

Not That Kind of Feminist: Moving Beyond White Feminism

A Webinar by Marina Watanabe, Brought to You by Everyday Feminism

BREAKING DOWN WHITE FEMINISM

White feminism has primarily been used to describe feminism that leaves out women of color and people of color; however, the term can also be applied more broadly to other intersections. What are other spheres of oppression that this type of feminism also commonly leaves out?

The term “white feminism” can be confusing for some folks who assume it only applies to race. What are some alternative terms that might better describe non-intersectional feminism?

THE HISTORY OF INTERSECTIONALITY

Exercise: Take a few minutes to pause and reflect on the various intersections that make up your identity. In what ways do you hold privileges in society? In what ways are you marginalized? Use the Wheel of Oppression as a guideline to map out your identities below using the privileged/oppressed dichotomy. Think about how this affects the way you move through the world.

APPLYING INTERSECTIONALITY THEORY TO CURRENT MOVEMENTS

Exercise: Take a moment to pause and write down current social justice movements that you think lack intersectionality. In which ways are they exclusionary?

What are some commonly used terms and language within mainstream feminist discourse and media that may be exclusionary or make folks feel unwelcome? List them below.

Think of a time in which another person's/group's language made you feel uncomfortable or stigmatized. Identify the reason(s) you felt unwelcome or excluded.

ENVISIONING A MORE ACCESSIBLE FEMINISM

After identifying exclusionary language commonly used within social justice spaces, brainstorm some of the ways we can shift our language to be more inclusive. Are these simple fixes or do they require a larger shift in our feminist frameworks?

What are 3 issues/struggles multiply marginalized folks face that are often ignored within mainstream feminism? How can you bring awareness to these issues within your own communities without speaking over/for them?

Identify 3 common barriers within our movements and spaces that may make them inaccessible to folks who are disabled, low-income, LGBTQIA+, etc. Now brainstorm solutions to these barriers and what you can do to personally help implement them?