

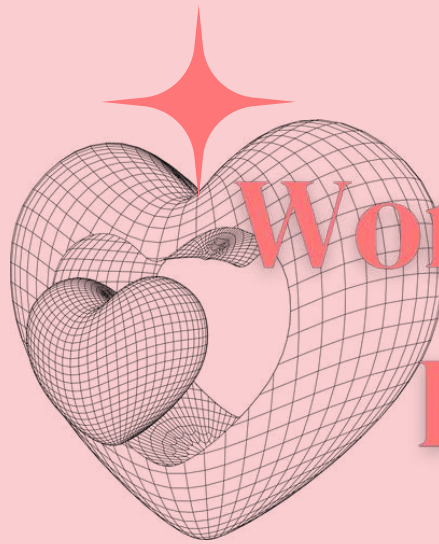
# Female Empire

Est. 2025

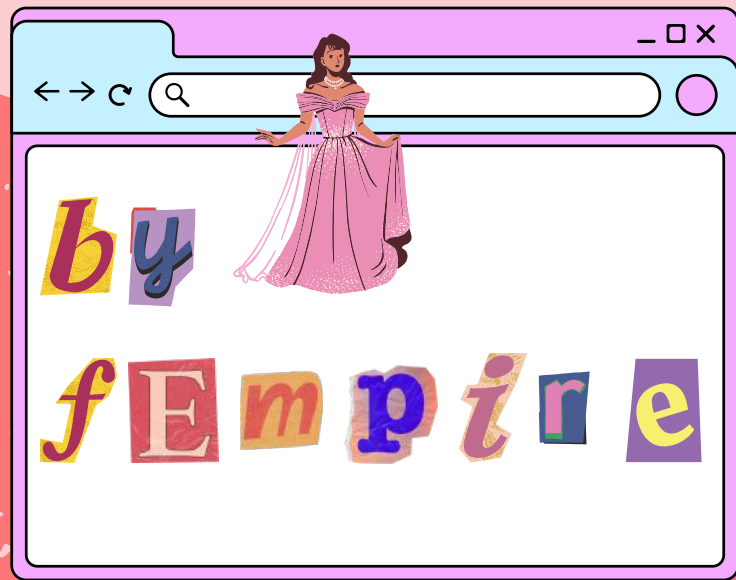


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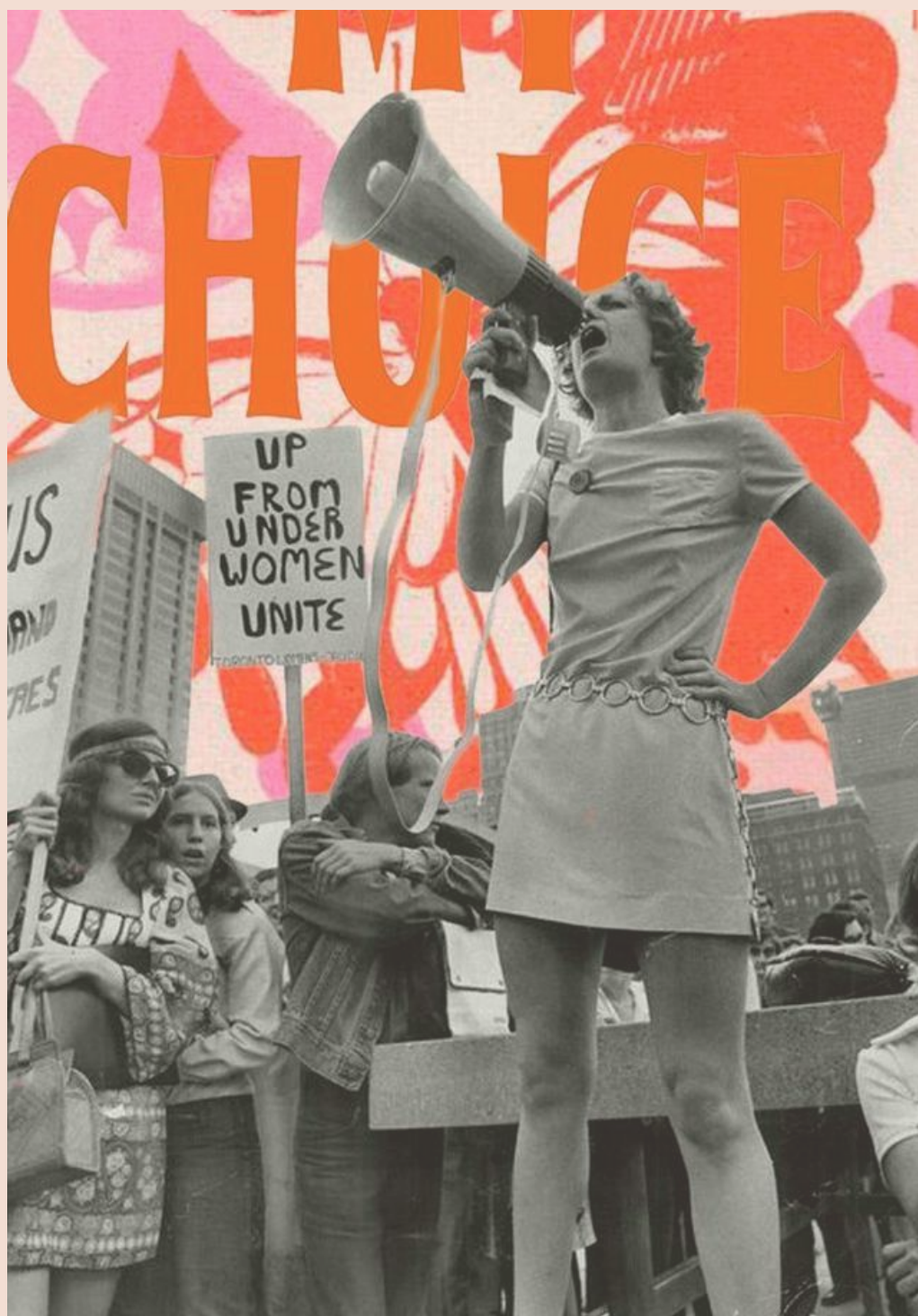
MARCH 8,  
2025



Women's Day  
Edition



# INCLUSIVITY IN FEMINISM



Historically, feminism has struggled with inclusivity, particularly when it comes to race, class, and sexuality. White feminism—feminism that centers the experiences and priorities of white, middle-to-upper-class women—has failed to address the complexities of marginalized women's struggles. White feminists have often positioned themselves as the face of the movement while ignoring the voices of Indigenous, Black, and immigrant women.

