

# An Introduction To My Thoughts On Feminism

Rushi Shah

26 December 2016

“At any rate, when a subject is highly  
controversial - and any question about  
sex is that - one cannot hope to tell the  
truth. One can only show how one came  
to hold whatever opinion one does hold.  
One can only give one's audience the  
chance of drawing their own conclusions  
as they observe the limitations, the  
prejudices, the idiosyncrasies of the  
speaker.”

---

Virginia Woolf

The most bittersweet feeling is when people take my opinion about sexism seriously. On one hand, I feel like I am making a difference by painstakingly convincing a person at a time that sexism is in fact still an insidious and prevalent issue. On the other hand, I feel like often they only take my opinion seriously because I am a dude.

Take, for example, election night 2016. The pent-up breath that went from being an indication of excitement to being released as a sigh and then a sob. Election night 2016. That night (and in the coming days, weeks, months) I explained to anyone who would listen why I thought the night didn't just represent a win for Donald, it represented a *loss* for Clinton.

In one particularly memorable moment that night, I was lamenting the role of sexism in the election with a female peer of mine. A male peer of mine listened in on the conversation and explained why he didn't see the influence of sexism on the results. As I explained why I thought he was wrong, and he started nodding, I realized that it just didn't feel right. He had heard it from her, but hadn't concurred until he heard it from me.

Somehow, we as a society have convinced women that they are not *allowed* to complain about sexism. Until we address that issue, the best I can do is call out that which others cannot.