

The Women's March Stance on Reproductive Rights is All For The Erasure of Fertility, Not For Women

When I think about "women's rights" and what that means, it isn't much different than what I think about human rights. The right to life. The right to health, vitality and the opportunity to thrive. The right to happiness, freedom and personal autonomy and sovereignty. The right to resources and information and truth. The right to embodiment and a deeper connection to the universe and self.

Sure, some of that might seem idealistic and super meta, but I don't aim low. If you know me, you aren't surprised.

The 2019 Women's March is coming up in three days and I am seeing women everywhere gearing up to, once again, march and "fight" for their rights (of which I am still confused about those they claim we supposedly don't have. I am also in disagreement about what constitutes as a "right," but I digress....).

When I think of many of the tenants of modern feminism, I don't always hear, "fight for your rights," so much as I hear, "fight for your right to pick your poison."

On the Women's March website under "Unity Principles," it says the following on **reproductive rights:**

"We believe in Reproductive Freedom. We do not accept any federal, state or local rollbacks, cuts or restrictions on our ability to access quality reproductive healthcare services, birth control, HIV/AIDS care and prevention, or medically accurate sexuality education. This means open access to safe, legal, affordable abortion and birth control for all people, regardless of income, location or education. We understand that we can only have reproductive justice when reproductive health care is accessible to all people regardless of income, location or education."

If the women's march and Planned Parenthood (one of their main sponsors) platform cared about reproductive freedom, then why do they not include anything about the daily occurrence of obstetrical abuse and violence? Or the reality that obstetrics is *inherently* violent and rooted in slavery at its core?

What about all the women who are harassed and invaded by CPS for choosing to birth their babies freely in the comfort of their own home without being overseen by a figure with a stamp of authority? No mention of birth freedom. Life freedom.

How come it isn't mentioned that there are still states that midwifery care is illegal, and mostly unaffordable where it is legal? So being *for* women means we make "care" affordable and accessible to women who don't want children (contraceptives and abortions), but we don't include making care affordable and accessible to women who do?

Or even worse, how it is illegal to call oneself a midwife unless the government has granted you the title, meaning government owns the conditions of birth, and if women do not abide by these conditions then they are at risk for being tormented, interrogated and persecuted. Modern day witch hunts, in essence.

What about advocating for women to rest for 2-3 days when they bleed?

It's because the women's march, their platform and sponsors don't actually care about women's freedom in regard to their health and life giving abilities. They only care about furthering the modern feminist and Planned Parenthood agenda which includes the erasure of fertility, an abandonment of our hormonal matrix that distinguishes us as women, and sterilization. These components are what helps us further advance in joining the ranks of men and a world dominated by men. Modern feminism, AKA be more like men. The workforce and Planned Parenthood don't really benefit when women stay home from work and opt out of medical care in order to take their care into their own hands.

For what it is worth, I love men and the roles they offer and provide. I just don't want to be one. I am different, and offer value in other ways as a woman.

The thing is, and what I want women to know is.....

Women already have all the rights they are fighting for. They have them by virtue of their womanhood. They were given the power by nature to control birth or to terminate it if need be (and abortion is often *caused* by living in a society run by masculine ideals and values, not a solution to it, but I digress again). What I want women to know is that they don't need to be wasting energy fighting men to feel autonomous over their bodies. We already are, and we have a vast well of resources and knowledge that is available to us that we have been robbed from by growing up in an industrialized, modern society. We don't need to be marching on Capitol Hill. We need to march on over to the living rooms of our community sisters and relearn the art of DIY healthcare. It's really not that hard, trust me, I do it. Not only do I do my own healthcare, but I train second year medical students (I know, how ironic. Another post.) how to perform the well-women's exam and I'll let you in on a little secret....

If you're reading this, you could do the damn thing yourself.....

As much as I see myself as a woman who radically cares for the health and well-being and rights of women, I just can't get behind the modern, liberal feminist movement that feels so rampant today, precisely because I don't see that it carries similar values as I do. It touts that it does, but I see it all as a wolf in sheep's clothing. The amount of disconnect between women, their bodies and the foundations of true health in the feminist movement is astonishing. I can't support women demanding their "rights" for pills (that were invented and created by men) that screw up our hormonal health, (which is inextricably connected to everything else), and is responsible for many deaths.