As one writer describes, white feminism does not account for factors like skin color, cultural background, religious identity, and immigration status, making it an incomplete and sometimes harmful ideology when applied universally.

Feminism must evolve to reflect the ways gender inequities intersect with racial, socioeconomic, and cultural factors. Indigenous and local women should lead their own feminist narratives, with white feminists acting as allies rather than gatekeepers. Another historically overlooked aspect of feminism is its exclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly bisexual women, transgender individuals, and non-binary people. While lesbian women have played significant roles in past feminist movements, bisexual women have been marginalized, seen as “lesbians gone straight” rather than as individuals with a valid identity. Bisexuals have faced rejection from both the LGBTQ+ community and the feminist movement, often left without a space that fully acknowledges their experiences.

Roxane Gay, a bisexual Haitian-American feminist, challenges this exclusion. She critiques mainstream feminism for prioritizing straight, white women while failing to support queer and trans individuals. However, even as modern feminism becomes more inclusive, the intersection of sexuality and feminism is still largely unexplored.

A disturbing trend within feminism has been the rise of TERFs (trans-exclusionary radical feminists), who reject the inclusion of transgender individuals in feminist spaces. These individuals claim to be advocating for women's rights while actively working against trans rights, using feminism as a guise for transphobia.

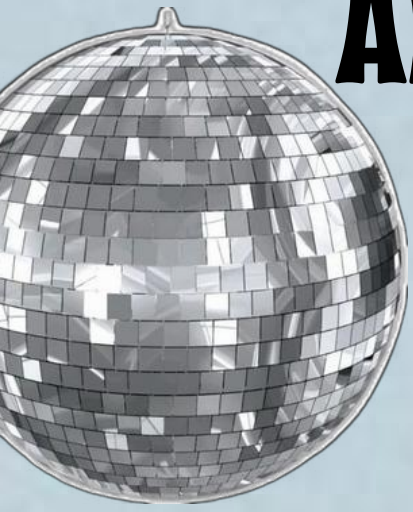
TERFs have influenced real-world policies, including bans on gender-affirming care, restrictions on trans athletes, and even public harassment of women who do not conform to rigid gender norms. Their rhetoric contributes to violence against trans people, who are already at higher risk of victimization. Moreover, their ideology is linked to the same oppressive structures that seek to control women's bodies, much like the fight against abortion rights.

Feminism must reject transphobia entirely—any movement that excludes marginalized individuals contradicts its core mission of equality and justice for all.

In recent years, celebrities have helped bring LGBTQ+ visibility to feminism. However, their activism often separates their feminist stance from their queer identity, missing an opportunity to engage in deeper conversations about the intersection of gender and sexuality.

Modern feminism must push beyond surface-level advocacy and engage with the complexities of identity, power, and oppression. The fight against sexism, objectification, and violence cannot be won without including the LGBTQ+ community. As Roxane Gay aptly states, feminism that ignores queer, working-class, or trans women is not feminism at all. Feminism must evolve to be truly inclusive—one that acknowledges the unique struggles of women of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other marginalized groups. White feminism and TERF ideology must be dismantled, and the movement must embrace intersectionality as a guiding principle.

The future of feminism depends on bridging the gap between LGBTQ+ activism and feminist advocacy, amplifying diverse voices, and rejecting exclusionary narratives. Only then can it fulfill its true purpose: achieving justice and equality for all, regardless of race, class, gender identity, or sexual orientation.



# ALL MEN PODCAST EPIDEMIC

## And Alpha Male Syndrome

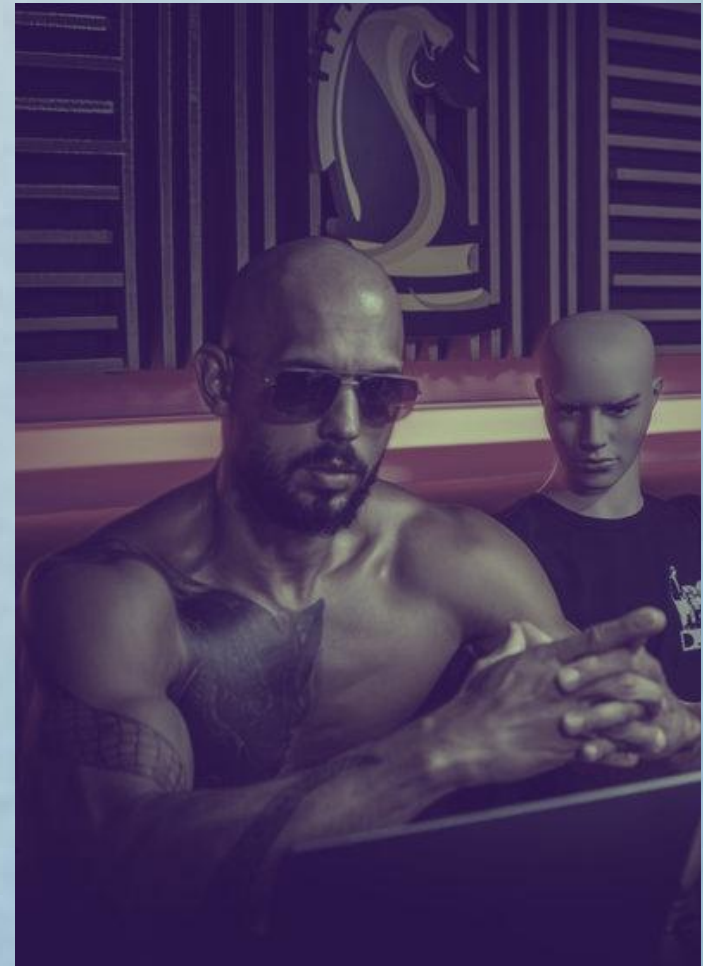


Lets talk about,

### The Trap of Hyper Masculine Ideals

Have you ever felt like you aren't respected enough or man enough for the society, well then have a seat and get on the new all men podcast

