

3 Waves of Feminism

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What feminism is

- Feminism is a collection of political movements, social movements and ideologies that defend the political, the economic, the personal and the social rights of women.
- Feminist movements aim at achieving and establishing equality between women and men.
- Feminists act, speak, write and advocate on behalf of women's issues and rights and identify injustice to females in the social status quo.



What feminism is

Feminist: A person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes.



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*What feminism is **NOT***

- Feminism is not the belief that women are superior
- Feminism is not hating men (misandry)
- Feminism is not male oppression



Waves of Feminism

- The history of the feminist movements is divided into three "waves".
- The first wave refers to the movement of the 19th through early 20th centuries, which dealt mainly with suffrage, working conditions and educational rights for women and girls.
- The second wave (1960s-1980s) dealt with the inequality of laws, as well as cultural inequalities and the role of women in society.
- The third wave of feminism (1990s-2000s?) is seen as both a continuation of the second wave and a response to the perceived failures.



First-Wave Feminism

First-wave feminism involved a period of feminist activity during the 19th and early 20th centuries, especially in Europe and in the United States.

Key concerns:

- women's suffrage (the right to vote)
- the right to education
- better working conditions
- marriage and property laws
- reproductive rights



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First-Wave Feminism

Woman Suffrage Parade of 1913



Silent Sentinels 1917-1919



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Second-Wave Feminism

Second-wave feminism is a period of feminist activity and thought that first began in the early 1960s in USA and spread all over the western world and beyond.

Key concerns:

- raising consciousness about sexism and patriarchy
- raising consciousness about gender based violence, domestic abuse and marital rape
- inequalities in the workplace
- legalizing abortion and birth control
- sexual liberation of women



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Third-Wave Feminism

The third wave of feminism (1990s-2000s?) arose partially as a response to the perceived failures of second-wave feminism

Key concerns:

- Intersectionality
- The diversity of "women" is recognized and emphasis is placed on identity, gender, race, nation, social order and sexual preference
- Changes on stereotypes, media portrayals and language used to define women.
- Sexual identities



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Feminism in the 21st century

- What is the place of feminism in the world today?
- Does feminism have a place in your country?
- Do women in your country call themselves feminists?
- Is feminism “a bad word” in your country?

