



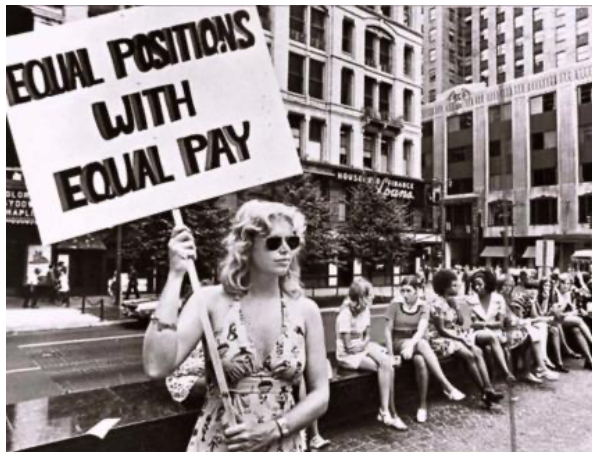
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Feminist Wars: Liberal Feminists vs. Black Feminists

Is gender inequality rooted in bad laws and workplace discrimination? Can we liberate all women by reforming educational and workplace laws, and ensuring equal pay for equal work for women? Or is gender inequality rooted in intersectional logics: in gender, sexual, racial and class inequalities, and therefore, to fight for women's rights, we have to fight for all women, and not just middle-class, white women?

Liberal feminists argue that gender inequality is about social attitudes and interpersonal sexism. If we change the laws and practices to end sex-discrimination in education and in the workplace, women will make equal pay for equal work, [reach positions of power](#), become [CEOs](#) and business leaders, and we would end gender inequality in society. All we need are legislative reforms, campaigns that explain women's productivity and importance to society, and a concerted effort to change the laws. Liberal feminists point to the successes in the past decades in [highlighting the wage gap](#), in fighting for more women in [positions in power](#), in encouraging girls into STEM fields, and in demanding an end to sexual [harassment in the workplace](#). Liberal feminists know they're constantly under attack, but they're not worried. At least they [are making a difference](#), well, some difference (abortion gains were overturned). That's you, Team 1.



“Liberal feminists are white, middle-class women, who only care about their salaries and promotions,” explains a Black feminist. You cannot claim to speak for all women when your entire agenda is to [meet the needs of white, middle-class women](#). Black feminists rose to fame as a counterforce to liberal feminists. Despite being largely led by Black activists, Black feminism is not only about Black women, but also about the liberation of all women, here and overseas, equally. Unlike liberal feminists, Black feminists think that the liberation of women requires a reckoning with racism, classism, sexism, and



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colonialism. They point to the plight of [single Black and Latina mothers](#) who predominantly make up the primary heads of households and led to the feminization of poverty. Black mothers are absent from liberal feminist agendas. Why? Because single motherhood is not as common amongst white women. They highlight justice for the [forced sterilization of Black and Latina women and reproductive justice as a demand \(instead of narrowly abortion rights\)](#), sexual violence against indigenous women, the issue of [MMIW](#)s, and show that most women face oppression because of the matrix of class, race and sexism. Serving a small sub-group of privileged women in society and pretending to represent all women is a [hypocrisy that reinforces patriarchy](#)- that's what Black feminists think of Liberal feminists. That's you, Team 2.