

WSDC 2023 Round 4 (Prop: Malaysia, Opp: Sri Lanka)

Motion: This house believes that the feminist movement should promote the maximisation of individual development and empowerment over solidarity among women

Theme: Sociology, Equality

Summary

PROP	OPP
<p>Characterisation/Status Quo</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feminism movement has <b>already achieved basic feminism rights</b> (voting, job opportunities)</li> <li>2. Current forms of <b>oppression varies according to community, individualised</b> + not collective oppression anymore</li> <li>3. Individual development: focusing on achieving high status/wealth using whichever means, okay with women pushing other women down to secure a position as that's how the real world works</li> </ol>	<p>Characterisation/Status Quo</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vast majority of women (esp in developing countries) <b>still have not achieved basic feminism rights</b>, only happening in progressive countries</li> <li>2. Different women from different backgrounds do <b>face similar oppression with similar root causes</b>, ie. patriarchy</li> <li>3. <b>Solidarity provides more inclusivity, more accessible</b> to participate in the movement and glorifies action of contributing back to the movement</li> </ol>
<p>Stance: Believe that more women in power accelerates the process of achieving goals by the feminism movement, more likely to participate in the feminism movement due to the embracing of individuality, prioritising choice feminism</p>	<p>Stance: Believe that solidarity does not mean uniformity in methods of achieving success, embracing diversity is not exclusive to prop, contributes to community building and shared goals based on the identity as a women</p>
<p>Burden of Proof: Proving that individual development <b>allows the development of the feminism movement</b> due to higher status gained by women</p>	<p>Burden of Proof: Proving that solidarity <b>encourages women to be a part of the feminism movement and contribute back to the movement</b></p>
<p>Point 1: <b>Maximisation of individual empowerment deals with diversity in the feminism landscape</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Solidarity exacerbates women's oppression due to homogenisation of what is best for women, dictation of the feminism narrative by higher echelon of women and demonising women who do not fit into the feminism norms</li> <li>b) Institute policies that come at the expense of other women due to dictation by higher echelon of women if solidarity happens</li> <li>c) Opens up room to climb up the social ladder including through unconventional means like being sex workers, having OnlyFans accounts</li> <li>d) Willing to accept job promotions without being shamed/guilty by other women for depriving other women of that position</li> </ol>	<p>Point 1: <b>Increases participation of women in the feminism movement</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) More accessible without the narrative of needing to be successful in order to be an integral part of the movement</li> <li>b) More likely to engage in collective action - protesting/pushing for affirmative action in the name of collective benefit, on prop there is no incentive to give back</li> <li>c) Prevents marginalising vulnerable women - making it more accessible to be part of the women</li> <li>d) When you don't view women as competitors, more likely to look at the structural defects contributing to oppression instead of individuals</li> </ol>

<p><b>Point 2: Combats the hurdles faced by women</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Basic rights have already been achieved, no need for solidarity to achieve other current goals</li> <li>b) Combatting the stereotypes framed by patriarchy through achieving high status and positions</li> <li>c) Rate of progress is higher, not guilt-tripped by solidarity for accepting a high position whilst other women aren't able to achieve it yet</li> </ul>	<p><b>Point 2: Increasing support for the feminism movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Solidarity allows more internal control of the narrative, assurance of the value of their participation</li> <li>b) On prop, easier for anti-feminism to manipulate and divide the feminism movement</li> <li>c) Easier for cross collaboration between different groups of women</li> <li>d) Giving women in power more reason to give back to the community, seen as a result of collective pushing for empowerment instead of individual achievements</li> <li>e) More safety net for women who are unable to achieve high positions, providing a community to fall back upon</li> </ul>
<p><b>Point 3: Intersectionality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Individual empowerment can unite disparate groups and different experiences due to sympathy for one another</li> <li>b) Solidarity necessitates selfless + self-sacrificing perspective by women for women, hinders the goals of the movement</li> <li>c) Messaging on prop is that all women's sufferings are prioritised and are therefore united, opp's messaging is pushing for women caring about other women's suffering instead of their own</li> </ul>	