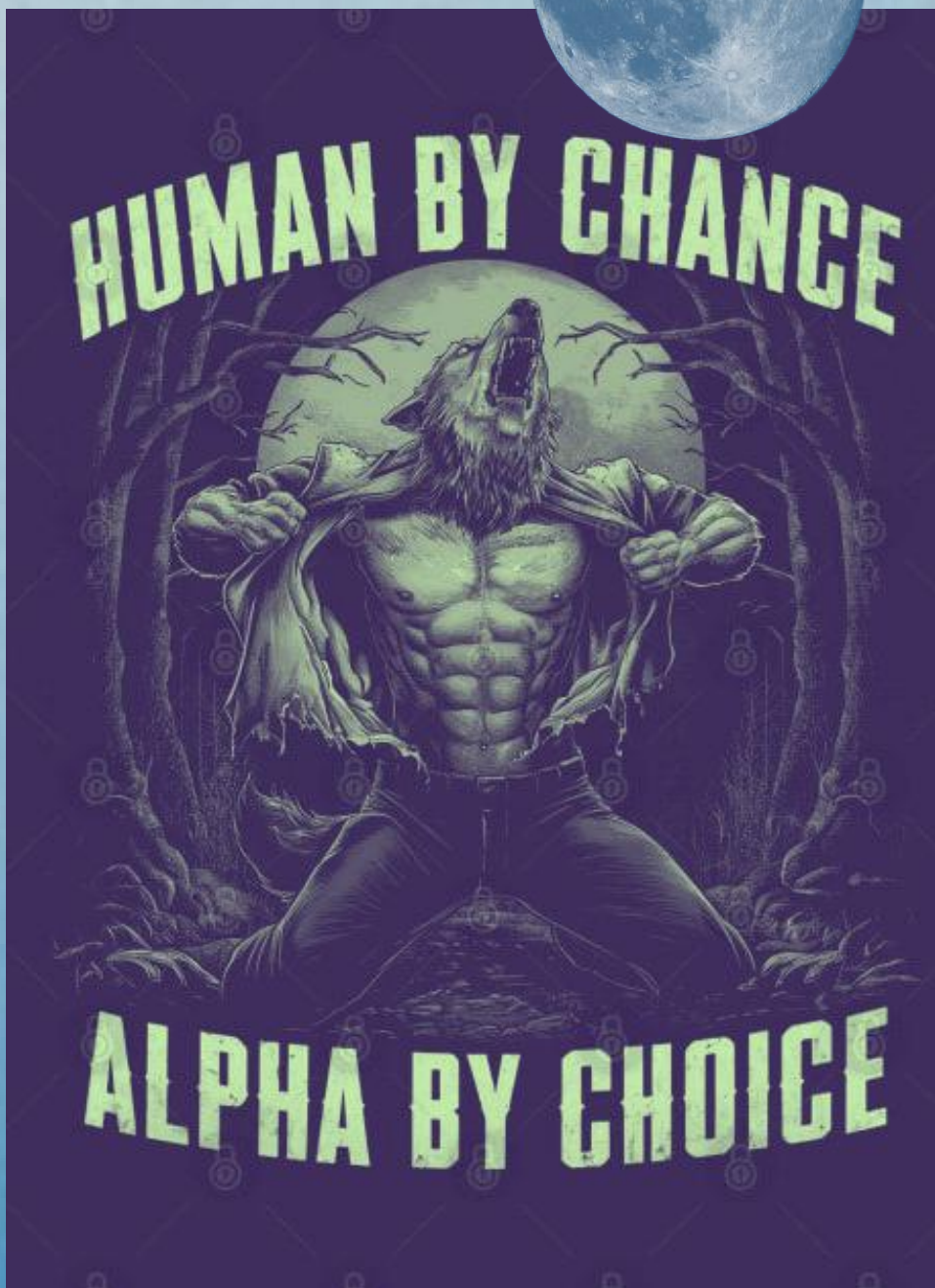
By definition, the "All Men Podcast Epidemic" refers to a growing trend of podcasts that promote narrow, hyper-masculine ideals, emphasizing dominance, emotional suppression, and material success, which can foster toxic behaviors, unrealistic expectations, and a harmful disregard for mental health and vulnerability.



## The Rise of So Called "Alpha Male"

### The Illusion of Dominance

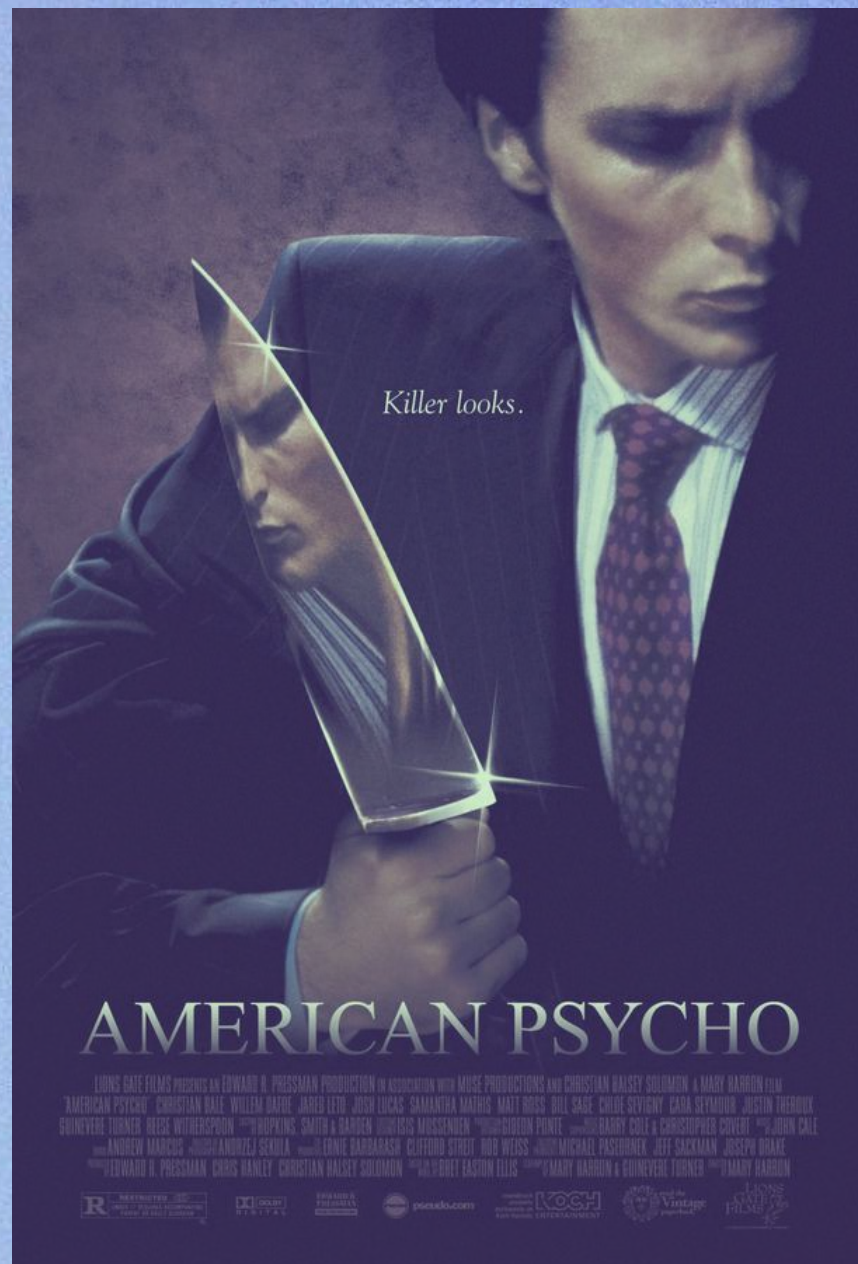
With popularization of podcasts, it has become more easily accessible and convenient for everyone to start their own podcast with little to no actual consequence to the ideals they create and put out. Among other things these men are not held accountable for their influence on the minds of young men. These days every Tom, Dick and Harry is in front of a microphone talking about women like an animal in a nature documentary referring to them as 'females'. When impressionable minds of young men are exposed to this epidemic it creates a notion that women are somehow an entirely different species. Men like these, who are out of touch with reality, try to serve as the moral compass for the growing minds while having an unsuccessful relationship with women around them, leading to the rise of "alpha males"



