

**"WHY DON'T YOU
JUST**

SMILE?"

Ava and Sophia:GSWS 1101



Ava

Skin my bicep with a blade because inked skin is too
masculine for pretty arms like mine.
Burn my clothes because they're slutty
and empty my makeup- because it isn't nice to trick
men into thinking that you're pretty.
Shout at me from across the road.
Stab me when I say no.



Joke about raping my friends
and laugh when *your* friends tell you they did.
Rip my earrings from my lobes because you HATE girls that
try too hard
and say 'she was fucking ugly anyway' because you
can't cope with rejection.
Shame my body because I'm too fat. I'm too thin. I'm too
muscular.
Call me fake because I changed my flat chest for something
you desired more, or because I wanted to feel pretty enough
for you.
Promise you'd never hit me again because you're a *nice guy*.

Believe you. Because I'm trapped.
Trust you. Because society has conditioned me to.
Love you. Because I'm afraid of what you'll do if I try to
leave.

But in the end, I should have seen it coming.

Kill me.

Because I want to know...

...am I enough of a woman for you yet?

Ari Eastman





YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY WOMEN DON'T SMILE?
BECAUSE THE PATRIARCHY HAS SET UP A SOCIETY
THAT UNDERMINES WOMEN AND TREATS THEM LIKE
THEY'RE FRAGILE AND INCAPABLE. YOU KNOW WHAT
WE SAY? F*CK THE PATRIARCHY.

Why We Don't Smile



Women's rights are being undone and stripped away after years of fight to have them

The current president of the US is putting over thousands of women at harm, taking away abortion rights

Being harassed on the street is an almost-everyday occurrence (fyi, cat calling is not a compliment.)

The expectation of being a "lady." Just because I take up space in a room and am not submissive doesn't warrant a label as lady-like or not

In Canada, women earn 89 cents to every man's dollar (Pay Equity Office, 2022 statistic)

1 out of 4 women are sexually assaulted and 1 out of 7 men. (SexAssaul.ca)

15% of sexual assaulted victims are boys under 16 (Sexassault.ca)

Indigenous women have been, and continue to be, sterilized without consent or knowledge.

If you stand up for women's rights, you are immediately a "femanazi" (apparently that means you have coloured hair and are a radical man-hating feminist)

Ava

CATCALLING IS NOT A COMPLIMENT

HEY SEXY!

Why are you covering up, hon?

Let your hair down!

LET'S SEE A SMILE!

NICE LEGS!

I'm a man
don't think
catcalling is
sexual
harassment

You don't
need to wear
one of those
here

men see women's bodies as playthings, made for their pleasure.

"What's under all those clothes?"

"Don't make a big deal, it's just a tease"

"Come on, don't be a tease"

You got a boyfriend pretty?"

President Donald Trump, is a sexist man. He's openly said things like "Grab her by the pu**y"



[About his daughter Ivanka]
"... she does have a very nice figure. I've said if Ivanka weren't my daughter, perhaps I'd be dating her."
(ABC's 'The View', 6 March 2006)

Women in the US don't "just smile" because they are being overruled by a president who believes they shouldn't have any rights. They live in a state that silences their voices and emotions.

WOMEN OF COLOUR



Malala Yousafzai

All racialized women make 59.3% of what white men make (Canadian Women's Foundation)



CELIANTHE

If she's not readily told she has a "big butt," she's "complimented" on her "blowjob lips." It's almost impossible for her to exist without having her skin colour mentioned or having degrading stereotypes projected onto her.

"once you go Black, you never go back" or "like different and exotic people, because in Quebec, it's too white." (Sexu)



WOMEN OF COLOUR ARE
CONSISTENTLY FETISHIZED AND/OR
OPPRESSED

THEY DO NOT "JUST SMILE"
BECAUSE THEY CONSISTENTLY
HAVE TO NAVIGATE A SOCIETY THAT
MARGINALIZES THEIR EXPERIENCES
AND SILENCES THEIR VOICES.

Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than any other women in Canada, and 16 times more likely than white women (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019).

Ava

Reproductive

Rights:

12 states have a total abortion ban.

29 states have abortion bans based on gestational duration.

15 states ban abortion at or before 18 weeks' gestation.

12 states ban abortion at some point after 18 weeks."

(guttmacher 2025)

GIRLS JUST
WANNA HAVE
FUNDAMENTAL
HUMAN RIGHTS



WOMEN DON'T
"JUST SMILE"
BECAUSE THEIR
REPRODUCTIVE
AUTONOMY HAS
BECOME A MAN'S
CHOICE.

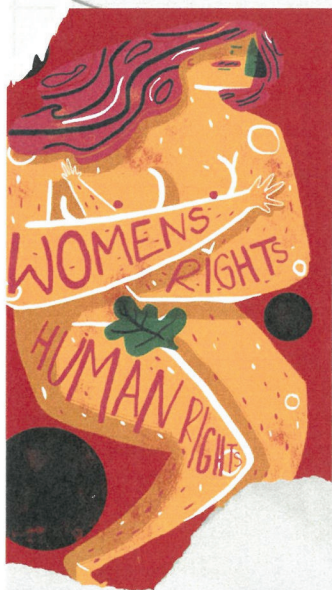
out of the 50 states
in America, 41 have
abortion bans.

