

Radical Feminist Man hating Rant (not really)

Some opinions on Sexism.....by clodagh.

Before writing this, i decided to find a concise dictionary definition on the subject. It was more difficult than i imagined, i checked 4 or 5 sources, but all they had was "sex". Eventually, i found the following definition on a Hutchinson Encyclopedia CD ROM:

Sexism is a belief in (or set of implicit assumptions about) the superiority of one's sex. often accompanied by

-stereotype/preconceived idea

-discrimination on basis of sex

First used in the 60s by feminist writers to describe language or behaviour implying women's inferiority. One example of sexism is the conscientious use of male pronouns to describe men and women.

Sexism in the punk scene, eh? Well of course there must be some. There are more males than females in the scene. Males are more likely to have inbred sexist opinions. Therefore, and forgive me if i am making sweeping generalisations, but that should make for, at least an element of sexism in the scene.

I have experienced what i would consider to be sexism before. Not being taken seriously just because i am female, being somewhere with a bloke who i would consider my equal and being treated with a little less respect than they receive by another person (most likely male). (I don't know if you've quite followed that one). Being asked to do things that a bloke wouldn't be asked to do. Not being asked to do things i am well capable of because a person (most likely male) presumes that cos i am female, i am not as capable as my male counterpart.

However, to the best of my knowledge, i have not been treated as a 2nd class citizen in the punk scene, or felt like a bloke thought he was better than i just cos he was male, and i wasn't. No, sometimes i feel that as a female in a predominantly male scene, i am treated with a bit more respect. Blokes think "hey, a girl, lets hear what she has to say, it would be interesting to hear her perspective, we're used to hearing male views only".

Back to my fabalous definition and the "preconceived idea" notion, well perhaps all those males i have met did have stereotypical ideas about females, but myself and other females they know in the punk scene smashed those ideas. I can say that punk girls are certainly different to non punk, "normal" or "straight" (whatever) girls, being more opinionated and self-confident on the whole. Maybe punk boys have one set of rules governing their relations with girls inside the scene, and another for girls outside it.

Or maybe i have been discriminated against so much all of my life, that sexism has become such an ingrained part of my life and consciousness, that, unless, it is terrifically blatant, i don't realise it. Maybe i experience sexism every time i encounter someone from the punk scene, but i'm so used to it, i don't even notice it.

Maybe, but maybe not.....

But what about sexism on my part and on the part of other females?

If you twisted my arm, you might just get me to admit my female superiority ideas ... look there i have gone and blurted it out and you didn't even have to resort to violence. Yes, i think the absolute majority of men are, well, fucking goons, fools, saps, full of opinions of how brilliant they are and how women are merely pretty objects to look at lustily or have sex with. But on the other hand i have met some seriously fantastic blokes that i wouldn't say a word against.

Alot of the women i've come into contact with in my life are truly amazing, indeed goddesses, to me. But, i will also say that i have met and see everyday stupid, stupid females that make me cringe and make me angry because they sell themselves so short.

I think i'm losing the plot here, my main point is that in my own experience (albeit not a great deal) i have not been treated in a sexist manner by males in the punk scene and thats a good thing.

But sexism is rampant outside the scene and thats a bad thing. A wise man said

to me during the week that it is difficult to separate issues, because they are all linked, all part of the intricate puzzle that is life. Sexism is one of the bad things that pisses me right off, and like alot of bad things, i fell a bit sad and helpless that it is so HUGE and i am just one. What can i do? etc. etc.

So today i won't get ail bogged down on helplessness and what have you. I'll end on a positive note cos today i am happy that the punk scene is (in my humble opinion and short span of experience) not a sexist one.