

**SOLIDARITY
IS (*STILL*)
FOR WHITE
WOMEN**

INTERSECTIONALITY NOW

8 WHITE IDENTITIES BY BARNOR HESSE

1. **White Supremacist** — Clearly marked white society that preserves, names, and values white superiority.
2. **White Voyeurism** — Wouldn't challenge a white supremacist; desires non-whiteness because it's interesting, pleasurable; seeks to control the consumption and appropriation of non-whiteness; fascination with culture (ex: consuming Black culture without the burden of Blackness)
3. **White Privilege** — May critique supremacy, but a deep investment in questions of fairness/equality under the normalization of whiteness and the white rule; sworn goal of diversity.
4. **White Benefit** — Sympathetic to a set of issues but only privately; won't speak/act in solidarity publicly because benefitting through whiteness in public (some POC are in this category as well).
5. **White Confessional** — Some exposure of whiteness takes place, but as a way of being accountable to POC after; seek validation from POC.
6. **White Critical** — Take on board critiques of whiteness and invest exposing/marking the white regime; refuses to be complicit with the regime; whiteness speaking back to whiteness.
7. **White Traitor** — Actively refuses complicity; names what's going on; intention is to subvert white authority and tell the truth at whatever cost; need them to dismantle institutions.
8. **White Abolitionist** — Changing institutions, dismantling whiteness, and not allowing whiteness to reassert itself.

BEFORE WE CAN TOPPLE THE PATRIARCHY WE HAVE TO TOPPLE WHITE FEMINISM™

Accomplice — Use your body, your voice, your privilege, your access, your time, your energy & your money to undermine white supremacy while amplifying the voices of the most vulnerable women.

Colorblind — *You aren't, and pretending you are does nothing to lesson the incidental and systemic racism that people of color experience.*

Divisive — Racism is divisive. Homophobia and heteronormativity are divisive.

Emotional labor — (1) When white women expect women of color to teach them what they could easily google. (2) When white women want women of color to help them process their white guilt.

Solidarity — Despite our various cultures, identities, communities, histories, and contexts, we choose to work together — starting with ending the ways we marginalize and inadvertently oppress each other.

Unity — An insistence on an impossible sameness, the expectation that 1.2 million women march on Washington with a universal agenda, or that we all fall in line behind a pre-determined nominee. Unity flattens differences into quiet compliance.

White Feminism™ — White feminism says we're all in this together, white feminism loves to insist on unity, white feminism thinks you just need to lean in, white feminism has a pantsuit for every day of the week, white feminism congratulates itself for no arrests. White feminism believes there is a universal Womanhood, and that sexism is Woman's primary oppression, and that there is only one ceiling between marginalization and white male power. See also: Amy Schumer, Lena Dunham, Hillary Clinton, Ivanka Trump.

White supremacy culture — Relies on hierarchies, competition, individualism, perfectionism, and a fictitious “objectivity,” rather than cooperation, transparency, learning, or non-linear thinking. Must be pointed out in order to be undermined.

White tears — You just realized you experience racial privilege, now you're making it about you and your feelings. However uncomfortable you might feel in this moment, it probably doesn't compare to the racism and racialized violence that people of color regularly experience.

White fragility — When learning about the ways you may be a little bit racist or are benefitting from white privilege makes you defensive, angry, anxious, or too guilty to function.

“We need you defecting from White supremacy and changing the narrative of White supremacy by breaking White silence.” – Alicia Garza, co-founder, Black Lives Matter

**“An ally should be personally gaining NOTHING through their activism. In fact, if you are an ally, you should be losing things through your activism; space, voice, recognition, validation, identity and ego.”
– Laura LeMoon, sex workers’ rights activist**

5 BOOKS BY WOMEN OF COLOR REFORMING WHITE FEMINISTS™ SHOULD READ (BY THE FEMINIST LIBRARY ON WHEELS)

This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color, edited by Cherríe Moraga and Gloria E. Anzaldúa (1981, 2016). A pioneering anthology of important writing, from women of many backgrounds and in many genres, edited and published by women of color on their own terms.

Women, Race, & Class, by Angela Davis (1983). Excellent history of women’s movements in the US, revealing the links between racism, misogyny, and class-based discrimination within feminist history.

bell hooks. Maybe start with *Feminism Is for Everybody: Passionate Politics* (2000), but you might also want to read *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* (1984), *Ain’t I A Woman: Black Women and Feminism* (1981) and *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black* (1989).

Decolonize This! Young Women of Color on Today’s Feminism (2002), edited by Daisy Hernández and Bushra Rehman. This anthology is helpful because it expands on the diversity of voices and experiences represented by *This Bridge*.

Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches, by Audre Lorde (1984). Her dynamic, vibrant, strong voice still resonates for good reason, and you should read the source, carefully and closely.

Bonus titles: Gloria E. Anzaldúa *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (1987); Sonia Shah, ed. *Dragon Ladies: Asian American Feminists Breathe Fire* (1997); Barbara Smith, ed. *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology* (1983); *Color of Violence: The INCITE! Anthology* (2006); Maythee Rojas *Women of Color and Feminism* (2009); Mia McKenzie *Black Girl Dangerous: On Race, Queerness, Class, and Gender* (2014); Alma M. García, ed. *Chicana Feminist Thought: The Basic Historical Writings* (1997); Brittney C. Cooper, Susana M. Morris, and Robin M. Boylorn, eds. *The Crunk Feminist Collection* (2017)

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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