

Monthly Bulletin January – Sexism

Welcome

January's topic is Sexism. The Monthly Bulletin can be used in clubs, classes and companies; as well as, just shared with friends and family. There is a section on: definitions, videos, articles/handouts, resources, important dates in history, statistics and questions to ponder. We hope you find this information informative and helpful. 😊

Definitions: All definitions are United States based.

Sexism: A systematic privileging of men over woman which is maintained by individuals and institutions and is historically rooted in the United States.

Male Privilege: Unearned social, political and economic advantages given to men, that is reinforced by law, policy and cultural norms, allowing men to receive unequal allocation of goods, resources and services that women do not have access to.

Rape Culture: A culture created in society that excuses, minimalizes and normalizes rape and sexual assault.

Sexual Harassment: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that tends to create a hostile or offensive work environment.

Objectification: The process of turning a human into a commodity or object. In sexism the sexual objectification of women is to see women solely for her body and/or the services her body can perform.

Misogyny: The hatred or dislike of woman or girls.

Patriarchy: The conscious or unconscious belief that men are in charge or the bosses of a given situation, based solely on their male privilege. Patriarchy plays out everywhere, some examples: in the family, community, workplace, government and churches.

Videos

- Miss Representation: A documentary on women in the media - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyC2iWrSYJ8>

- TED Talk: Sarah Kay’s “If I should ever have a daughter” – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQgz2AhHaQg>
- Killing Us Softly IV – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCzG4bHGzRg>
- TED Talk: Jackson Katz’s “Violence Against Women: It’s a Men’s Issue” - http://www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue.html
- How the Media Failed Women in 2013 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NswJ4kO9uHc>
- TED Talk: Caroline Heldman’s “The Sexy Lie” - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMS4VJKekW8>
- Gynotician - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRnYIQmR1eQ>
- Brave New Voices - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXk3uhlhAVY>
- “Why would women want an abortion?” - <http://www.upworthy.com/a-dude-trying-to-ban-abortions-is-asked-a-question-he-never-considered-its-so-obvious-it-hurts-8>
- “Not Ever” - http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=h95-IL3C-Z8
- Lily Meyers’s poem “Shrinking Women” - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQucWXWXP3k>
- TED Talk: Pizza (How we should talk about sex and communication) - http://www.ted.com/talks/al_ernacchio_sex_needs_a_new_metaphor_here_s_one.html
- ABC 20/20 What would you do?: Abusive Boyfriend
Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ANNO33UOLE>
Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0ONij6eB-k>

Articles/Handouts

- “Why do women try to get ahead by pulling men down?” - <https://medium.com/thoughts-on-society/a1345b36b91b>

- Silenced: Gender Gap in the 2012 Election Coverage - <http://www.4thestate.net/female-voices-in-media-infographic/#.T8zmo9WmiSp>
- When Your Mother Says She's Fat - <https://medium.com/human-parts/bf5111e68cc1>
- The Fabric of Internalized Sexism – See PDF
- Infographics about Women in the workforce, media, and politics - <http://therepresentationproject.org/infographics>
- “Sexism at the Border: A Personal Account” - <http://rabble.ca/news/2013/04/sexism-border-personal-account>

Statistics

- American women make up about half of the work force, but the average woman only makes 77% of what the average man makes and women of color earn even less.
- In a 17 month long study by Crown Protection Services, there were 5,561 prosecutions of rape and only 35 prosecutions for making false allegations of rape (.6%).
- 1 in 4 women are abused by a partner in their lifetime.
- 1 in 6 women are survivors of rape or attempted rape. 1 in 4 on college campuses.
- Women hold only 3% of clout positions in the mainstream media (telecommunications, entertainment, publishing, and advertising)
- 53% of 13-year-old girls are unhappy with their bodies. That number increases to 78% by age 17.
- 80% of 10-year-old American girls say they have been on a diet. The number one magic wish for young girls age 11-17 is to be thinner.
- 87% of all US counties have no abortion provider.
- Of the 36.2 million women in need of contraception, almost half need publicly funded services to obtain contraceptive services.

Citations:

- *The Shriver Report: A Woman's Nation Pushes Back From The Brink*
- http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/research/perverting_course_of_justice_march_2013.pdf
- <http://therepresentationproject.org/statistics#sthash.Y0iG0Xuy.dpuf>
- <http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/assets/files/10-facts-abortion.pdf>

- http://www.gutmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html
 - <http://www.nirhealth.org/sections/publications/documents/contraceptiveaccessquicksheetFINAL.pdf>
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Just a Glimpse into Important U.S. Women's Rights and Feminism History

1848 – The first women's rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, NY.

1920 – The 19th Amendment to the Constitution gives women the right to vote.

1960 – The Food and Drug Administration approves birth control pills.

1963 – Congress passes the Equal Pay Act, which states that employers cannot pay women less for doing the same job as a man.

1964 – Title VII of the Civil Rights Act makes it illegal to discriminate in employment in regards to race and sex.

1972 – Title IX of the Education Amendments makes sex discrimination in schools illegal. This allows women to start participating in athletic programs and other activities.

1973 – Supreme Court Case *Roe v. Wade* gives women the right to safe and legal abortion.

1994 – The Violence Against Women Act offers support for victims of rape and domestic violence and tightens federal penalties for perpetrators.

2013 – The FDA approves the Plan B One-Step emergency contraceptive to be sold over-the-counter in drugstores. Employees of the drugstore are still allowed to refuse to sell you Plan B if they have religious objections, but they are required to refer you to someone who will sell it to you.

- Source: <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenstimeline1.html>
 - Source: <http://www.fda.gov/newsevents/newsroom/pressannouncements/ucm358082.htm>
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Resources

- The Everyday Sexism Project - <http://everydaysexism.com/>
- The Representation Project - <http://therepresentationproject.org/>
- Hollaback: You have the power to end street harassment - <http://www.ihollaback.org/>
- FORCE: Upsetting Rape Culture - <http://upsettingrapeculture.com/>

- Feminist Majority Foundation - <http://www.feminist.org/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network) Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) and website: <http://www.rainn.org/>
- Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-233-5001
- AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center: 1-800-560-0717
- Eating Disorders Center: 1-888-236-1188
- NARAL Pro-Choice America interactive map of choice related laws in the United States - <http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/government-and-you/state-governments/>

Questions to Further Ponder

1. When were you first aware of differences between sexes? What were the messages you received about people of your sex and of other sexes? Was the information positive or negative? If you received negative messages, or stereotypes, have you changed your perspective?
2. What would society look like if the sexes were equal? How much would change? Would those changes be positive or negative?
3. Is encouraging equality for all sexes detrimental to men? In what ways are men currently hindered by sexism?
4. Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not?