

- [Not Everything Is About You](#)

You think I just don't understand, but I don't believe you.

Search:



Females First

05 Thursday Jan 2012

Posted by [bugbrennan](#) in [National](#)

≈ [8 Comments](#)

Tags

[Female](#), [Feminism](#), [Lesbian](#), [women](#)

The last thing Females want to be called is “Feminist” – because that might mean “Man Hating.” That’s bad for Straight Ladies, because then someone might think them Lesbian. Even though Lesbians don’t want to couple with Males, Lesbians are “supposed” to be socially available to them and not “Man Haters.” (I know I’ve been called “[Man Hater](#)” before!) So heaven forbid if you’re Feminist!

Patriarchy socializes Females to distrust other Females. And we do. Females fall into other Identity Communities – away from – and often at odds with – each other. Goddess forbid Females actually used Feminism to advance rights for *Females*. What about the Males?

Because of our socialization, Females resist coming together, or even identifying, as a *class*. Accordingly, Females are the most dissolved, invisible ingredient in the Great American Melting Pot. We hear of White, Gay, Black, or [Poor People](#). When discussing Poor People, nobody asks whether they are Male or Females (even though – as a class – the Poor are Female and the Rich are Male). Only when discussing Females do concern trolls come calling to ensure you discuss *Poor Females*, *Brown Females*, [Vegan](#) Females, *Gay Females*, (*Fill In The Blank*) Females. That’s no coincidence. Patriarchy places these filters in front of Females to prevent us from perceiving each other as *members of the same oppressed class*.

These obstacles destroy the need for further details by Patriarchy because Females don’t talk to each other *as members of the same class*. It divides Females.

Baltimore has no “Women’s Community.” We have the Choice Community, Domestic Violence Community, White Lesbian Community, Black Lesbian Community, and Peace Community, to name a few – but Females inhabiting these worlds don’t generally mix. What would happen if Females talked to each other about what *connects* us – our Female-ness.

As a Lesbian, here’s a truth anathema to the [Gay Community](#) and one that does not reflect “the law.” [Sexual orientation](#) discrimination doesn’t exist. That’s right. Sexual orientation doesn’t exist anymore than “[gender identity](#)” discrimination exists. When I am treated badly because I “look Butch,” that’s *sex* discrimination. Heterosexual women lose promotions to less-qualified men because of *sex* discrimination.

Sex discrimination impacts Females. All Females. We might suffer in degrees, but the root is the same. The root is our sex, and how society used and grooms Females.

Call it sexism or misogyny – sex discrimination is the air we breathe and the water we drink. It is so pervasive that Females (and Males) don’t see it. When we do see it, when all the filters are lifted, you might feel crazy. Your 20/20 vision will earn you contempt from the majority of Females (and Males) who ignore how much “being Female” hurts.

Think about EVERY way in which “society” disadvantages Females. Laws dictate what we can do with our bodies. We are sold a bill of goods on [Femininity](#) that makes us hate ourselves. We must be [Porn Sexy](#) and [Slutty](#). “Traditionally” Female occupations are [low wage](#).

Once you’ve taken inventory, know, Females, that I love you. I don’t like to get mushy with you, but I feel like you need to know. Focus on

Females. Yes, other forms of oppression exist. No doubt.

But what would happen if Females started to organize based on our Female-ness? What if we organized around those agenda items that benefit *Females*?

We'd need to identify our agenda. Before we did that, we'd have to let go of whatever Identity to which we cling, as these Identities are obstacles to organizing as Females. After that work, ask "what do Females need"? Females have concerns related to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion because of *biology*. Controlling our bodies is a key element of Female Liberation. Females that have control over fertility have greater education, employment and political participation than Females who [lack that control](#). Females must dictate our sexuality because sexuality has *dire consequences* for us.

I understand why Females do [Identity Politics](#). It's "easier" to localize the "problem" in a smaller Identity Group (wherein I might become a White Butch Dyke). But it does *nothing* for Females. Your little Identity Group might be safe for *you*, but it's not enough.

Females *need* each other. Females should prioritize the good of Females. Feminism provides a new lens through which to analyze What Females Need. What would happen if all Females were Feminist?

Maybe we'd have an [Equal Rights Amendment](#) – "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the [United States](#) or by any state on account of sex." The Equal Rights Amendment *still* hasn't been adopted. The [U.S. Constitution](#) does not explicitly protect and extend rights equally without regard to sex (except the Right to Vote). Really.

Females, we could do [this](#). What if we got together in 2012 and realized how much Power we have?

