

## PLACES (seats / locations) and FORMS OF POWER

### POWER:

1. the ability or official capacity to exercise control / authority (the State, the government, political organization)
2. strength or force exerted or capable of being exerted / might (puissance)
3. a person, group or nation having great influence or control over others

### PLACES:

Power can be exercised in various places :

1. political, legal or financial institutions
2. the media, new technologies, the cinema
1. educational institutions, the home, the workplace

The notion of power generally implies a basic division between those who have and exercise power and those who have none or little of it. As a consequence, the exercise of power requires that its members accept or even internalize a complex system of laws, rules and regulations, and respect symbols such as specific institutions. This obviously help social cohesion but it also reveals tensions and conflicts existing within the group. One of these recent evolutions is the achievement of better gender equality, thanks to the fight undertaken by women who challenged gender roles that were imposed by traditional male-dominated societies.

### Leading Ladies

How have women gained power in English-speaking countries?

- UN women poster
- We should all be feminists (a video) *Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Tedx*
- Celebrity feminism tune in (an article) *dukechronicle.com*
- Sally Heathcote: Suffragettes, 2014 *a graphic short-story*
- The Dagenham girls (a video) *Channel 4 news*
- The women's lib (extract from a leaflet, 1970)
- Phenomenal woman ( a poem) *Maya Angelou 1978*
- Hillary Clinton Women in the World Conference 2013

Actual Google search on 06/13/2018

women shouldn't |



women shouldn't have rights

women shouldn't vote

women shouldn't work

women shouldn't box

women shouldn't suffer from discrimination anymore



[unwomen.org](http://unwomen.org)

We should all be feminists “

I am a feminist. And when I looked up the word in the dictionary that day, this is what it said: “Feminist: a person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes.” My great-grandmother from the stories I’ve heard was a feminist. She ran away from the house of the man she did not want to marry, and ended up marrying the man of her choice. She refused, she protested, she spoke up whenever she felt she was being deprived of access, of land, that sort of thing. My great-grandmother didn’t know that word “feminist” but it does not mean that she was not one. More of us should reclaim that word. My own definition of feminist is: a feminist is a man or a woman who says... *(laughter) (applause)* ... a feminist is a man or a woman who says: “Yes there is a problem with gender as it is today, and we must fix it, we must do better.” The best feminist I know is my brother Kenny. He’s also a kind, good-looking, lovely man and he is very masculine. Thank you! *(applause) TEDx*

# Celebrity feminism, tune in

What do celebrities like Taylor Swift, Lorde and Joseph Gordon-Levitt have in common? They are all part of a recent wave of public figures who have publicly declared themselves feminists. For many, the embrace of feminism comes after realizing the

## Editorial

misconceptions they had harbored about the term. Others, like Beyonce, have begun to weave the feminist movement into their art. Though celebrity feminism may be an unexpected vehicle for popularizing the feminist movement, we have high hopes for the change it can catalyze.

The celebrity feminism movement has the potential to launch to the fore broader conversations about feminism and social justice that heretofore have remained largely taboo. Pop culture icons are, in a way, ideal vehicles for spreading ideas, given their unique access to and influence over a broad range of people. By encouraging people to have conversations about feminism, they can galvanize people to learn, reflect and think critically. Artists like Beyonce

have taken the next step to incorporate feminism into their music, slowly introducing the term to common vernacular via the radio or MTV. Take, for example, Beyonce's new song, *Flawless*, in which she features Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's definition of feminism from her Ted Talk, "We should all be feminists"—"Feminist: the person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes." Not to mention, Beyonce's performance of the song at the MTV Video Music Awards before the giant word "FEMINIST."

Part of the power of the celebrity feminism movement is its effect of simplifying feminism. At Duke and in the greater community, many shy away from feminism or perceive it to be a taboo subject in part because of common misconceptions. Namely, the image of feminists as crazy, bra-burning women. Yet the hesitance may also stem from the fact that feminism, with its myriad distinct and oftentimes radically different branches, is simply too complex to understand. By simplifying and distilling the message, these celebrities are opening the doors to conversations. This celebrity feminism is also beneficial in the way that it has promoted greater thinking of how other aspects of identity, such as

race, relate to feminism.

Yet simplification is a double-edged sword that can lead to unintended consequences. The complexities that get lost in translation could deter, rather than galvanize, people towards feminism. Celebrities and audience alike should thus take the opportunity to truly engage with feminism.

Any problem as large as gender inequality won't be solved by a celebrity making a stand for it, or even a wave of celebrity feminists. Even at Duke, problems will continue to persist. We do believe, however, that it can be a positive start to a conversation about feminism. The keyword is start—this movement is not perfect, but it can encourage greater understanding and galvanize action on the problem of gender inequality. The term "feminist" has at last hit popular mass airwaves, and it is up to us, the masses, to tune in.

