

**FEMINISM & MASCULINITY**

**FEMINISM**

# Feminism

**Feminism-** The belief in the social, political, & economic equality of the sexes



**In the United States, the history of the women's movement can be divided into four historical waves...**

# First Wave

The first wave was the earliest period of feminist activism,

1850 until women won the right to vote with the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920

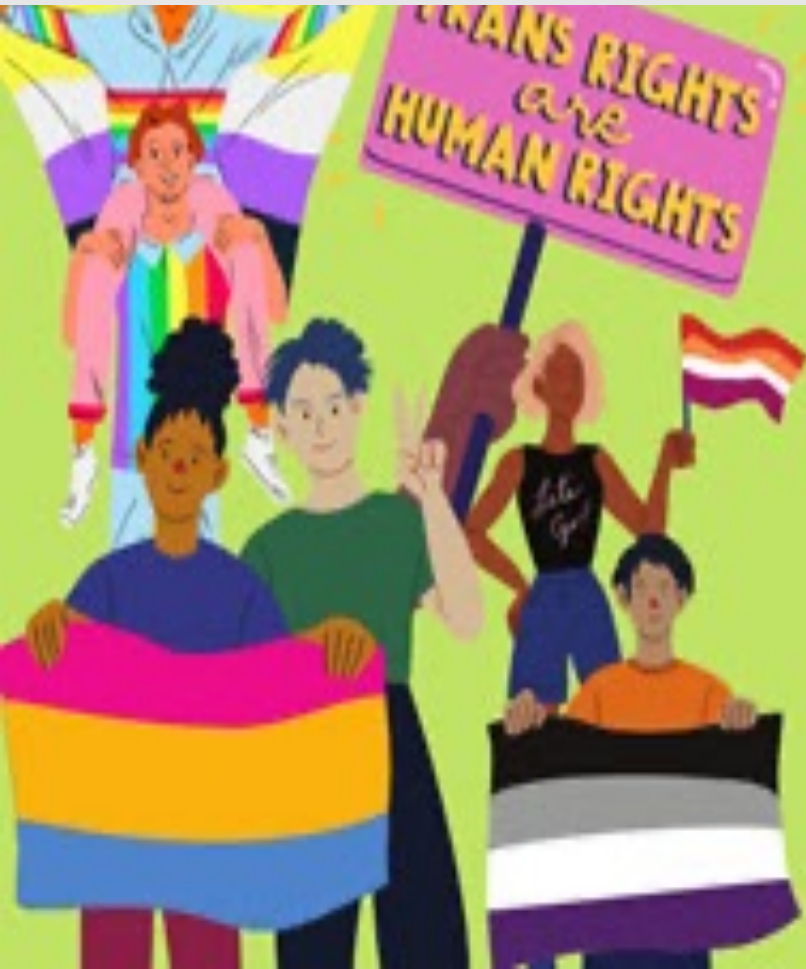


The campaign to gain the right to vote for women was called the “**suffrage movement**”



# Second Wave

**The Women's Liberation Movement-  
Inspired by the civil rights  
movement- 1960s & 1970s**



**Called for a break from the suburban  
domestication & for equal access to  
politics, education, & employment**



# Third Wave

Began in the 1990s & was influence by  
“riot grrrl” musicians & sex  
positivity



Focused on the construction of gender &  
the intersection of different forms of  
oppression- intersectionality



# Fourth Wave

**Began in 2012 using social media to highlight & address concerns such as body shaming & sexual violence**



**Emphasizes queer & trans inclusiveness & includes the #MeToo movement**



# Why People Believe Feminism Hates Men

*"The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women. it is about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians."*

—Pat Robertson

Pat Robertson famously said those words in the '90s, and the sentiment still rings as true in the ears of many today. It's an understatement to say that feminism has a bad rap. But feminism doesn't hate men. So why do so many people think feminism = man-hating? Let's look at a few explanations for this fallacy.



