

This task was incredibly open, with the option to choose your topic depending on your interests. I chose 'Feminism' as my topic as current events have shown different and often flawed views on feminism. Additionally, many people's views on feminism are twisted by incorrect or contorted statistics and facts, and sometimes reminders are necessary to emphasise the true values of a feminist.

# We need Feminism in our modern world

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The official definition of feminism is the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes. Seems irrelevant now we have the vote, and the Anti-discrimination act doesn't it? Wrong. Currently, the gender pay gap is at 14%. While this is an improvement from previous years this means that throughout a woman's lifetime, she will earn 14% less than a man. The Workplace Gender Equality agency shows the main reasons of the gender pay gap include discrimination in hiring women, female dominated industries attracting lower wages, as well as a woman's disproportionate share of unpaid domestic work. Feminism is still needed, even in first world countries. We need feminism because the odds of being attacked by a shark is 1 in well over 3 million while the odds of being raped are 1 in 6, and yet to have a fear of sharks is completely normal but to take precautions around being raped is seen as misandry. We need feminism because boys get told to have fun, while girls get told to be safe. We need feminism because Australia has only had one female prime minister. We need feminism because most of my friends have a story about being spoken to by a creepy man on the street. We have come far, but not far enough. We need feminism in a modern world.

Men hold the majority of leadership roles in both female and male dominated industries. Women only make up 17.1% of CEOs in Australia. This just goes to show that men are constantly being projected as clever leaders while women are seen as being unstable and someone who lives to serve. Men constantly benefit from misogyny, while women are always the victim.

If I were to apply for a job and get to the interview stage, I would have 30% less of a chance of getting the occupation than a man of the same traits who does the exact same thing. This is a clear representation of bias, whether intentional or unintentional, is unacceptable and a clear show of how the patriarchy twists minds and instincts. Become a feminist and stop this. Calling yourself a feminist does not mean you hate men or that you think they are worthless like this misogynist society has presented it to be. Feminism is the equality of the genders; equality does not mean same. Equality is not saying that all genders are the same, it is acknowledging that we are all different and respecting everyone regardless of their gender identity.

Not one country in the world has achieved full gender equality, but we don't need feminism, right? If you think other countries are bad, take a good look at Australia. One in two Australian women over 18 have experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime. That is half of all women in Australia. Let that sink in. Chances are you know someone who has been sexually harassed. We need to fix this. We need to stop blaming the victim for rape with careless words like 'what were you wearing?' or 'but not all men'. We need to stop excusing men for sexual assault just because they 'have a future ahead of them.' Women are constantly being told what to do, just because 'boys won't like you if you do that.' Well guess what? I am not doing it so boys like me, I am doing it because I want to, and I like to. I have never heard anyone say anything to a boy when he's wearing shorts, but I, and many other women and girls are told that our bra strap is showing, or our shorts are too revealing. Not once have I heard someone comment on how revealing boys' clothes are. That needs to change, and us feminists must be the ones to change it.

There is absolutely no need to have segregated sports. Chess is considered a sport and that is segregated for no reason other than sexism. If segregating sports was actually about skill level, then it would be divided by skill level and not by gender. Remember when Billie Jean King beat Bobby Riggs in 1973? She won in three sets. Remember when Jackie Mitchell struck out Babe Ruth? Earlier Babe Ruth told the newspaper that 'it would kill women to play ball every day.' Remember the last time they had a mixed shooting competition and a woman named Zhang Shan won it? Don't even get me started on the pay gap. On the annual highest paid athletes list, made by Forbes, there was only one woman, only one. Women, on average, earn about \$43,000 less than men as athletes, according to the Workplace gender equality agency run by the Australian Government. This is absolutely ridiculous. We are treating someone differently because of who they think they are? We are treating someone worse solely because of what they wear or use to express their gender? Sports do not need to be separated by gender and the pay gap certainly does not need to be that large.

Some people don't like feminism because it is a word that is often associated with misandry, the bias against men. What if I told you that the association with misandry is a lie spread by the patriarchy? Feminism is a necessary movement to free everyone from social, economic, and political constraints and yet suddenly it turned into a group who hate men. True misogyny is having a movement about everyone be shunned because suddenly, women need help too!

We comfort ourselves with the pretence that 'we have come so far!' without acknowledging that we have a lot further to go. We help ourselves to the privileges we have without having a second thought about the people who don't. Think to yourself, have we truly recognised and acted against misogyny? The answer is no we haven't, because as soon as the patriarchy is conquered, faith in humanity will be restored.