Follow The Chronicle  
@DukeChronicle



**"We need to reshape our own perception of how we view ourselves. We have to step up as women and take the lead."**

— Beyoncé

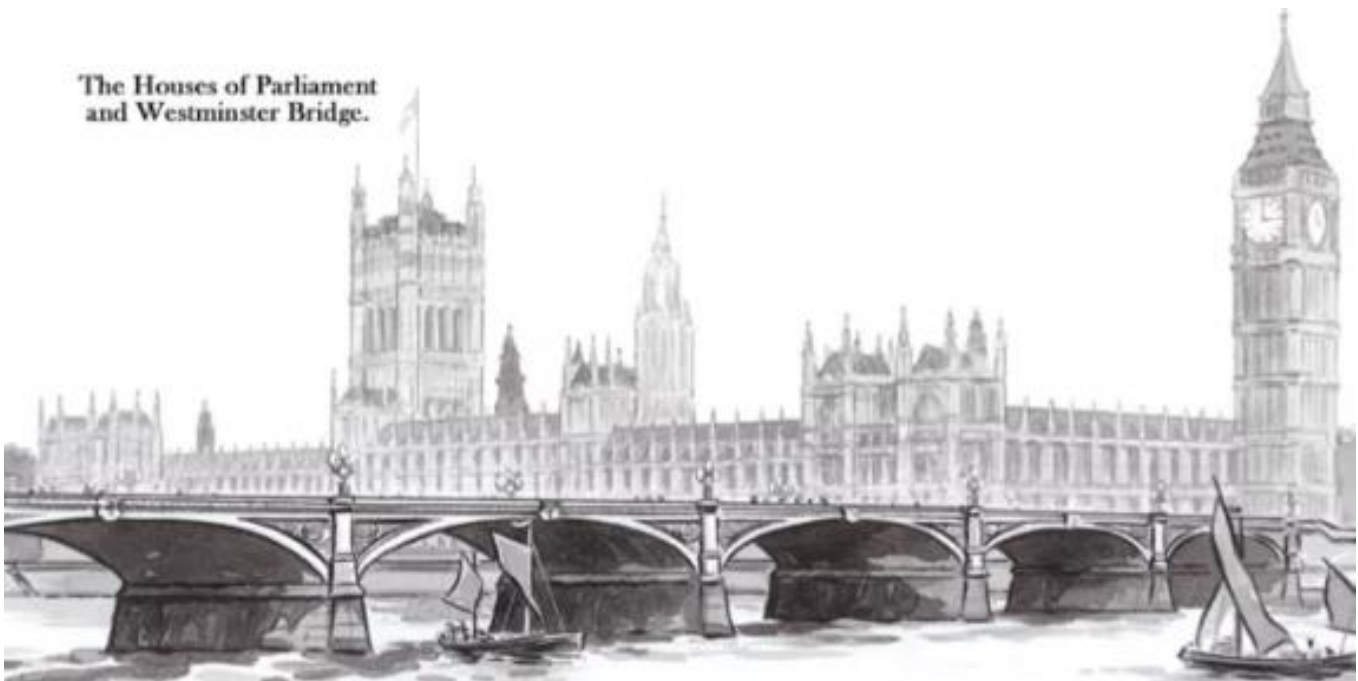


**"So many women have come to this idea of it being anti-male and not able to connect with the opposite sex – but what feminism is about is equality and human rights."**

— Lena Dunham



The Houses of Parliament and Westminster Bridge.



October 23, 1906. St Stephen's Entrance.



## The Dagenham girls (audio)

### SCRIPT

**The Dagenham girls Voice-over:** Since the nineteen thirties car manufacturing at Ford's Dagenham car plant had been a major employer in the local community. In the summer of 1968, the women making the seats for Ford's car production line learned that their pay had been downgraded to unskilled. Paid much less than their male colleagues and ignored by management in the Union they decided for the first time to stage an immediate walkout in protest. Quickly gathering the support of women up and down the country, the strike soon gained media attention.

**Journalist:** Do you stay out?

**Woman 1:** Yeah.

**Journalist:** You are not going back at all?

**Woman 2:** No... We are on strike.

**Journalist:** All of you? **Woman 2:** All of us, all of us machinists anyway.

**Journalist:** So no car seat covers for Ford?

**Woman 2:** No, not from us anyway.

**Voice-over:** As production ground to a halt, Prime Minister Harold Wilson intervened, asking Secretary of State for Employment Barbara Castle to resolve the dispute. With her support and through the strength and determination of the women a deal was struck with Ford that would lead to the Equal Pay Act of 1970 and secure their place in history for standing up for what they believed in.

