

# **INTERSECTIONALITY**

**A framework, a blueprint.**

**A feminism that sees your  
multiple identities and  
acknowledges that you live  
them all at once, all the time.**

**A feminism that works for  
gender equity AND an end  
to ALL the interconnected  
systems of oppression that  
affect ALL OF US in  
different ways.**

**NOW**

**Right now, today, immediately.**

Ms. Willis, a 50-year-old wedding minister from South Carolina, had looked forward to taking her daughters to the march. Then she read a post on the Facebook page for the march that made her feel unwelcome because she is white. “This is a women’s march,” she said. “We’re supposed to be allies in equal pay, marriage, adoption. Why is it now about, ‘White women don’t understand black women’?” “They said, ‘Why do you have to be so divisive?’” “I will march,” one wrote on the march’s Facebook page, “Hoping that someday soon a sense of unity will occur before it’s too late.” “The last thing that is going to make me endeared to you, to know you and love you more, is if you are sitting there wagging your finger at me.” That phrase — check your privilege — exasperates Ms. Willis.

***[Women’s March on Washington Opens Contentious Dialogues About Race / New York Times]***

## **WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER?**

**All women are affected by [imperialist white-supremacist capitalist hetero] patriarchy, but not all of us experience it the same way!**

- The average white lady earns only \$.78 for every \$1 a white man earns. But Latinas earn only \$.54 cents, black women make \$.64, and Native women make \$.65 for every dollar a white dude gets paid.

***[THE GENDER PAY GAP IS BAD / THE NEW REPUBLIC]***

- The mainstream pro-choice movement has never officially acknowledged its historical affiliation with the forced sterilizations of Black and Latina women.

***[THE PRO-CHOICE MOVEMENT HAS A WHITE SUPREMACY PROBLEM / EVERYDAY FEMINISM]***

- Women of color are killed in police custody at greater rates than white women, & are also more likely to be sexually assaulted by police.

***[WOMEN’S MARCH ON WASHINGTON: GUIDING VISION & DEFINITION OF PRINCIPLES]***

## **WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK**

**Mainstream feminism (aka white feminism) has a really bad habit of calling for unity on the basis of gender alone, as if all women share one universal experience. In reality, calls to unite under the banner of “women’s issues” usually mean the focus will be on white, middle class, cisgender, able-bodied women only.**

**Meanwhile marginalized women (and our communities) have historically had to fight to be included, heard, and defended by mainstream feminists.**

## **ABOUT WHITE FEMINISM™**

**When intersectional feminists call out issues of transphobia, classism, racism, or ableism in spaces that are practicing white feminism, we’re often told that we’re being distracting or divisive. But an intersectional approach would actually create more unity. Once all feminists feel valued and respected by the movement, we’ll all be better equipped to fight all kinds of oppression.**

**But it starts with us. Intersectionality means first “confronting the ways women — through sex, class and race — [have] dominated and exploited other women.” (bell hooks)**

# FEMINISM IS FOR EVERYBODY

“Our liberation is bound in each other’s...We believe Gender Justice is Racial Justice is Economic Justice.

We must create a society in which women—in particular Black women, Native women, poor women, immigrant women, Muslim women, and queer and trans women—are free and able to care for and nurture their families, however they are formed, in safe and healthy environments free from structural impediments.”

# “MY FEMINISM WILL BE INTERSECTIONAL OR IT WILL BE BULLSHIT!”

***intersectionality***: In 1989 civil rights activist and critical race theorist Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw observed that during the women’s movement of the 2nd wave (1970s), mainstream feminism regarded gender as its #1 issue, even though black women like Kimberlé couldn’t separate their experiences of racism from their experiences of sexism. The lesbian feminist movement was also formed from the 2nd wave’s refusal to address homophobia.

[WOMEN’S MARCH ON WASHINGTON: GUIDING  
VISION & DEFINITION OF PRINCIPLES]

**We believe FEMINISM NOW must be intersectional (we reject hierarchies based on race, class, gender, ability, sexuality, or age) & that it must work to AMPLIFY the most marginalized women & that it must learn to listen and to check its privilege. We want our feminism more queer, more brown, more radical, more insistent. We want our feminism to be fun but also make us uncomfortable. We want our feminism decolonized, inclusive, and international. With better slogans & cooler signs.**

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