Females – we're worth it.

Friday, 30 December 2011

<http://www.baltimoreoutloud.com/k2-fetch-latest/ladybugs-political-smackdown/item/974-females-first>

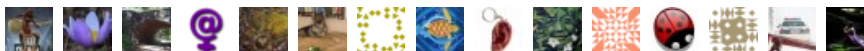
Share The Love:



Like this:



15 bloggers like this post.



Post navigation

[← Previous post](#) [Next post →](#)

8 thoughts on “Females First”

1.  Mary Sunshine *said*:

[January 5, 2012 at 3:04 pm](#)

Yes.

And while we are living under these conditions of duress, we need large, secure, full time, permanent male-free spaces in which to live, produce all of our necessities, nurture our beings, become happy again (or maybe for the first time in our lives), and *only then* decide whether or not, and under what conditions, any one of us would want to go back to living in a heterosocial space.

[Reply](#)

2.  almostclever *said*:

[January 5, 2012 at 6:47 pm](#)

I LOVE this. Yet, I feel like our niches and sub groups happen BECAUSE when they don't, white heterosexual middle class feminism becomes the standard – and women who don't fit that reject it, and so there we are, in our nice little sub groupings.

I think diversity is a strength we can take advantage of, yet being a feminist of different race/ethnicity, culture, religion (or non), social class, etc.. is going to give each of us different priorities based on our self interests, in walks the in-fighting.

What is a common ground we all have as women, regardless of our labels or politics? Patriarchy, right? So what is our next step from that understanding?

I completely agree with your post, and I think our first obstacle is bridging the divisions. Sex positive and radical feminists refuse to even have a blogroll with a diversity of feminists on it – lest they have their identities or “feminism” questioned.

It’s a long road.

[Reply](#)

3.  [liberationislife](#) said:

[January 6, 2012 at 12:53 am](#)

I think the answer to this question is interesting:

‘But what would happen if Females started to organize based on our Female-ness? What if we organized around those agenda items that benefit Females?’

Since as you say, most women are very poor (in fact women are a majority of the poor), getting rid of capitalism is important for women.

Most women aren’t of recently European descent, so organising against racism, national oppression and imperialist exploitation is vital to defending the interests of the majority of women.

And all of the above are factors which powerfully increase the dispossession of our sexual and reproductive autonomy.

But

(i) it won’t be obvious to many women that ‘patriarchy’ is the cause of all the various ways they experience oppression (it isn’t obvious to me),
and

(ii) a powerful feminist movement requires naming and addressing these dynamics that maintain women’s oppression (part of identifying our agenda, as you say).

Opposing ‘patriarchy’, even if we agree to name the root cause as that, doesn’t help us enough in doing this.

In any case, I agree with you that this turn inwards, to dividing ourselves into smaller and smaller ‘identities’, prevents us from looking outwards and uniting as we need to as the oppressed sex.

[Reply](#)

4.  [almostclever](#) said:

[January 6, 2012 at 2:23 am](#)

Good points, liberationislife.

[Reply](#)


5. Pingback: [do we agree on nothing? « Rooted In Being](#)

6.  [DaveSquirrel](#) said:

[January 8, 2012 at 5:07 am](#)

Love it. Spot on!

[Reply](#)

7.  [rainsinger](#) said:

[January 9, 2012 at 5:43 am](#)

I used to think the prefixes, or qualifiers etc before ‘feminist’, were like patronyms... they are male-defined groupings and definitions, that distinguish between groups of males... by putting a “patronym” before your femaleness... you are in effect, saying that you are owned by a specific male-dominant Group A or Group B etc.

We lost “women’s liberation” – and now we can’t even keep the word “woman” thanks to trans... anything to split us up as a class.

.

[Reply](#)

8.  [allecto](#) said:

[January 11, 2012 at 9:09 am](#)

Fucking. Brilliant. Post. That's all I got to say!

[Reply](#)

Leave a Reply

Enter your comment here...

Fill in your details below or click an icon to log in:



Email (required)

(Not published)

Name (required)

Website



Notify me of follow-up comments via email.

[Post Comment](#)

Search:

♣ Recent Posts

- [An Open Letter to A Radical Profeminist and Other Would-Be Helpers](#)
- [Organizing For Our Lives](#)
- [It's Groundhog Day](#)
- [Gender Identity](#)
- [Females First](#)

♣ Archives

- [January 2012](#)
- [December 2011](#)

♣ Categories

- [Maryland](#)
- [National](#)

♣ Meta

- [Register](#)
- [Log in](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.com](#)

