  

Thank you for your email. I do not work with the homeless population, so I do not have access to the information that you are looking for.
I do work with many organizations in New Brunswick that may be able to help you with the information you need. If you are looking for more contacts, I would be happy to help.

Good luck,

Jennifer Shukaitis, MPH
Senior Program Coordinator
Department of Family and Community Health Sciences
Rutgers Cooperative Extension

February 24, 2016
Dear Ms. Shukaitis,

Thank you for your reply! I would very much appreciate any contacts that you could share with me. I am very interested in gauging if there is a need in this population, so any information is very helpful.

Sincerely,
Nicole Scaramella

February 24, 2016

Food pantries and soup kitchens are probably your best bet:
Elijah’s Promise
Christ Church food pantry
Ebenezer Baptist Church
St. Vincent DePaul Society
Five Loaves Food Pantry

Jennifer Shukaitis, MPH
Senior Program Coordinator

February 24, 2016

Great! Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Nicole Scaramella

Proctor and Gamble Email Chain

To Whom It May Concern,
My name is Nicole Scaramella and I am senior at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. I am currently working on a community action project entitled “It’s Part of Life. Period,” with Dr. Julie Fagan, and I believe you can help.
My project seeks to address the lack of feminine hygiene products available for homeless women, specifically in New Brunswick. This is a common issue for homeless women across the nation as donors do not think to donate tampons or sanitary pads as part of their contribution. Therefore, homeless women are forced to seek other avenues to care for this very basic female need. Every month, women on the streets struggle to clean themselves properly which can lead to infection. I am emailing you today on behalf of these women. Would you be willing to donate pads, tampons, and other feminine hygiene products to Women Aware, a safe home for survivors of domestic violence and Elijah’s Promise, a community soup kitchen in New Brunswick? As they are non profit organizations, we can provide a tax deduction for your generous contribution.

If you are willing to donate, we have provided an address below where we will collect and distribute the donations. Also, please provide an email to which a tax deduction receipt can be sent to. Thank you for your consideration and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Nicole Scaramella
nicolescaramella@gmail.com
Julie Fagan, Ph.D.
fagan@rutgers.edu
Please send donations to address below:
Julie Fagan
109 Bartlett Hall
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Rutgers the State University of New Jersey
84 Lipman Dr.
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

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Thanks for Contacting P&G.
1 message

P&G Consumer Care <noreply.im@pg.com> Wed, Mar 9, 2016 at 9:07 AM
To: "nicolescaramella@gmail.com" <nicolescaramella@gmail.com>

Thanks for contacting P&G.
Our goal is to reply within 2 business days, but we’re currently experiencing a backlog and it may take a little longer than we’d like for you to hear back from us. Please know we’re doing our best to catch up. We’re so sorry for the inconvenience and we appreciate your patience.
We’ve assigned your email the reference number 01083575, and we’ll be using this number in any correspondence with you on this topic. If you happen to be in subsequent contact with us about this via phone or letter, please quote this reference number to enable us to find your details.
Please do not reply to this email, as it has been automatically generated by our system, and replies to it will not be seen.
Thank you again for contacting us.
P&G Consumer Relations

PLEASE NOTE:
On occasion emails can get held up because of settings used by your internet carrier or other technical reasons. If you emailed us previously and haven’t received a response it is also possible our response was redirected by your email filters and sent to a spam folder. The response also could have been blocked by your internet providers email settings, even if you received this initial acknowledgement email.

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Hello Nicole,

We wish we could help with all the requests for assistance we receive, but we get so many, it's just not possible. So instead, we donate surplus products to the following organizations.

- In the US, Feeding America, an organization capable of handling significant quantities of donated products and distributing them to non-profit agencies nationwide.
- In Canada, Food Banks Canada, an organization that distributes donations to food banks that help the needy across Canada.

We also contribute funding to other agencies such as the American Red Cross, The American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services Department, The US Department of Defense, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, UNICEF, CARE, and United Way International. Additionally, we support United Way, Centraide and Junior Achievement by making donations and providing volunteers.

Through our Live, Learn and Thrive program, we also support a wide range of Canadian charities that help children in need. If you would like to make a donation to our Live, Learn and Thrive program, please visit our website at www.pg.com/en_US/sustainability/social_responsibility/index.shtml.

If you’re looking to partner with P&G to sponsor an event, you may submit your proposal on our website. Just go to http://www.pgsupplier.com/en/prospective-suppliers.shtml and click on “Register Now”. Once submitted, it can take up to six weeks for you to receive a response. Please note that as a general rule, we will not
sponsors fundraising events or events that benefit the organizers, religious organizations, political groups, fraternal organizations, sports clubs or social groups.

I hope this information is helpful.

Thanks again for thinking of us.

Shelly
P&G Team
ref:_00D80PUz7._50080pMHZo:ref

**Your opinion for P&G really matters**
1 message

P&G Survey <pgcrsurvey.im@pg.com> Sat, Mar 19, 2016 at 8:46 AM
To: "nicolescaramella@gmail.com" <nicolescaramella@gmail.com>

Hi!

You recently got in touch with our P&G Consumer Care team and we would like to hear what you thought of the service you received.

Your feedback will help us to understand what we are doing well, and importantly where we can do better, so good or bad, your opinion really counts.

Your overall experience is very important to us so if we are still in the process of helping you please complete the survey once your query is fully resolved.

Please click the link below to begin the survey, it should only take 2-3 minutes to complete.

Thank you

Global Consumer Care Procter & Gamble
Please click here to begin the survey

**Email to Greek Sororities at Rutgers University**

Dear Sisters of [Sorority],
My name is Nicole Scaramella and I am a senior at Rutgers as well as the VP of Recruitment for Phi Delta Epsilon, the premedical fraternity on campus. I hope you are enjoying the last few weeks of school and the great weather!

I am emailing you today because I am hoping you can help. At the beginning of the semester, I learned about the difficult time homeless women have in regards to caring for their menstrual cycles and it broke my heart. Many homeless women do not have access to feminine hygiene products and therefore they either use unsanitary dirty rags, bits of cardboard, or soil their clothes. On top of that, they do not have access to showers to properly care for themselves.

So, because no woman should have to go through that, I decided to do something to help any women in New Brunswick needing these products. This is where I could use your help! Would your chapter be willing to collect new packages of feminine hygiene products (they cannot be opened or single tampons/pads) at one of your meetings? I would be happy to pick them up from you or come to the meeting and explain the issue in person. Any help that you can offer would be very much appreciated!

Thank you for your time and I hope to hear from you soon.
Best,
Nicole Scaramella

If you get the chance, please watch this short video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egDmmfKj7Zs

Replies to My Greek Emails

Hi Nicole,

My name is Francesca and I am OPA's service director. Your email about the feminine hygiene drive was forwarded to me and we would love to participate in this with you! That being said, we are actually doing a paper drive for Dina's Dwellings, a new women's shelter that just opened in New Brunswick. They are in a great need for feminine hygiene products so it would really be beneficial to both of us to work together. We will be having a collection box in the Livingston, Cook, and Douglass Student Centers where members of both chapters could drop off their donations from 4/24-4/30. This would also eliminate you having to come and collect the donations from us personally. Please let me know what you think as we would love to work with Phi Delta Epsilon on this very important issue.

Thank you,
Francesca

From Briana Brothers of Omega Phi Alpha
Hi Nicole,
Is this for Dina's Dwellings?

References

14. "Assemblymember Garcia Introduces "No Tax" on Feminine Hygiene Products Measure on the First Day of Session". 2016 California State Assembly


http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2015/04/22/3649300/homeless-sanitary-products/