**Woman 1:** To celebrate they left us the canteen and we had a party!

**Woman 2:** I don't remember much of that...

**Woman 1:** No, I remember you didn't, no!

**Voice-over:** The women's story was the inspiration for the hit film *Made in Dagenham*.

**Stephen Woolley (film producer):** I only discovered through listening to a radio show, they were talking about a momentous occasion when they had helped create equal pay for women. *(extract from the film)*

**Woman:** Women get paid less than men, no matter what skill they've got, which is why from now on we gotta demand a level playing field and rates of pay which reflect the job you do, not whether you've got a dick or not... Equal pay or nothing!

**All:** Yes!

**Woman:** All those in favour?

**All:** *(every hand goes up)* Yes!

**Woman:** Everybody, out!

*Stage Entertainment*

## The women's lib

The Women's Liberation Movement of the late 1960s and 1970s emerged from women's desires to revolutionize the fundamental aspects of their life at that time: domesticity, employment, education and sexuality. *Bread and Roses*, a large Boston organization, was typical of the socialist-feminist strain in women's liberation. In their outreach leaflet, written to be distributed at a pro-childcare<sup>1</sup> demonstration in Boston, they urged women to talk to their friends and organize themselves.

Adapted from *Dear Sisters: Dispatches from the Women's Liberation Movement*, 2000

### SISTERS,

We are living in a world that is not ours – “it’s a man’s world.” We feel our lives being shaped by someone or something outside ourselves; because we are females we are expected to act in certain ways and do certain things whether or not it feels right to us. We have had to teach ourselves to turn off our real feelings and real desires – to be “realistic” – in other words to accept the place we have been given in the world of men.

But it’s no good – deep in our guts<sup>2</sup> we know this. Cooking and cleaning and children have not given us the fulfillment the ladies’ magazines promised even after we’ve followed all their recipes. [...]

**DO WE WANT EQUALITY  
IN THE MAN'S WORLD OR  
DO WE WANT TO MAKE IT  
A NEW WORLD?**

Extract from a leaflet, 1970

1. garde d'enfants 2. tripes



# Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelou, 1978



Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.  
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size  
But when I start to tell them,  
They think I'm telling lies.

5 I say,  
It's in the reach of my arms  
The span of my hips<sup>1</sup>,  
The stride of my step,  
The curl of my lips.

10 I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me. [...]

Men themselves have wondered

15 What they see in me.  
They try so much  
But they can't touch  
My inner<sup>2</sup> mystery.  
When I try to show them  
20 They say they still can't see.

I say  
It's in the arch of my back,  
The sun of my smile,  
The ride of my breasts,  
25 The grace of my style.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

30 Now you understand  
Just why my head's not bowed<sup>3</sup>.  
I don't shout or jump about  
Or have to talk real loud.  
When you see me passing  
35 It ought to make you proud.  
I say,  
It's in the click of my heels<sup>4</sup>,  
The bend of my hair,  
the palm of my hand,  
40 The need of my care,  
'Cause I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

Maya ANGELOU, *Phenomenal Woman*, 1978

1. tour de hanches 2. intérieur 3. down 4. talons



Thank you so much. Oh, what a wonderful occasion for me to be back here, the fourth Women in the World conference I've been privileged to attend, introduced by the founder, creator, and my friend, Tina Brown. When one thinks about this annual conference it really is intended to, and I believe has, focused attention on the global challenges facing women from equal rights and education, to human slavery, literacy, the power of the media and technology to affect change in women's futures and so much else. [...] I know that this is an occasion as well as for so many friends and colleagues to come together and take stock for where we stand and what more

needs to be done in advancing the great unfinished business of the 21st century – advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls.

Now this is unfinished around the world, where too many women are still treated at best as second-class citizens, at worst as some kind of subhuman species.

[...] The business is still unfinished here at home in the United States, we have come so far together but there's still work to be done.

Now, I have always believed that women are not victims, we are agents of change, we are drivers of progress, we are makers of peace – all we need is a fighting chance.

And that firm faith in the untapped<sup>1</sup> potential of women at home and around the world has been at the heart of my work my entire life, from college and law school, from Arkansas to the White House to the Senate. And when I became Secretary of State, I was



determined to weave this perspective even deeper into the fabric of American foreign policy.

But I knew to do that, I couldn't just preach to the usual choir. We had to reach out, not only to men, in solidarity and recruitment, but to religious communities, to every partner we could find.

We had to make the case to the whole world that creating opportunities for women and girls advances security and prosperity for everyone. So we relied on the empirical research that shows that when women participate in the economy, everyone benefits.

When women participate in peace-making and peace-keeping, we are all safer and more secure.

And when women participate in politics of their nations they can make a difference.

Hillary CLINTON, *Women in the World Conference*,  
New York City, 4 April 2013

1. unexploited