(guttmacher 2025)

June 24th, 2022.
Roe V Wade was
overturned.

Women didn't have access to any
type of contraception until the
1960s, even then oral
contraceptives were only given to
MARRIED women.

Sophia



Sexual Violence



"What were you wearing?"

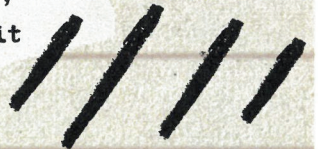
A phrase that seems to weasel its way into almost every conversation centered around the topics of sexual assault and/or rape. It's also a destructive phrase, no matter how it's said. It paints the victims in a light that had they been wearing something else nothing would have happened. We know this to be false. A rapist is a rapist. It's a reported 6% of people in all of Canada that go to authorities about their sexual assault case, with a higher number of women experiencing it than men. About 50 women per 1,000 men in 2021 alone. (Statistics Canada)

HOTLINE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT
1-877-392-7583 (24/7)

Women, **victims**, don't "just smile" because they carry the weight of trauma that society ignores. Their pain is amplified by the social culture that blames them and invalidates them.

"83% of people
don't report the
sexual assault".
(Stats Canada.)

"You were
asking for it"



Women in the Global South

only 23.7% of
adolescents enroll in secondary education

29.1% of women in Tanzania
are married off before the
age of 18

minimum wage is less than
\$2/day

the average woman has 5
children in her lifetime
birth control and reproductive
care is almost impossible to
access because men believe
women are "too lazy"

"More than 200 million girls and women
alive today have undergone female genital
mutilation. This year, nearly 4.4 million girls
will be at risk of this harmful practice. This
equates to more than 12,000 cases every
day." (United Nations)

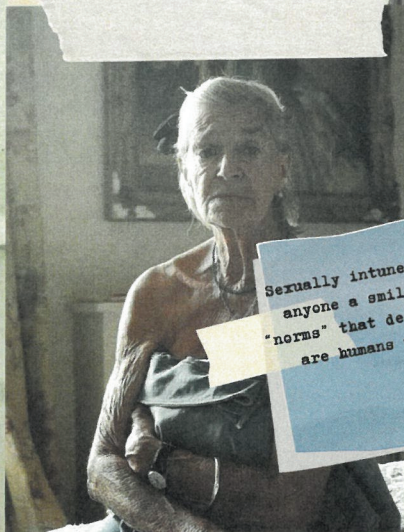
We **DONT** smile in solitude of these women. There needs to be a change
and every woman deserves rights to their bodies.

Women experience feminism is different ways across the globe.

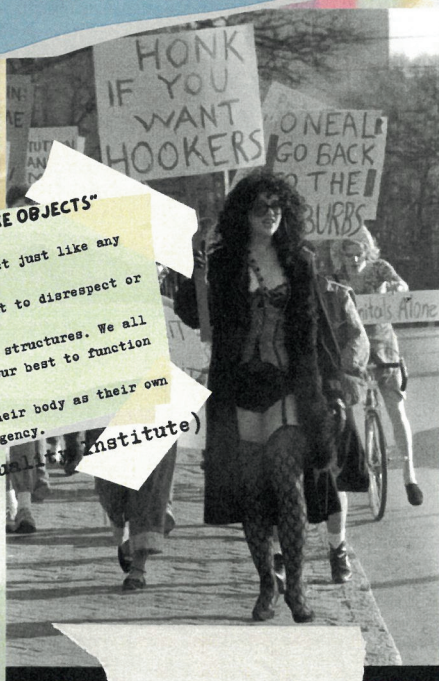
Chandra Mohanty. Transnational Feminist Activist

"Dirty Women"

There is a notion that once women hit a certain age, they can't be sexually expressive, dress a certain way, or have desires. This stigma is extremely oppressive and reinforces an idea that older women are expected to lose their sense of self.



Sexually intune women, older women, LGBTQ+ women and sex workers don't owe anyone a smile. They don't "just smile" because they challenge societal "norms" that deem their lives "dirty" and marginalize their identities. They are humans with lives rich with stories and resilience, yet they face consistent stigmas and discrimination.
THEY ARE STILL WORTHY WOMEN.



"SEX WORKERS GIVE PEOPLE PERMISSION TO TREAT THEM LIKE OBJECTS"
No.

- Sex work is real work. People in the industry deserve respect just like any professional doing their job.
- Paying for a service from someone does not give you the right to disrespect or mistreat them.
- Sex work alone does not perpetuate patriarchal systems and structures. We all exist and operate within the patriarchy and we are doing our best to function within this oppressive system.
- Sex work can be, for many sex workers, a way to reclaim their body as their own and wield their own political power and agency.

(The Equality Institute)