## Turning Toxicity into a Business Model, The Rise of a Misguided Brotherhood

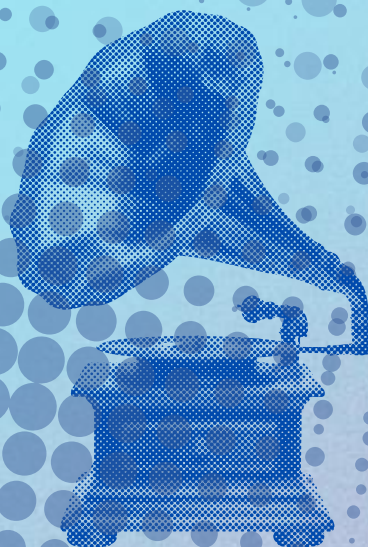
The term alpha male refers to a man who is perceived as the dominant figure in a group or social hierarchy. This individual is often characterized by traits such as confidence, assertiveness, leadership, and the ability to influence or control others. The concept has evolved to represent someone who is seen as successful, competitive, and in control, though it is starting to imply more of a rigid, stereotypical view of masculinity.

When boys with fragile masculinity and insecurities get online and see men with an uncensored platform sell an unrealistic and toxic lifestyle, they mistake it as guidance to achieve that. Despite being created by men and catering to men, the one thing men feel entitled to discuss are women, their bodies and their characters



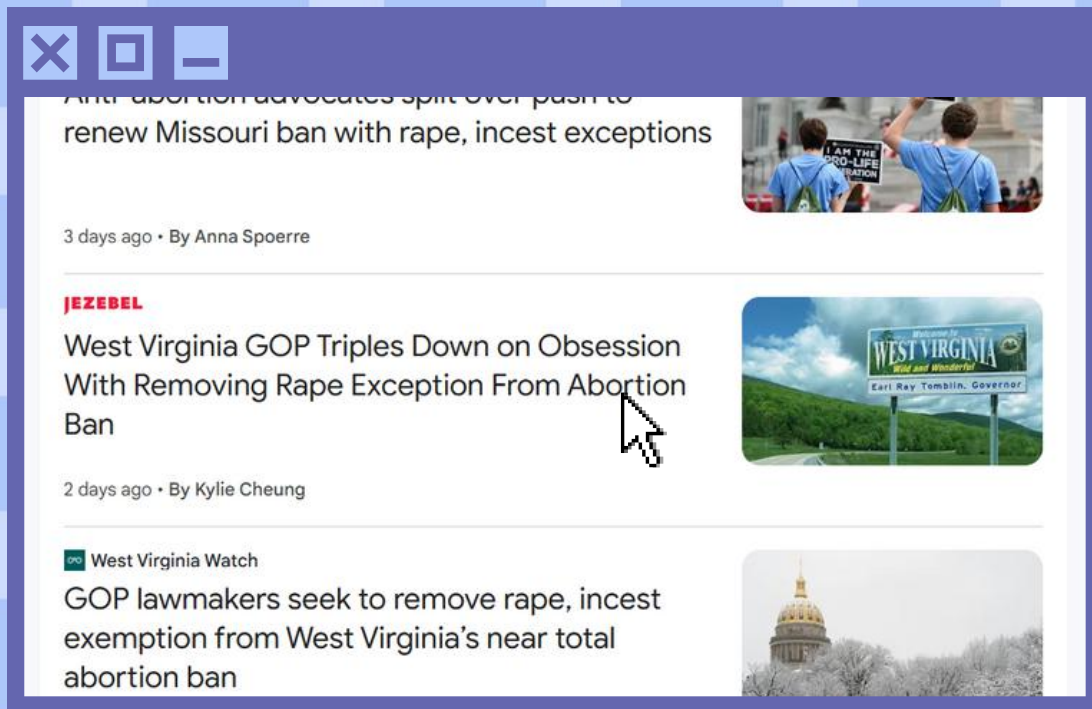
## High Value Women, Who's deciding the value ?

Bunch of underqualified men sitting around a table spewing their hot takes and uneducated opinions, coming up with wild theories, comparing women to objects and animals and discussing their attributes like it should be moulded for them, sounds very delusional, right? Because it is. And this is what the next generation of chronically online, misinformed boys are getting influenced by. That why as a society we need to be more mindful of people who we give power and a platform



