

FEMINISM THROUGH TIME

Feminism is the advocacy of female rights on the ground of the equality between the sexes. In other words, to believe that neither men nor women are superior and the other inferior, and that they are equal in ability and human rights. Some people, who are against feminism, would protest that women are inferior, as arguments used to be made into posters, adverts, slogans and sayings, such as:

“Feminism was established to allow unattractive women easier access to the mainstream.”

This was before the suffrage movement gained the right to vote for most women. A **feminist advocate or activist** is someone who not only believes in feminism, but stands up against anti-feminism protestors; they might protest and parade and make speeches for their cause. They represent women around the world, who might be oppressed because of their gender, however capable they may be.

Some examples of feminists are: Emma Watson and Amy Poehler. These are both actors and are well known for their roles in famous series and films; both have clarified their strong views on gender equality. First of all, Emma Watson started her speech with “I’m a feminist because I have known sexism since I was 8 years old.” Not only does sexism affect adults, but objectification and idealisation happens to children on the media as well. Whether on social media or through films and on the TV, Emma Watson as she was growing up as part of the main Harry Potter cast.

“When at 14, I started being sexualised by certain elements of the press.

When at 15, my girlfriends started dropping out of their sports teams because they didn’t want to appear “muscly.”

When at 18, my male friends were unable to express their feelings.”

The time line she portrays in this section of her speech moved the crowd with an unstoppable force of acquiescence, meaning she had the courage to fight for what she believes in, and so should her audience. Moreover, Amy Poehler showed her support in quotes and sayings, some humorous, some serious, such as this one:

“[Not being a feminist is] like someone being like: I don’t really believe in cars, but I drive one every day and I love that it gets me places and makes life so much easier and faster and I don’t know what I would do without it.”

Feminism has dated back to the American Revolution as well, following the French Revolution, when there was a women’s march on Versailles which indicates that people haven’t been content or satisfied with society for a long time. So why hasn’t it changed?

The suffragettes were an organisation that protested using riots and violence rather than peacefulness and speeches, like the suffragists, to work towards achieving the right to vote for women of a certain age and status in England’s twentieth century. Slowly, more equality was starting to be brought to light, and women were and are slowly managing to gain more respect.