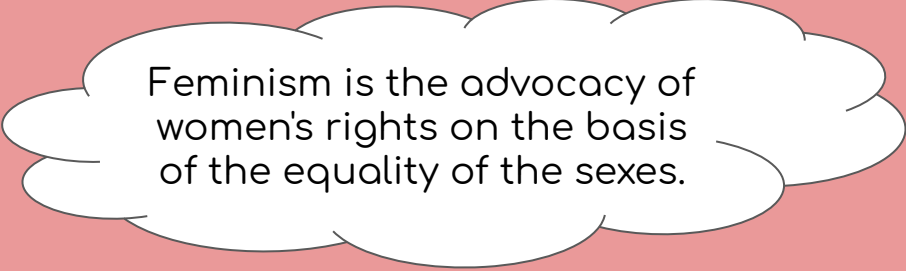


The Feminist Movement

By: Emera Cooper

What is Feminism? And what do feminists do?



Feminism is the advocacy of women's rights on the basis of the equality of the sexes.

- ★ Work to level the playing field between genders
- ★ Ensure that women and girls have the same opportunities in life available to boys and men
- ★ Gain overall respect for women's experiences, identities, knowledge and strengths
- ★ Challenge the systemic inequalities women face on a daily basis

History behind the Feminist Movement

First wave feminism (property and voting rights): In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott hosted the Seneca Falls Convention where they proclaimed their Declaration of Sentiments. From that we have the famous quote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal". They also demanded the right to vote. The women's suffrage movement had begun. With the exceptional work done by women during WWI, the 19th Amendment was passed granting women the right to vote. Women began to enter the workplace following The Great Depression. Women had active roles in the military during WWII. Following the Civil Rights movement, the Equal Pay Act was passed in 1963 to begin to address the unequal pay women in the workplace faced.

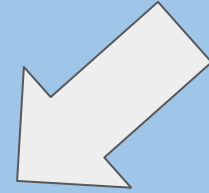
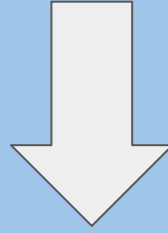
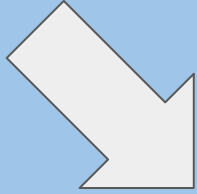
Second wave feminism (equality and discrimination): In 1971, feminist Gloria Steinem joined Betty Friedan and Bella Abzug in founding the National Women's Political Caucus. During this time many people had started referring to feminism as "women's liberation." In 1972 the Equal Rights Amendment was passed and women gained legal equality and discrimination of sex was banned. Following the ERA, in 1973, court case Roe v. Wade guaranteed a woman's right to an abortion.

Third wave feminism (discrimination of minorities): The second wave of feminism caused a serious backlash with it being primarily targeted to privileging of white, straight women. The Feminist Movement is working fix the failure to address the concerns of women of color, lesbians, immigrants and religious minorities in the first two waves. Recently the #MeToo has gained great prominence after the Harvey Weinstein allegations. Many women have gone to D.C to protest against Donald Trump because of his new administration and the perceived threat it represented to reproductive, civil and human rights. This was known as the Women's March.

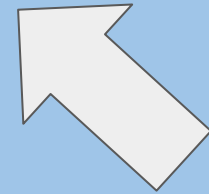
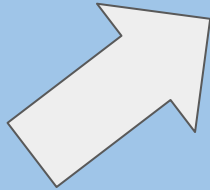
The idea that women are trying to provoke sexual interaction with men by wearing revealing clothes must be put to an end.

Equality for all women and men of the minority needs to be achieved.

Women being seen as just their body must be put to an end.



It is important to understand that the Feminist Movement is about equality for all; not, women becoming more than men. (I only included a few of the important issues the feminist movement works to resolve, there are so many more!)



The idea that men are more assertive and powerful and women are submissive and weak must be put to an end (gender power dynamic)

There is a common misconception that the movement is solely about women.

Movement focused on gender equality and empowering women while attempting to tear down the harmful gender roles, norms, and expectations that hurt us all, of every gender.

What is Roe v. Wade?

- ★ Roe v. Wade was a famous court case between Norma McCorvey, a woman with the wish to terminate an unwanted pregnancy and Henry Wade, an attorney who believed women should consider all options.
- ★ Roe v. Wade resulted in state's abortion ban being illegal because it violated a constitutional right to privacy under the 14th amendment.

What impact did it have?

- ★ "My body, my choice," is a very common phrase used when referring to abortion rights. Roe v. Wade made it possible for women to make an emotional decision to terminate their pregnancy if they feel that decision would better them and/or their babies life.
- ★ Before Roe v. Wade, abortion was illegal in all 50 states. This meant that women who were raped and got pregnant had to have a baby linked to probably the most traumatizing experience of their lives. Roe v. Wade made it possible for women to terminate their unwanted pregnancy and try to recover from their experience.
- ★ Recently 9 states have made laws banning abortion again. Which means Roe v. Wade was just the start to a long battle to legalize abortion indefinitely.
- ★ Roe v. Wade gave women something that they had over everyone else. In a society where women are treated unfairly women now had, in some sense, power. It is sad that the government had control over women being able to make decisions involving their own bodies.
- ★ Roe v. Wade helped to further the pro life side in the very controversial pro life, pro choice disagreement.

Only 17% of the seats in Congress are held by women.

Women earn 78 cents for every dollar a man makes.

Although 48% of law school graduates and 45% of law firm associates are female, women make up only 22% of federal-level and 26% of state-level judgeships



Resources

- ★ <https://iwda.org.au/learn/what-is-feminism/>
- ★ <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/feminism>
- ★ <https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/feminism-womens-history>
- ★ <https://medium.com/@cassandrathng/the-importance-of-feminism-27aee593cf96>
- ★ <https://www.history.com/topics/womens-rights/roe-v-wade>
- ★ <https://theconversation.com/how-roe-v-wade-changed-the-lives-of-american-women-99130>
- ★ <https://www.nicolesalgado.com/what-can-you-do-to-contribute-to-the-feminist-movement/>
- ★ <https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-feminism>
- ★ <https://primadona2016.files.wordpress.com/2018/04/feminism.jpg>
- ★ <https://conversations.e-flux.com/uploads/default/original/2X/a/af9c9d7919ac9bb9adf49da72bb508bc14ec611c.jpg>