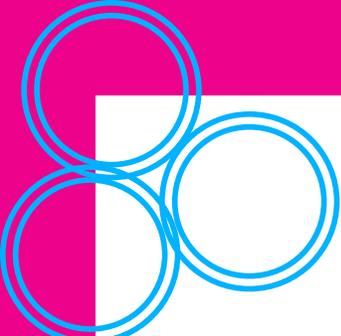


# NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO BE A FEMINIST

by  
**Valerie  
Martinelli**  
MPA

valerie  
consulting  
martinelli

FEMINIST: A PERSON WHO BELIEVE IN THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, & ECONOMIC  
EQUALITY OF ALL SEXES, ESPECIALLY WOMEN



# fem·i·nism

noun

advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of political, social, & economic equality

**Feminism.** It's such a controversial word because it's so closely linked to liberal democratic politics. As we know, feminists are activists that advocate for our political, economic, and social equality. Feminism has been well disseminated within our society way before my time. One of the earliest feminists was [Victoria Woodhull](#), who was the first woman to run for President in 1872. Feminism has evolved through time. It began with women not needing a man to be in public, speaking freely about sex, winning the right to vote, becoming college educated, the right to choose, and now continues with issues like equal pay and paid leave. However, with the nomination of Hillary Clinton for President, feminism has become an even more relevant topic than it has been in the past. Is feminism a dirty word? Is there something implicitly wrong with feminism or do we need to change our societal views? What does it mean to be a feminist?

As the founder of a women's mentorship program and the consultant for a women's-based personal development services, I could not imagine being anything other than a feminist. Equality is good business practice and enforces the principles of tolerance and love. Diversity within businesses promote higher levels of engagement, better retention, and allow for greater meaning and purpose. Advocating for social equality encourages greater levels of acceptance within society, not just for women. I believe now is the time for feminists and those in search of equality to rise and speak up. Why? The drive and desire to be equal has never been greater than it is at the present time. We have the opportunity to elect our first female President. Our voices must be heard!

Valerie  
Martinelli

MPA | PG 2

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noun

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## I write this to empower **ALL** women...

and men to get involved. We can create global communities and shift the paradigms. We do not need to wait for anyone to do this for us. Be a social change agent and initiate your own movements. Mentorship is one of the best and principal ways that we can establish that change.

I founded Innovate 50/50 and started my consulting business with the

vision of furthering the dreams for other women. We are the ones who give up the most for others

within our lives and oftentimes the I ast to ask for help. It isn't a wonder

to me that we have not achieved parity yet,

mostly because we are not enhancing the skills necessary

to do so. If you're sitting there thinking "we have higher education rates than men", you're right, we do. However, not every skill necessary to be successful in life is learned through an education.

Mentors can teach us valuable skills in and out of professional settings, such as networking strategies, negotiation, and leadership skills. Now is the time for us to rally and work together to be the change we need. We can do better. We deserve equal pay, equitable policies for paid leave, and those that will create a level playing field for men and women. We have the opportunity to continue to break down barriers and shatter glass ceilings. Through our actions we can

can teach our girls they can be anything that they want to be from a scientist, a writer, or an Olympic athlete.

Our gender should not create barriers for us.

Valerie  
Martinelli

MPA | PG 3

# fem·i·nism

noun

advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of political, social, & economic equality

**Feminism** is NOT a “*dirty*” word....

It should not be one that is solely linked to liberal politics or has a negative connotation.

**Feminism** is EQUALITY

**Feminism** is FAIRNESS

**Feminism** is TEACHING younger generations to have the courage to stand up for what they believe in and to achieve their goals.

**Feminism** BREAKS DOWN barriers!

**Feminist Movements** can bring ...

# **POSITIVE CHANGE !**

Our society and culture needs to stop shaming those who want to proudly say that they are a feminist. We need to create a younger generation of those who want to bring us closer to parity. So what does it mean to me to be a feminist? It means that I will continue to mentor women and break down barriers that will hold us back. Now, there is only one way to go - **forward!**

valerie  
consulting  
martinelli



Valerie  
Martinelli

MPA

PG 4

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