

Women's Liberation Movement

"The Revolutionary Moment" Terms & Ideas



August 26, 1970 • New York City
"WOMEN OF THE WORLD, UNITE!"

The WLM Defanged

Replacement Terms & Ideas



NOW Young Feminist Task Force with Gloria Steinem
Sign at left: "Revolution begins with personal evolution."

End male supremacy in all its forms	Stop being a victim—just "Lean In"
Women are a sex class oppressed by men and male supremacy	What's a "Woman"? What's a sex?" Many sexes. Women are a gender, not a sex / Choose your gender.
Women's/Feminist Studies	Gender/Sexuality studies
Men and the capitalist system must be changed	Women must assert personal "agency"
Organize for women's collective power	Self-empowerment. Find or be a role model
"Triple Jeopardy": racism, sexism, capitalism/imperialism oppress women of color	Intersectionality
The personal is political	The personal is personal and the political is personal
Culture is political	Culture is personal preference
Unite for women's collective interest	Emphasize differences / identity
"Free abortion on demand"	"I am pro-choice."
"Repeal all abortion laws."	Roe v. Wade is "good enough"
Rape	"Non-consensual sex"
Battered women, battered wives	Domestic violence, domestic abuse
Emphasis on authenticity, truth, reality Truth is objective.	Emphasis on personal narrative, presentation Many truths. Reality is subjective.
Strive for clarity / Discuss, argue, critique	Post-Modern theoretical fog / "Discourse" / "Deconstruct"
Eliminate sex roles	Explore/play with gender roles
Clothes for comfort & ease of movement / No pain	High heels, bustiers, body shapers, shaving private parts
Prostitution, pornography are exploitation	Prostitution, porn are "sex work" expressing "agency"
Women are sexual beings / Claim your right to orgasm	Claim your "inner slut"
Group consciousness-raising; raising collective consciousness	Personal expression; personal growth, Facebook feminism
Critical of marriage as institution / Equality in marriage	Same-sex "Marriage equality"
Free 24-hour public daycare / "Politics of Housework" Men must share the housework/childcare	Make enough money to hire a maid and/or nanny
Grassroots funding	Corporate funding
Look to women of substance	Look to whoever is in fashion
Mass-based movement for every woman	Elite women "networking" in corporations and academia
Study women's liberation / feminist history	Post-feminism / Post-history / Post-structuralism
Creating collective theory for feminist action	Intellectual competition
Test theory in practice / Organize	"Theorize, theorized, theorizing"
Going for what we really need and want	Going for what looks easy, what won't make anyone angry

Compiled by Carol Hanisch

for her presentation on the panel "How to Defang a Movement: Replacing the Political with the Personal" at the conference
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