

# **feminism & beyond**

contemporary perspectives  
on gender and technology

# EXPRESSION

**Expression  
Amplify  
Pornography**

# EXPRESSION

Prioritize the amplification and unrestricted expression of our narratives and lived realities, as well as resisting and fighting against state and non-state actors' various efforts against our freedoms, actions and desires.

Defend the right to sexual expression as a freedom of expression issue of no less importance than political or religious expression. And to oppose the efforts of state and non-state actors to control, surveil, regulate and restrict feminist and queer expression on the internet through technology, legislation or violence.

# Expression

I am truly disturbed by how much hatred there is on the Internet toward any sort of expression of feminism.

 @ThePenDrake (13:19 - 31 de mai de 2017)

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A number of internet rights groups express concerns about how laws for online GBV could be used to control forms of sexual or political expression. Internet rights advocates have focused largely on freedom of expression as the primary ground for their activism, research and advocacy.

 Anri van der Spuy, Namita Aavriti (2018)

**When we ourselves ask for  
'protection' from state  
mechanisms, we are asking  
them to curtail our right  
to information and right  
to freedom of expression.  
Focusing on police protection,  
the legal and justice system**

**and censorship of Internet  
to counter online violence  
would be like putting a Band-  
aid on an injury that requires a  
surgery.**

■ ■ Shubha Kayastha (2018)

Feminism is about having equality in rights to decide the course of life like education, marriage, reproduction, etc. Justice, freedom of expression etc. Its not about defaming men. It never was. Those that support Patriarchy defamed it. Which is totally wrong.

🐦 @Muckety\_Muck (09:04 – 9 de mar de 2019)

Feminism doesn't have fixed rules set in stone. But if it did, belittling someones' personal expression of empowerment wouldn't be included.

 @emythee (19:44 - 20 de jun de 2017)

The right to control and use the means of communication, whether digital or analogue. It includes freedom of expression, the right to participate in culture, linguistic rights, and the right to education. Pluralism, knowledge and media ownership are integral to the exercise of this right. The history of the right to communicate reveals the contestation between powerful status quo forces and those who seek transformative global change for justice and equality.

 Anita Gurumurthy (2017)

Art may function symbolically with images, metaphors, and narratives, but it also crosses and partially obscures the limits of activism. For its part, activism is an expression of protest against technocapitalistic excess; it is an effort to pursue new tools, instruments, and places to enable common activity, common learning, and common unlearning. 📖 Cornelia Sollfrank (2018)

I believe feminism is a movement to empower all genders by addressing the structural inequalities in society that disenfranchise people on the basis of their gender identity and /or expression.

🐦 @turnon\_love (14:24 - 6 de jun de 2019)

The debate on online GBV does overlap with the one on hate speech against minorities, caste atrocities and racism. In the internet rights discourse, most civil society organisations stick to a liberal view of free speech that is against censorship of even controversial content since this would be a slippery slope, and allow the state far too much control over speech. However, from the perspective of feminists and scholars of race, ethnicity and caste studies it is evident that the contours of this debate need to be mapped constructively and not only in terms of binary positions for and against free expression.

Why do men think of sexism  
& feminism as female things?  
Do you think the male suicide  
rate comes from nothing?  
Of course it also comes from  
inequality in the space of  
emotional expression & its  
judgement. You're also part  
of this conversation. You just  
tend to hate on it instead

🐦 @rayowag (05:39 – 5 de jun de 2019)



All these online movements were informed by the real and lived experiences of the people on the ground. So even for the women's movement, it is such experiences that should prompt us to connect with other women. This can be done either online or in other ways, so that when social media comes along, it is just to amplify and spread the message.

■ ■ Anri van der Spuy, Namita Aavriti (2018)

# Amplify

Remember that #feminism is NOT a trend, and it is NOT an accessory. Feminism carries a long history of constant struggle, & it is not limited by our personal experience. We need to learn and listen, be open to critique, and amplify the voices constantly at risk of being silenced.

🐦 @MarchingHere (00:31 - 8 de mar de 2019)

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Women in positions of privilege and power must step up to amplify the voices and experiences of the marginalized. Intersectionality in feminism is vital.

🐦 @BillieJeanKing (21:22 - 21 de ago de 2018)

Listen to women's voices and amplify them but please, don't speak over us or for us because you'll be missing the point completely #feminism

🐦 @catrincooper (10:59 - 9 de abr de 2017)

**ICTs have the capacity to challenge monopolised discourses by amplifying the agency, narratives and voices of women, feminists and human rights defenders; thereby supporting sexual, political, religious and general freedom of expression.**

📖 Anri van der Spuy, Namita Aavriti (2018)

The literature also indicates that women's sexual expression, in particular, is often limited because of overzealous content regulation grounded in the ostensible need to limit potentially harmful consequences of pornography or sexual expression.

■ Anri van der Spuy, Namita Aavriti (2018)

## Pornography

liberal “feminism” assumes that because (some, but not all) sex workers are able to choose their “clients” and get paid for working in porn or prostitution, that these institutions are somehow liberatory & empowering, a view devoid of any material analysis

🐦 @socialistmic (04:01 – 27 de mar de 2019)

Th ‘sex positive movement’ sounds just like the ‘free love movement’ of the late sixties, a vehicle benefiting males under the guise of ‘freedom’. ‘Sex-positive feminism’ likewise, a ruse to promote the misogyny of porn culture as ‘liberating’ for women.

🐦 @Lfox\_cdr (15:10 – 27 de dez de 2018)

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Let me be very clear because there seems to be some confusion: feminism is not just for you and women you approve of. It's also for horrible women you can't stand, porn stars, sex workers, and yes, Kim Kardashian. Don't call yourself a feminist if you don't grasp this concept.

🐦 @SulomeAnderson (12:39 - 31 de mai de 2018)

**Sexuality,  
pornography,  
expression and  
agency are interlinked  
concerns, especially  
for LGBTQIA people,  
and also for women  
whose expressions  
around sex and  
sexuality are limited  
within a cisgender  
heterosexual  
patriarchal paradigm.**

📖 Anri van der Spuy, Namita Aavriti (2018)

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