# DOUBLESPEAK:

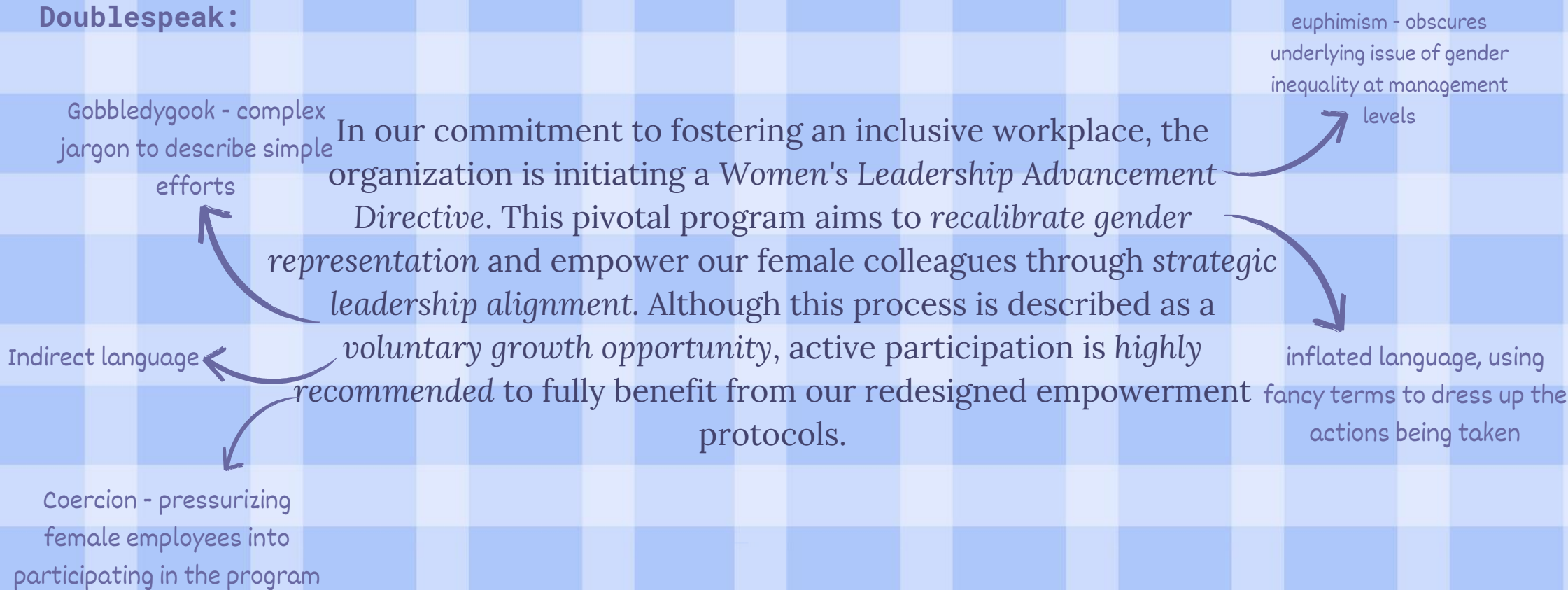
## Unveiling the Veil of Words



Imagine flipping through your daily newspaper and stumbling across the term 'non-consensual sex'. This phrase, a stark example of doublespeak, has recently infiltrated discussions around sexual assault, subtly shifting perceptions from the harsh reality of rape to a more palatable, less confrontational term. But what exactly is doublespeak? At its core, doublespeak is a language that deliberately obscures, disguises, or distorts meaning. It's not just a linguistic tool but a powerful

instrument in shaping societal norms and values. Why does this matter? In media and politics, where every word carries weight, doublespeak is often wielded to perpetuate gender biases and obscure the stark truths of discrimination and inequality. This manipulation of language not only affects how issues are perceived but also how they are addressed—or not addressed—in policy and public discourse. Thus, by examining how doublespeak serves to sustain existing gender imbalances, we begin to see its role as not just a linguistic cloaking device, but a barrier to genuine progress in gender equality.

Consider a hypothetical paragraph from an article to understand the various aspects of **Doublespeak**:



Language is not neutral. It is a tool used to shape power structures, determine whose voices are heard, and control public perception. As we've seen in these examples, doublespeak is weaponized to make oppression appear natural, soften the perception of violence, and obscure policies that harm women and marginalized communities. When media outlets downplay gendered violence, when politicians frame reproductive restrictions as "support", and when governments justify harmful economic policies with corporate-sounding jargon, they are not just using words—they are shaping reality. By failing to name the injustices women face, doublespeak creates barriers to awareness, accountability, and change. If we cannot see the problem clearly, how can we fight against it? Words shape the world. The question is- who controls the narrative?

# How can we fight back?

1

**Call it what it is:** Say "rape," not "non-consensual relations." Say "abortion restrictions," not "protecting life."

2

**Push for media accountability:** Call out biased coverage by directly engaging with journalists and news outlets, demanding clarity in language through emails, social media, and public discussions.

3

**Support independent media:** Media that prioritizes transparent reporting and fact-check narratives to challenge misleading phrasing.

4

**Educate ourselves & others:** Learn to recognize and decode doublespeak to see the truth behind the words.

5

**Reclaim our own narratives:** Use feminist platforms to name reality as it is, without sanitization or dilution.

BBC

Marital rape: India anger as judge frees man accused of raping wife who then died



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Delhi court 'honourably' acquits Army officer of rape charges



Access Hollywood

Blake Lively Steps Out At 'Another Simple Favor' Red Carpet Amid Justin Baldoni Lawsuit Drama

'Not a sexual predator but a young person involved in consensual relationship'; Bombay HC grants bail to 22-year-old man accused of raping his 16-year-old girlfriend

THE TIMES OF INDIA

14 Feb • By Geeta Pandey

Chinese PhD student convicted of multiple sexual assaults in London, police fear more victims

Hong Kong

1 in 3 women work, but

Hans India

Strict action women a

The Telegraph

I'm a prison inmate. But colleagues

portal to workplaces

ews

e 'manosphere' stream

Andrew Tate  
ist influence

Sick, Trash  
Of Misogyny

ALJAZEERA

'Everything is legitimate': Israeli leaders defend soldiers accused of rape



Firstpost

'Afraid of AI', says Trump as he faces potential lawsuit for sharing Taylor Swift's deepfakes

Business Stand

Women's Day 2025: Menstrual leave push redefines workplace priorities

Pew Research Center

Gender pay gap in U.S. has narrowed slightly over 2 decades





# Women Who Shaped Music History

i want to have control

Throughout history, women have revolutionized music, breaking barriers and redefining genres. From punk rock to hip-hop, these trailblazers challenged norms and left an enduring impact on the industry.

Patti Smith revolutionized punk by blending poetry with rock, challenging beauty stereotypes, and inspiring a generation of artists. Her raw, unapologetic style, defied gender expectations and set the stage for female punk musicians. Across the Atlantic, Poly Styrene led X-Ray Spex, a pioneering female punk band that defied gender conventions with their rebellious sound and feminist themes. By the late 1970s, women like Siouxsie Sioux, Chrissie Hynde, Debbie Harry, and The Slits had solidified their presence in punk, reshaping the genre with their unique styles and powerful messages.

