

Discussion Notes on Videos

HeforShe Speech

Emma said “feminism has become a dirty word”. In what way may people’s uninformed ideas about feminism make the movement seem wrong? Are these ideas true or not true?

No country in the world has achieved gender equality. How does this make us feel? How may this discourage or scare us as we move on into the professional world and become adults? How may this encourage us as we move out into the professional world?

“It is not the word that is important. It is the idea, the ambition that is behind it.” What does being equal to men mean to you? What is your idea or ambition behind it?

“Gender equality is your issue too. We don’t often talk about men being imprisoned by gender stereotypes.” Emma talks about men’s pride often leading them to neglect getting treatment or doing anything that may make them seem “weak” or “girly.” In what ways may feminism also help men?

“It’s time we see gender as a spectrum instead of two sides with opposing ideals.” Is feminism about more than just women?

“If not me, who? If not now, when?” Take that with you.

Let Girls Learn Michelle Obama Speech

“I didn’t have many professional role models to look up to” Let’s recap: Who are some women role models you have? Why?

“Not just for yourselves, but all of us.” Have you ever stopped to think that maybe you’re a role model for other people? Siblings? Cousins? Friends? Maybe even parents? If you knew people were looking up to you, would you act differently?

Malala Yousafzai Nobel Peace Prize Speech

“We had a thirst for education because our future was right there in our classroom.” All of us have the privilege of having access to a good education while children in other countries, especially women, do not. Do you take this right for granted?

“I had two options, one was to remain silent and wait to be killed. The second was to speak up and then be killed. I chose the second one.”

JK Rowling's 2008 Harvard Commencement Address

“For without ever committing an act of outright evil ourselves, we collude with it, through our own apathy.” Here, Rowling (in a very complicated way) says that by not acting, we are just as bad as the people committing the crime. How can we become more aware in our lives? How can we help instead of ignoring important issues?

“The way you vote, the way you live, the way you protest, the pressure you bring to bear on your government, has an impact way beyond your borders. That is your privilege, and your burden.” Here, Rowling (once again in a complicated way) says that it is our responsibility as members of a democratic society where it is our right to speak up to make changes. How can we (with our limited but important voices) work to make changes for our community and the people around us?

“We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better.” What do you imagine for a better world?