

Why we should all be feminists.

Feminism is often considered a topic of conversation to avoid as it is seen to cause controversy. However I don't think this should be the case. There is an automatic subconscious link made between the prefix 'femi' and females making many people choose not to associate themselves with the movement as supposedly it is for women only. But I am going to redefine it for you. The Oxford English Dictionary states that feminism is being a person who supports the belief that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men. Which is much more reasonable no? The prefix 'femi' is used as for so long men have had more rights than women meaning the fight is to bring women up to the same level, not drag men down.

A question I have often heard is "well aren't we already 'pretty much' equal". The straight forward answer is no, and I have researched a study called the Data Gap to show this to you. For most of history there is only one perspective recorded. The lives of men have been used for generations to give an overall representation of a population leaving female shaped absences in our timeline. For example when we learn about cavemen we learn about 'Man the Hunter'. But what were women doing during this period in time? This silence is evident everywhere from literature to films, to science to news and is now affecting the everyday lives of women everywhere without you even realising.

The first example of this is in the police force. Stab proof vests and safety harnesses have been tested and designed to protect men, with the only requirement thought needed to be met for women was maybe a smaller size. This ignorance disregarded the difference in woman's chest, hips, and thigh sizes and resulted in a British police officer being stabbed and killed in 1997 due to insufficient PPE. Another female police officer has since come forward and stated that she got a breast reduction surgery to make her work life easier due to the problem with PPE. Another example is women being more at risk to car crashes. Cars have been designed using car crash dummies based on 'the average male'. Due to this, studies have shown women are 47% more likely than men to be seriously injured in a car crash, and 17% more likely to die! The other day I was reading an article about a professor of anthropology who had an antler bone with 28 markings on it. This bone had been alleged to be 'mans first attempt at a calendar'. The professor stated "what man would need to know when 28 days have passed? I suspect that this was a woman's first attempt at a calendar."

Feminism is a movement to bridge the gap all of these studies have so blatantly highlighted. Many people claim they believe in equality but would not call themselves a feminist with no real reason as to why. I believe it is due to the negative stigma society has created around the word, making the fight for equality seem almost shameful for women when in reality; is it not more shameful to say you aren't a feminist?

The data gap I have spoken about today is a very small part of first world inequality. In countries such as India it is legal for men to rape their wives without consequences. In Sudan girls as young as 10 are expected to get married and even in the US rapists can claim parental rights. So my question to you is: in a world so heavily geared towards men, why would you choose not to be a feminist?