## 1) Because *Some* Individual Feminists Hate Men

- Ever heard the term misandrist? It's like misogynist but for hating men instead of women.
- Yes, misandrist is a word. But feminist doesn't mean "person who hates men." Feminist means "person who believes people should have equitable places in society regardless of their gender."
- Some feminists may be misandrists...But it's by no means a criterion to join the club.

## 1) Because *Some* Individual Feminists Hate Men

- A portion does not equal the whole, even if that portion is loud. They're not even that loud, but can seem so, because anti-feminists like to cherry-pick quotes and ignore the much greater number of feminists that say otherwise.
- Most feminists disagree with the belief that women are better than men and think that this belief goes against the fundamental principles of feminism, which say we're all deserving and worthy human beings and should be treated as such. So, man-hating isn't a part of that goal. It's the unfortunate reactionary sentiment of some misandrists who also identify with the feminist movement.

# Other Reasons

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- 2) Because people have been told feminists hate men for 200+ years:** a group with a lot of power tends to do whatever it can to maintain that power
- 3) Because most men aren't bad but think that feminism says they are:** most feminists don't blame individual men for hundreds of years of oppressive behavior just like you wouldn't point at a random white person today and blame them for slavery



## Other Reasons

- 4) Because some feminists aren't willing to address men's issues:** "men's issues" tend to be the default because we're a male-dominant society; many feminists support tackling men's issues without blaming women for all the problems (like many men's rights activists do)
- 5) Because sensationalism is a good way to distract from real issues:** by putting oppressed groups on the defensive instead of dealing with inequality, privileged groups don't have to give up unearned power



# Should we stick with the term “feminism?”

“...I vote for sticking with “feminism” because feminism has deep roots, is a recognizable movement, and, despite its faults, has done a lot for the betterment of people of all genders, and specifically for women and trans people. But you don’t have to agree with me. You can call yourself a Humanist, a Gender Equitist, or a Separatist for all I care—I think we can focus our time and energy on working together to make things better for people of all genders, not squabbling over semantics.”

# Discuss!



**Should people who believe in sex & gender stick with the word feminism or use a different term? What term if we do change it?**



**MASCULINITY**

# Patriarchy and Problems

“There are a lot of societal problems that acutely affect men: men are less likely to graduate from college, and much less likely to continue education post-grad than women; men are more likely to be victims and perpetrators of crime, especially violent crime; due to this, men are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system; men are more likely to experience clinical anxiety and depression; due to this and other compounding factors, men are far more likely to take their own lives.”



# Patriarchy and Expectations

“Patriarchy sets up a series of strict and unrealistic expectations for all men. It says men should be aggressive and not submissive; men should take charge and not take no for an answer; men are smarter and better than women; and showing emotion or weakness is a lowering yourself to the level of women, and forbidden.

The unrealistic and unhealthy expectations set forth for men in a patriarchal society, one that reinforces a gender binary and gender hierarchy, can be just as destructive for men as it is for individuals of any other gender.”

# VIDEO LINKS



## Videos:

1. The Mask You Live In-Trailer (3:09)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hc45-ptHMxo>

2. Tough Guise 2 (10:03)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4WEusN0MkQ>

3. How I unlearned dangerous lessons about masculinity | Eldra Jackson (11:13)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/eldra\\_jackson\\_how\\_i\\_unlearned\\_dangerous\\_lessons\\_about\\_masculinity?language=en&referrer=playlist-itunes\\_podcasts\\_society\\_culture](https://www.ted.com/talks/eldra_jackson_how_i_unlearned_dangerous_lessons_about_masculinity?language=en&referrer=playlist-itunes_podcasts_society_culture)



# “Toxic Masculinity”



## WHAT IS TOXIC MASCULINITY?

Masculinity becomes toxic when men feel they need to conform to rigid gender norms, which include:

- Acting like a bully to maintain a constant competitive advantage.
- Avoiding losing at all costs.
- Restraining one's emotions, except for pride and anger (which are the only “acceptable” masculine emotions to express).
- Showing strength and aggression in moments of conflict.
- Being dominant over women and other men (which is typically displayed through microaggressions).

# Discuss!



**Should people who believe  
in sex & gender equality  
use the term “toxic  
masculinity?”**