**THE PUNK**  
*poet*

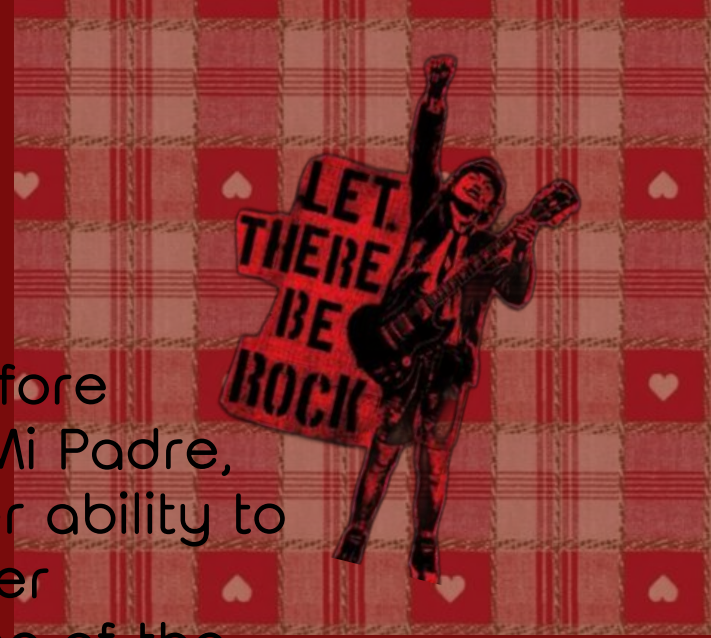
By the late 1970s, women like Siouxsie Sioux, Chrissie Hynde, Debbie Harry, and The Slits had solidified their presence in punk, reshaping the genre with the 'n' Roll Sister Rosetta Tharpe blended Delta blues, New Orleans jazz, and gospel to create a revolutionary sound that predated rock 'n' roll. Her mastery of the electric guitar, influenced artists like Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley. She was also an early queer icon, challenging societal norms both in her music and personal life, paving the way for generations of musicians to follow.

*godmother of*  
**ROCK**  
**ROLL**

### **Buffy Sainte-Marie: Folk and Representation Pioneer**

Buffy Sainte-Marie expanded genres with her timeless folk anthems and fearless activism. As the first Indigenous actor on Sesame Street, she brought Indigenous representation into mainstream media. Her Oscar-winning song "Up Where We Belong" made her the first Indigenous woman to win an Academy Award. Sainte-Marie's music often addressed political and social issues, advocating for Indigenous rights and anti-war movements, solidifying her as both an artist and an activist.

**REBEL**  
*songkeeper*



## Linda Ronstadt: A Genre-Crossing Icon

Linda Ronstadt dominated rock, country, and folk before showcasing her Mexican heritage in *Canciones de Mi Padre*, the best-selling non-English album in U.S. history. Her ability to seamlessly transition between genres showcased her unparalleled vocal talent. She collaborated with some of the greatest musicians of her time and was known for her fierce dedication to preserving musical traditions while continuously pushing boundaries.

## Peppermint: A Trailblazer in Theater and Advocacy

Peppermint became the first trans woman to play a Broadway lead in 2018, starring in *Head Over Heels*. Beyond her theater success, she has been an outspoken advocate for LGBTQ+ representation and equality. She has used her platform to educate audiences about queer history, hosting *Masters of Drag* and continuously pushing for greater inclusivity in entertainment.



## Sylvia Robinson: The Mother of Hip-Hop

Sylvia Robinson made history in 1979 by producing *Rapper's Delight*, proving rap's commercial viability. As the founder of Sugarhill Records, she was instrumental in shaping the early hip-hop landscape. Her business skills and approach established hip-hop as a mainstream genre, influencing its evolution for decades.



These women reshaped music history, breaking barriers and redefining genres through talent, innovation, and defiance of norms. Their influence continues to inspire generations, proving that music is a space for everyone.




# **ALWAYS 'PROTECT YOUR DAUGHTERS', NEVER 'EDUCATE YOUR SONS'**

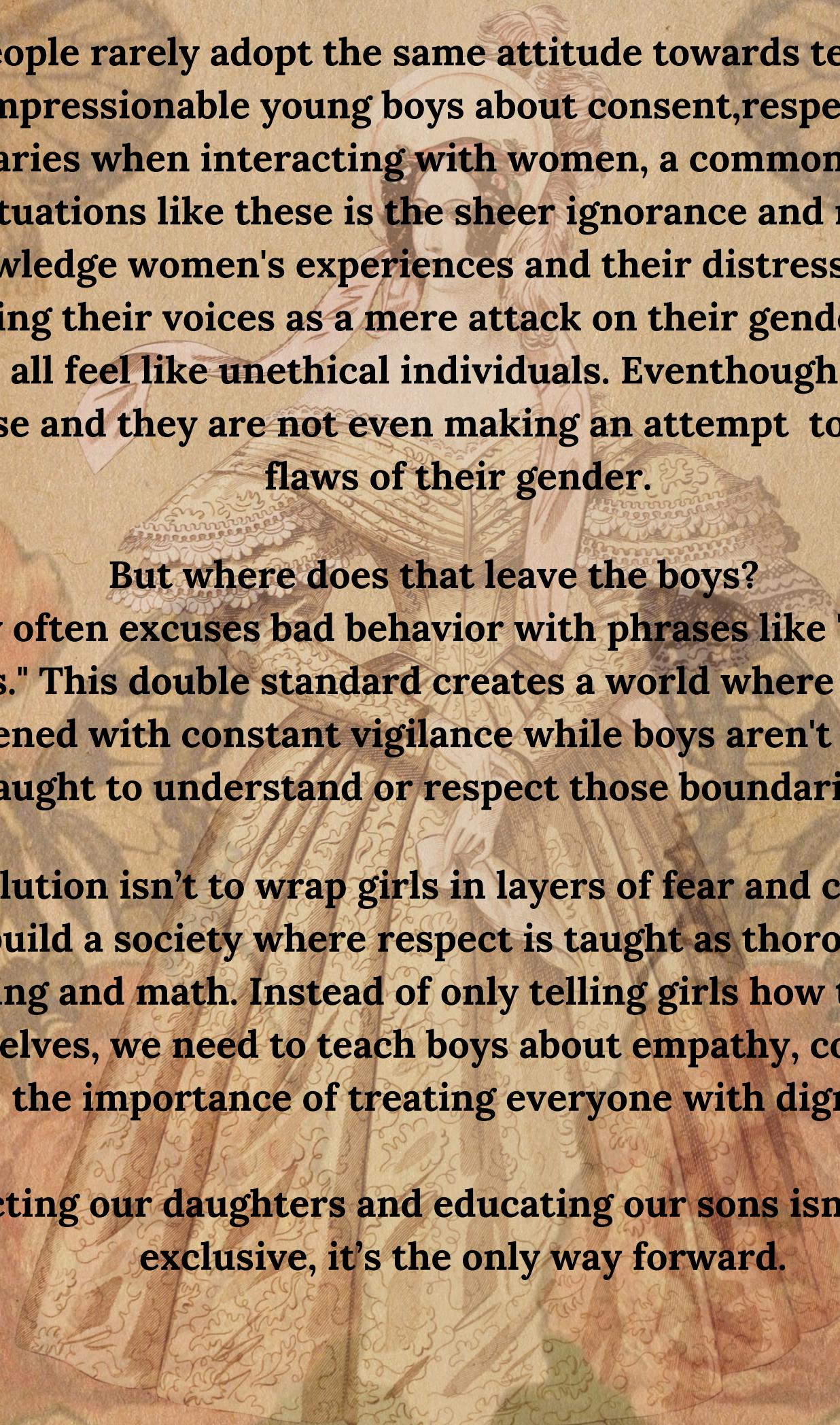
From a young age, girls are taught to be hyper-aware of their surroundings. They are conditioned to notice every glance and lingering gaze, every shift in a person's body language, constantly assessing potential threats. In most cases, they are rigidly bound to societal norms imposed upon them, not necessarily by an authoritative or influential figure in their life, but by anyone who believes they are entitled to dictate the "correct" way a woman should navigate her life.

