



Do Black Women Feel Represented in Feminism?

Inspired by Tohe’s One Indigenous Perspective from One Standpoint



Tohe has emphasized that feminism is historically situated and contextualized by scholars of the Global North. She notes that when she crosses the Western world, she notices that women are different and that feminism is a concept, action, theory, and movement primarily for white women (Gazso, 2022).

By: Rianna Brown

White women’s voices are the main ones highlighted in the movement and sociologists creating feminist theories around Eurocentrism neglect the voices and ideas of women that do not fit into the Eurocentric identity. All in all, feminism has historically excluded women of colour in the past like women’s suffrage and this exclusion has been shut out of the media and conversation.

With the rise of conversation on Tohe’s idea of feminism, Browns Buzz decided to do a round-table talk conversation with various Black women and see their takes on if they feel represented in feminism. This experiment was created to see if there has been any change in this movement since historical events.

“When I think of *feminism* my first thought is white women,” said an interviewee when asked how they would describe their feeling of representation in feminism. During the interview, this thought received various head nods in agreement. Feminism has highlighted white women’s experiences in the past while ignoring the experiences of other women and nonbinary. Because of this primary focus on white women, when people think of feminism, they have a character associated with a movement. This Black woman’s answer answers the question that there has not been a significant change in this movement.

Another interviewee brought up that as Black women they feel silenced in feminism. She states there are issues that Black women face that have yet to be addressed and changed such as issues in healthcare, employment pay and more. Black women are at high risk of being ignored during childbirth and not catered to properly during labour. This puts them at a higher mortality rate when giving birth. To avoid this some Black women avoid having children as a whole and some primarily go to Black doctors and Black midwives.

“If we aren’t intersectional some of us, the most vulnerable, are going to fall through the cracks”

- Kimberlé Crenshaw (coined the term Intersectionality)

However, the ratio of Black to white workers is unfortunately lower. Therefore, even if Black women wanted to go to workers that look like them to avoid these problems, they must deal with the barriers of not having many Black healthcare workers.

To allow all identifying women or non-gender-conforming individuals to feel a part of this movement, the movement needs to highlight the experiences of all to make the world equitable for all. That includes looking at experiences from different racial groups, different abilities, sexuality, classes, ages and more. However, will the movement be able to satisfy all groups while working towards their main goal – creating equal rights and opportunities among all genders?