

Feminism: Inclusive or Exclusive?

A feminist is someone who angrily proclaims their views clutching onto their placards with short hair and scruffy clothes. Right?

Wrong. A feminist is not just a woman although that is what society has manipulated us to believe. Feminism should embrace both men and women.

Currently we live in a society where women are beginning to take action and voice their opinions to the rest of the world. However, often the word 'Feminism' is seen as a taboo or even a term with negative connotations. So, is the rapid increase in feminism something that people should be fearful of or is the newfound confidence that women have gained an inspiration to the younger generation?

My uncle and I one evening found ourselves stumbling upon the topic of feminism and when questioned about his opinions on it he replied: "I absolutely support it because it allows women to be independent and have a voice which is valued." I then asked him whether he considered himself a feminist and he responded with "I don't know if I can be."

Often, feminism is seen as a woman's issue; however men are constantly overlooked and are put in a position where they feel excluded. So perhaps what needs to be cleared up is that feminism is about the combined efforts of both genders. By definition feminism means "the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes." In order to gain equality both men and women need to understand and declare that women's rights are in fact human rights.

Recent advertisements promoting feminism have included celebrities such as Benedict Cumberbatch, Daniel Radcliffe, Mark Ruffalo and many other men who have proved that no matter

What your gender identity; if you are fighting for equality then you are encouraged welcomed and celebrated!

Too many people are afraid to call themselves feminists because of how they are perceived. You do not have to be offended by anything anyone says about women, you do not have to be overly sensitive and you certainly *do not* have to be a woman to believe that the world would be a better place if both genders unite in their beliefs, morals and rights.



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