Far too often, misguided assumptions and baseless expectations are disguised as informed concerns, pushed by those who are ignorant enough to believe that changing the mindset of most men is unrealistic. Instead of challenging harmful behaviors, society's so called "solution" is to demand that women diminish themselves, subduing their identities into a muted, nullified version of who they truly are.

This mindset places an impossible burden on girls. When they speak about their experiences, the question is always, "Why didn't she prevent it?" instead of "Why did he do it?" What message are we as a society sending to young girls when they communicate their discomfort and somehow very conveniently the blame is shifted and the "If something like this happens you should speak up" is completely disregarded while the actions of men go unquestioned?



**The same oppressive expectations that confine them are often reinforced even by those who believe adhering to these norms will reduce the likelihood of them becoming targets of unwanted sexualization which is more or less unaccounted for. Yet when such violations occur, they are conveniently dismissed, because girls are always expected to accept the cruel reality of a fate unjustly inflicted upon most women.**



**People rarely adopt the same attitude towards teaching impressionable young boys about consent, respect and boundaries when interacting with women, a common trope seen in situations like these is the sheer ignorance and refusal to acknowledge women's experiences and their distressing reality, deeming their voices as a mere attack on their gender to make them all feel like unethical individuals. Eventhough that's not the case and they are not even making an attempt to accept the flaws of their gender.**

**But where does that leave the boys?**  
**Society often excuses bad behavior with phrases like "boys will be boys." This double standard creates a world where girls are burdened with constant vigilance while boys aren't always taught to understand or respect those boundaries.**

**The solution isn't to wrap girls in layers of fear and caution—it's to build a society where respect is taught as thoroughly as reading and math. Instead of only telling girls how to protect themselves, we need to teach boys about empathy, consent, and the importance of treating everyone with dignity.**

**Protecting our daughters and educating our sons isn't mutually exclusive, it's the only way forward.**



# Misinterpretation of feminism in Media



Feminism, at its core, is the advocacy for women's rights on the basis of gender equality. However, in modern discourse, it has been repeatedly misrepresented, co-opted, and diluted, often turning into a buzzword rather than a revolutionary movement. The misinterpretation of feminism allows individuals to claim the label without truly engaging with its principles. With the rise of social media, it has become easier to absorb and regurgitate feminist rhetoric without understanding its depth, leading to a dangerous justification of anything under the feminist banner. This misrepresentation distorts the movement's original purpose: dismantling systemic oppression and ensuring equal rights for all women, not indulging egos or encouraging misandry.

The media often presents feminism in a singular, extreme way—angry, divisive, or outdated. According to a 2020 Pew Research Center study, about 64% of Americans see feminism as empowering, but 45% also view it as polarizing. This duality highlights how feminism is both celebrated and vilified, depending on one's perspective. The term has been manipulated to fit personal narratives, sometimes reducing it to an anti-male ideology rather than a movement for gender equality.

Despite these challenges, feminism remains vital in advocating for access to education, workplace rights, and political representation. Without it, the width of women's education would be confined to religious texts or domestic training, and men alone would be deciding the world's leaders. Figures like Kamala Harris and Hillary Clinton likely wouldn't have had the opportunities they do today without feminism's progress.



# WOMEN IN THEATRE: A STUDY

If you take a deep dive into the earlier years of pop culture, you will find that plays and skits were extremely prominent in shaping society's thought process.

There is a world of difference in how women were portrayed across different eras. In ancient theatre, particularly Greek and Roman theatre, women were restricted from performing. As a result, male actors were expected to play female roles. The portrayal of women in plays was mainly as passive, emotional, or morally complex characters, which limited the exposure of multifaceted female personalities in theatre. Even if women had some presence, their roles were often limited to love interests, such as a cunning wife or a seductress.

During the medieval age, the rise of religious and morality plays led to female characters being idealized as either virtuous figures or sinful temptresses.

In the Renaissance period, Shakespeare made a conscious effort to develop more complex and strong-willed female characters, many of whom challenged traditional gender roles. Despite this progress, women were still primarily confined to themes of love, marriage, and virtue.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, women were finally allowed to act. However, many plays still reinforced stereotypes of women as delicate, dependent, or objects of male desire. Progressive playwrights, however, introduced more independent and witty female leads.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, women's roles were mainly portrayed as either pure and self-sacrificing or as seductive and morally weak. Some playwrights, however, challenged these rigid societal expectations by creating female characters who defied traditional norms, marking a shift toward progress.

From the 20th Century to today Female characters became more diverse and openly multifaceted, breaking away from traditional gender roles and stereotypes. More focus was placed on their personalities, and playwrights created complex, layered female characters.

Modern theater embraces strong, flawed, independent, and multi-dimensional women and layered personalities.



# MISREPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN MEDIA



Q women in bollywood X

A major part of Indian media is our very well accomplished bollywood. Where the representation of women is not only disgusting but utterly down grading as well.

Bollywood is a place where the pay gap won't be bridged any time soon and, equality is out of the question all together.

The songs in these bollywood movies tend to objectify women and our very ignorant audience doesn't raise any concerns towards this. Not only a few but almost all of the bollywood songs which are supposedly "romantic" tend to show women in a very seductive way. In more revealing outfits whereas the man is covered from head to toe. Female actresses are expected to wear thin satin sarees in extremely cold places just so that they can capture a scene for the "male gaze" Women are shown to be more submissive whereas men are shown as the dominating cool guy.

