



“The soul of feminist politics is the commitment to ending patriarchal domination of women and men, girls and boys. Love cannot exist in any relationship that is based on domination and coercion. Males cannot love themselves in patriarchal culture if their very self-definition relies on submission to patriarchal rules. When men embrace feminist thinking and practice, which emphasizes the value of mutual growth and self-actualization in all relationships, their emotional well-being will be enhanced. A genuine feminist politics always brings us from bondage to freedom, from lovelessness to loving.” — bell hooks

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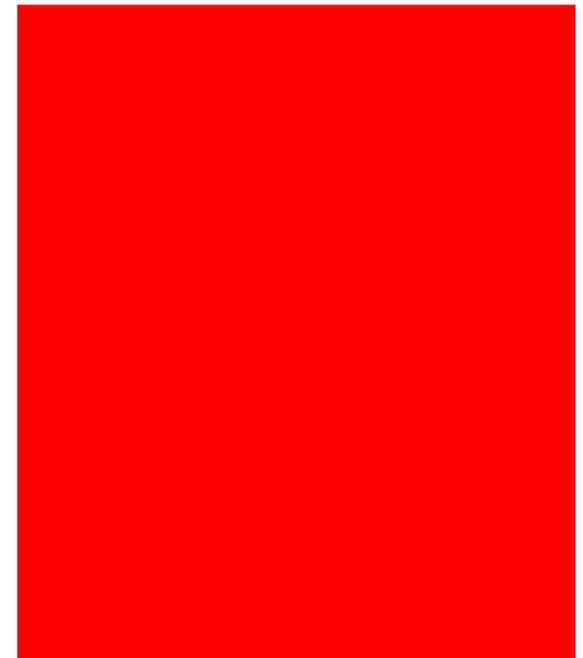
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SOCIALIST FEMINISM

in the Socialist Party USA



BECAUSE NEITHER OF US



CAN DO IT ALONE

Feminism is a topic that covers many issues, and is difficult to define in a few sentences. The SP-USA Women's Commission defines *feminism* as the belief in the equality of all sexes and genders. *Socialist feminism* is a collective movement for the liberation of all sexes and genders from restrictive gender roles and towards an egalitarian non-hierarchical society.

Furthermore, socialists recognize that in a capitalist form of patriarchy all people are negatively impacted. Therefore, socialist feminists support and practice an intersectional form of feminism that addresses overlapping oppressions based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, class, national origin, ability, size, age, ethnicity, and/or political affiliation.

There is no democratic socialism without feminism, and there is no feminism without democratic socialism — both are vital to achieving an egalitarian society where the rights of all people are respected. Feminists continue to be crucial to the labor movement. Much like race and social class, sex has been used as a wedge to divide working people and to keep them from unionizing. Feminism has a rich history within labor and socialist movements, full of inspirational leaders — both male and female. Patriarchy hurts men, too, and as feminists we need to address all the victims of patriarchy.

A socialist feminist society cannot be realized without the participation of all people of all genders and sexes. A socialist feminist society offers personal and social transformation of all human beings. We all can benefit directly from the realization of socialist feminism.

The liberation of women – including allowing women's participation in all aspects of life, allowing for equal partnerships and relationships with others, full comprehensive reproductive rights and birth control (including abortion on demand), economic parity and equal pay,

and an end to violence against women, among other aspects, would be direct benefits from the abolishment of patriarchy. Patriarchy is the control and power of men over women, but it can be reinforced by anyone. Ridding ourselves of patriarchy would also benefit men.

As socialist feminists we support the right of men and male identified people to organize for their own liberation through socialist feminism. Men and male identified people can benefit directly from socialist feminism since it would allow them to develop a full range of emotional and gender expression, encourage them to take on roles as caregivers to children and their families and not see their jobs as their sole source of self-worth, embrace cooperation over competition, give them the opportunity to unlearn aggressiveness, domination, and overcome violence, combat homophobia, and be able to embrace femininity as just as important in one's life as masculinity, and allow for the well being of men to flourish. All of us have a stake in ending patriarchal masculinity.