

Women's Rights

and the Forgotten

and Affected



BY ALLY TREPANIER AND ELLIAN COX

Feminism has and will continue to evolve rapidly, and as the world rapidly changes with it, it's easy to forget its roots. And, while feminism has undoubtedly done a lot of good, mainstream movements have often neglected those whose identities are too 'divisive' for the outside society to digest. This includes people of colour, queer folk, disabled people, and poor people, to name a few factors that funnel into one's own disenfranchisement.

Still, from these people being overlooked came subcultures and movements that are essential to understanding feminism, inclusion, and how to move on with this awareness.

This is non-exhaustive, and it's recommended to do further research into these topics.





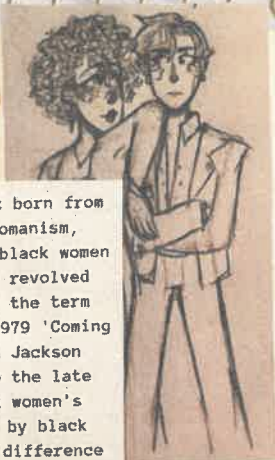
Who Gets to Vote?

Active in Canada during the early twentieth century, the Suffragettes are rightfully recognized as the group who kickstarted the fight for women's right to vote. But what many don't know is that they only fought for the right to vote for white, able-bodied, wealthier women.


Many were racist, and supported the eugenics movement— a movement that espoused the idea of selective breeding to promote a 'better' human race, and was the basis for forced sterilisation in Canada of women of colour (most notably indigenous), and disabled women. When white women got the right to vote in Canada, sometimes it took decades for those laws to catch up for mainly Indigenous and Asian women.

One of the lines of feminist thought born from this is known today as Africana womanism, birthed from the disenfranchisement black women faced regarding how often feminism revolved strictly around white women. While the term wasn't coined until Alice Walker's 1979 'Coming Apart', authors like Dean Deborah Jackson consider it prevalent even back to the late 1800s. Aside from uplifting black women's experiences and being spearheaded by black feminists, Jackson describes a big difference between the theories: "[f]eminism... sought an


independence from and exclusion of male participation that Africana Womanism does not promote". Specifically, she cites the movement during the post-enslavement era, pointing out how black women fought for the expansion of rights for black men, alongside black women, and celebrated when black men gained the right to vote, even though black women were still disenfranchised and the fight wasn't over.



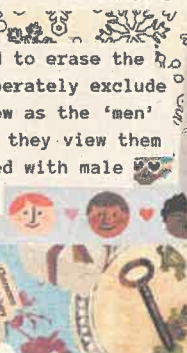
Woman Womyn



The term 'women' has a history of describing white femininity, an ideal woman is an attractive white woman, so by proxy people who don't fit into that mold feel that the label doesn't include them.



From this thought came the word 'womyn', first used in a 1975 issue of Lesbian Connection that announced the Wolf Creek Womyn's Festival (today, it's WOLF Fest), the radical feminist festival. The festival was and is still only open to 'womyn-born-womyn', or 'females who survived girlhood' according to them, discriminating and barring trans-women from being welcome to the women's fest.



Womyn is a word designed to erase the suffix of man/men to deliberately exclude trans women, who they view as the 'men' excluded from 'womyn', as they view them as men by being birthed with male genitalia.

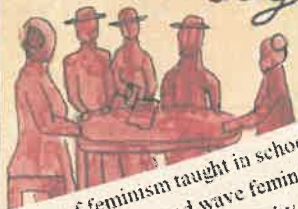


Womxn

The word 'womxn', with the opposite intentions of 'womyn', aims to include anyone who wishes to self-identify with the word. Womxn was created to recognise the fact that the idea of womanhood is infinite and includes more than just cisgender women, including transgender and nonbinary women. The 'x' is meant like the mathematical 'x', to identify an infinite or unknown quantity.



Feminist History



The history of feminism taught in schools is largely focused on white, first and second wave feminism, with traditional formats being occupied primarily by white, cis, able-bodied feminists, others turn to formats like zines, TikToks, and other forms of social media. They are often discounted as not proper sources of forums for activism but are rich with uncensored information and experiences from racialized, disabled, queer and trans voices.

AFRO PUNK



RIOT GRRLS



RIOT-GHOULS



C-PUNK



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR
IDENTITY IS TOO REVOLUTIONARY
FOR THE REVOLUTION?

WOMEN'S



Empowerment

Even without language or direct communication, it is obvious that many resources with the intention of empowerment follow a Eurocentric, white, cis, abled model of femininity, those who do not fit into these specific criteria are not thought of when one thinks of a woman, so often by default, they are rarely represented and empowered by the imagery, resources, etc. That is given the most attention and time.

WOMEN'S



Empowerment

Are you
feeling
empowered?



TERFS ON OUR TURF?

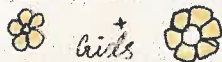
"Safe spaces" are often exclusionary, and not really safe for marginalized people to use, either due to being unwelcoming, purposefully exclusionist, or hostile to members who do not fit the traditional idea of a woman or female person.

WOMEN'S SAFE SPACE ♀

* Excluding: Trans women
Menstruating people
women of colour
homosexuals
bisexuals
pansexuals
sapphires &
queers

* Disclawne: Not wheelchair
Accessible

Endometriaous Guide for Women



Am I
a joke?

Health care is a particularly difficult landscape for marginalized people to navigate, reproductive healthcare even more so. One group not often considered in this is trans people, frequently resources and language used by medical professionals is overtly gendered, categorizing anything involving a uterus as a "women's issue", which leaves many people behind.

It's Not Just Cis-Women That Need Access to Abortions

WHAT DO

WE DO?

How do we move forward? How do we ensure we don't repeat history?

We find an answer in feminist subcultures that uplift the same marginalized voices that the mainstream movements tend to ignore. We are only as free as our most disenfranchised member. It's essential to consider issues that may not affect us, and how those issues affect others. It's not enough to just fight for ourselves, individually we do not have nearly as much power as we have as a collective. It's essential to utilize our numbers and fight for what's right as a team, rather than as an individual.

Exclusion only hurts us.

If your feminism isn't inclusive, it isn't feminism.



Ally
~~they~~
star



Ellian
~~he~~
hush