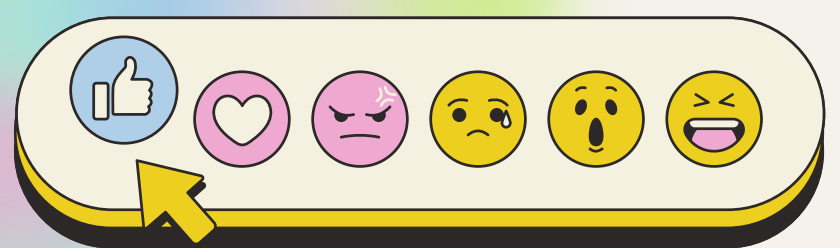
As we dive deep into bollywood, we also notice a trend of women falling in love with man who constantly say and do really questionable things to her.

Eve-teasing is one of those things that's overlooked and not addressed as modern society. We should stop this shallow representation of our community.

Falling in love with a guy who kept on passing offensive sexual remarks, teasing and stalking the female leads and then one random day the female lead falls in love with him.

Men have been portrayed as mighty and strong dominating people whereas women are shown as a side character who only appears on scene when there is a kidnapping and she needs to be saved or for seductive song scenes.

This has been going on for ages and it's still prevalent. We as a community need to stop this at once.



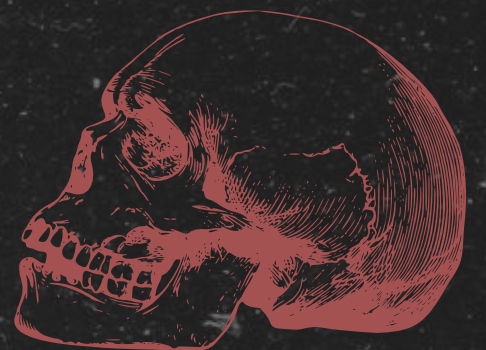
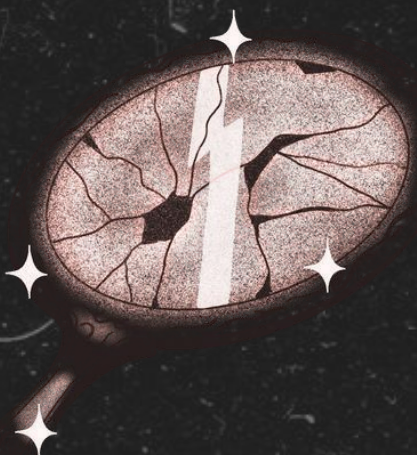


# Male gaze in movies

The portrayal of Female characters in Bollywood by male directors is fairly distinct from how female directors portray their female characters. This could range from their fashion to their behaviour, morals and values. Positive representations of these characters are crucial seeing as how they influence and shape the thought process of not only the youth but their entire audience and the lens through which they view these characters. Through the lens of the female gaze women are wholly realized and recognized on screen in particular ways which is otherwise unseen from the perspective of the society, patriarchy and most importantly the male gaze. This is a phenomenon where women are viewed less as objects of desires and trophies but rather as fully expressed, complicated and autonomous people. This is in major contrast to the lens of the male gaze which reduces women to props and set dressing—objects of wish fulfillment and lust, no matter their status, leaving limited potential for them to recognize the multifaceted and complex aspects of their identity.

When we speak about female characters from the lens of the male gaze we have various examples of underrepresented, unidimensional and superficial personalities. These personality traits are a very common trope regarding the depictions of these archetypes, for instance when we talk about female characters from directors like Sandeep Reddy Vanga we find that they are poorly represented and stereotyped into being quelled, held back and emotionally dependant on the male lead. They endure destructive behaviour from the male leads and forgive them even after immense emotional turmoil, they are found prioritizing relationships and marriages over their personal ambitions and needs. Although this is a personal choice this kind of representation in media normalizes the circumstances where women are conditioned to think that they have to sacrifice more or have to silently endure and act in a way that is expected of them, contrasting the way they actually feel about the situation.

This, is in contrast to the way Imtiaz Ali does justice to his female characters. They are portrayed as layered and well rounded personalities, which is instrumental in shaping the overall narrative of self-exploration. They are highly expressive and often break societal norms and stereotypes with their unique and adventurous streaks. They are not flawless and may not be particularly idolized, but have phases of self-discovery, growth and transformation. This is type of positive reinforcement heavily impacts the way that the audience perceives women, and proves to be a good influence on the young audience watching his films.



# REPRESENTATION OF TRANS WOMEN IN MEDIA



**A Trans Actor,  
Hunter Schafer  
In Euphoria**



Media often acts as a microcosm of society, shaping societal perceptions with its vast influence. Transgender women are often at the brunt of this ability, facing widespread misconceptions and misrepresentation. Though the landscape of trans representation is evolving, with more realistic or positive portrayals emerging, transphobia continues to persist within and beyond the industry.

Early portrayals of trans women in media were steeped in harmful stereotypes, depicting them as intruders or dangerous figures. Films like *Sadak* (1991), which featured Maharani, a trans antagonist played by a cisgender male actor, reinforced these biases<sup>1</sup>. Trans women were also frequently reduced to comic relief in films like *Chachi 420* and *Dostana*, where gender non-conformity was played for laughs<sup>2</sup>. In regional Indian cinema, trans characters were often depicted as beggars or objects of fear, reinforcing real-world discrimination<sup>3</sup>. These portrayals align with recurring tropes: the Comic Relief, the Villain, or the Victim—each reflecting systemic biases that either mock, demonize, or pity trans identities. Additionally, many of these roles were played by cisgender actors, flattening their characters into one-dimensional caricatures<sup>4</sup>.

However, there has been a shift towards more authentic representation, fostering inclusivity and combating stigma. Productions like *Pose* (2018) set new standards by casting trans actors in trans roles, allowing for more genuine storytelling<sup>5</sup>. Similarly, *Euphoria* (2019) featured Hunter Schafer in a nuanced portrayal of a trans teenager, while *Taali* (2023) highlighted the real-life journey of activist Gauri Sawant, bringing visibility to trans rights in India<sup>6</sup>. Films like *Super Deluxe* (2019) and shows like *Paatal Lok* (2020) have also moved beyond stereotypes, with trans actors gaining recognition and more dynamic roles. The growing emphasis on hiring trans actors for trans roles is paving the way for more respectful and realistic storytelling.

The portrayal of trans women in media has improved, shifting from harmful stereotypes to more authentic stories. Despite progress, challenges remain in ensuring consistent and dignified representation. Authentic storytelling not only changes public perception but also impacts policies and social acceptance, fostering greater inclusion. To drive meaningful change, the media industry must prioritize trans voices, ensuring that trans narratives are told with accuracy and respect. It is essential for audiences, creators, and policymakers alike to support and demand inclusive representation in all forms of media.

# credits

**PARI DEDHIA**  
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**EBAA CHOUGLE**  
**OORJA DOSHI**  
**MAHEK SONI**