I can't cry for free access to a healthcare system that is dominated by the ideas of men and predicated on abuse and the perpetuation of chronic disease. A system that persuades women to part with their breasts and womb in the name of profit. I can't hoot and holler when they make toxic feminine hygiene products "tax free" that wreak havoc on our bodies.

Like I said, the Women's March platform mentions access to birth control and abortion, but says *nothing* (zero!) about a woman's right to a healthy, physiological, sovereign birth and support around that (with the exception of maternal leave). I only see the erasure of fertility within feminism everywhere I look. **Plug it up, take a pill, kill it.**

I. Just. Don't. Get. It. How is it not painfully obvious that (wo)man's abandonment from nature, and now destruction of nature is what got us where we are today? And in a hierarchy where hu(man) thinks he can dominate that which sustains him (nature), it has translated over to women's bodies, and feminists have taken the bait, and are now demanding free and total access to a world that was never created in support of their biology. I simply don't resonate with anything that separates women from what makes them women, or attempts to make our unique, biological functions and gifts a burden that we need to abandon ourselves from.

To my mind, things like top-down, big medicine, hormonal contraceptives (or any pharmaceutical drug), and medicated/technocratic abortions are not components that can help "liberate" women, but rather, they only further exploit women. By no means do I see these as solutions to our problems, but rather, some inevitable outcomes to our deeper distresses.

Last year, I discovered a term called *Ecofeminism*. I can't believe I had never heard of this before. It's. So. Me. Sure, it's just a label, and why the need to label myself? It's less about the label and more that I know there are women who see the correlation between the oppression of nature and how that has translated into the oppression of women. Women who get that we *are* nature and trying to ignore and override it is the true "patriarchy."

Some tenants and ideas of Ecofeminism are:

- Ecofeminism uses the parallels between the oppression of nature and the oppression of women as a way to highlight the idea that both must be understood in order to properly recognize how they are connected. These parallels include but are not limited to seeing women and nature as property, seeing men as the curators of culture and women as the curators of nature, and how men dominate women and humans dominate nature.
- One ecofeminist theory is that capitalist values reflect paternalistic and gendered values. In this interpretation effects of capitalism has led to a harmful split between nature and culture. In the 1970s, early ecofeminists discussed that the split can only be healed by the feminine instinct for nurture and holistic knowledge of nature's processes.
- Vandana Shiva says that women have a special connection to the environment through their daily interactions and this connection has been ignored. She says that women in subsistence economies who produce "wealth in partnership with nature, have been experts in their own right of holistic and ecological knowledge of nature's processes". She makes the point that "these alternative modes of knowing, which are oriented to the social benefits and sustenance needs are not recognized by the capitalist reductionist paradigm, because it fails to perceive the interconnectedness of nature, or the connection of women's lives, work and knowledge with the creation of wealth (23)". Shiva blames this failure on the West's patriarchy, and the patriarchal idea of what development is. According to Shiva, patriarchy has labeled women, nature, and other groups not growing the economy as "unproductive".
- In Ecofeminism (1993) authors Vandana Shiva, Maria Mies and Evan Bondi ponder modern science and its acceptance as a universal and value-free system. Instead, they view the dominant stream of modern science as a projection of Western men's values. The privilege of determining what is considered scientific knowledge has been controlled by men, and for the most part of history restricted to men. Bondi and Miles list examples including the medicalization of childbirth and the industrialization of plant reproduction.

There are many philosophies within ecofeminism, some are even conflicting just as they are within Christianity or modern feminism. I don't agree with them all, but ecofeminism is the closest thing I have found that can articulate my personal views of feminism and what true health and empowerment for women is.

If being a feminist means I must support women in their choices no matter what, then I am not a feminist. Often times, supporting women "no matter what," means watching women fall prey to toxic patriarchal exploitation cloaked in "women's liberation," and I can't (and won't) sit back and swallow one iota of toleration for something I view as doing so much harm. Which doesn't mean I'll jump down your throat about it, either, or even bring it up if

we don't have a relationship built on a lot of love and trust.

If being a feminist mean I think women deserve equal treatment, respect, and pay for the same work (they do) as men or any other human being, then of course, I am a feminist, and quite frankly, who isn't (with the exception of some assholes)?