



# Olympic suffragettes regroup for women's rights march on parliament

London 2012 opening ceremony inspires performers to become modern-day activists and join UK Feminista in rights rally



Alexandra Topping

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Olympic 'suffragettes' take part in the opening ceremony. Many plan to regroup at UK Feminista's women's rights rally on 24 October. Photograph: Phil Noble/Reuters

When Gail Collins stepped out in front of the deafening 80,000-strong crowd watching the [Olympics opening ceremony](#), wearing a high-neck Edwardian blouse and the purple, white and green sash that marked her out as one of Danny Boyle's 50 suffragettes, she couldn't hear the noise, just the beating of her heart. "It was one of the biggest days of my life," she said. "Getting married, having my children and being in the opening ceremony. I felt proud, really proud that we had got there."

In the months before the ceremony, the women forged a particular bond – with each other and the women they were representing. So when the experience ended, what did the Olympic suffragettes do? They kept marching.

Dozens of suffragette performers, led by Helen Pankhurst, great-granddaughter of Emmeline Pankhurst, plan to march on parliament, at the vanguard of a major feminist rally organised to urge MPs to stop "eroding erosion of women's rights" and make more progress on women's equality.

Some of the suffragettes had no experience of campaigning and some younger cast members knew little about the women they were representing, but many now want to use the experience as a springboard into modern-day activism, starting with [UK Feminista's rally](#) on 24 October. "Coming together was a gift and it would be such a wicked waste to not carry on and we can't let people down by not continuing," said 37-

year-old Collins, a stay-at-home mother of two.

No longer under the guidance of Boyle – who included the suffragette section in the ceremony after becoming enthralled by the memorial plaque to Emily Davison, found on the back of the broom cupboard door where she once hid in the House of Commons – the group may treat observers to a scaled-down version of their performance. It may even include the critical moment, which to the annoyance of many wasn't featured in the TV coverage, when the women formed a human scaffolding to carry a Christ-like Davison above their heads.

Another suffragette, Lesley Covington, a 57-year-old who gave up her job as a designer 20 years ago to look after her children, had never thought of herself as a feminist activist. "I'm not sure I would even now," she said. "But why shouldn't we take this opportunity? Women are still under-represented in parliament and the upper echelons of business; childcare is a huge issue. I want to get involved and I want to make a difference. You can change things – you have to believe that, or you would never try."

The opening ceremony and the Olympics as a whole, which involved women from every nation participating for the first time, as well as huge success for female athletes, could inspire many more women to campaign for gender equality, said Pankhurst, an ambassador for the global anti-poverty charity Care International.

"When we see things like women's boxing it is important, because it starts to shift perception about what women should and shouldn't do. The Olympics is a real platform to make it more than just symbols and this rally is really building on that."

While Pankhurst said political struggle was "in her veins", other women in the group had become "interested in the issues as well as the fun", after keeping in touch via Facebook. "Modern technology is allowing us to organise as suffragettes much easier than they did in the past – it unlocks the potential," she said. "Until we are on an equal footing and [while] unnecessary problems remain there will continue to be a need to speak out."

The suffragettes – who hope to track down Edwardian costumes for the rally – will join a broad coalition of groups that includes the TUC deputy general secretary, Frances O'Grady, and the director of Liberty, Shami Chakrabarti, and organisations including the Fawcett Society, Southall Black Sisters and the anti-objectification group Object.

Many protesters are requesting meetings with their MPs, while others will remain outside parliament to highlight issues such as a lack of progress on tackling violence against women, and making more women visible in parliament and in business. Other demands include measures to tackle the objectification of women – also put to Lord Justice Leveson during his inquiry into the ethics of the media – childcare and the protection of Sure Start centres, justice for female asylum-seekers and the protection of women's reproductive rights.

"The time is right for this. There is anger, injustice and potential, and that all comes together in 2012," said Chakrabarti.

Britain is witnessing a resurgence of feminist activism as hard-won rights come under threat, said Kat Banyard, the founder of UK Feminista.

"Too often, issues relating to women's inequality are put to one side and seen as an add-on, but tackling this injustice is absolutely central to building a good society.

"People are sick of the attacks on women's rights and are fighting back. At the lobby,

women and men from across the country will be making it clear to their MP that we can't go on like this, it's time to move forward."

For Collins, taking part in the opening ceremony has given her a voice, and she is determined to use it.

"It's not fashionable to say you are a feminist, but women need to stand up," she said. "I've always had these beliefs but this has pushed me to do something about it. It just feels like I'm not on my own."

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**NotGoliath**

19 August 2012 2:48PM

We need to keep up the feminist campaigning as there are still so many ways that women do not have equality. Despite equality laws, many women are discriminated against at work for being mothers or potential mothers. Many women face daily harassment on the streets, against a backdrop of many men spending their spare time looking at porn which is dominated by violence against women. Prostituted women and girls can be bought as if they were objects. Advertising frequently objectifies women to sell their products. Anti-choice protesters are campaigning to reduce access to abortion.

We have a long way to go.

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**ElisabethArdent**

19 August 2012 2:51PM

I'm with the British feminists! There is every reason to agitate for women's rights. Country after country rolls back to the fifties when it comes to women's rights.

I will be with you in spirit, albeit absent in person as my sister use to say.

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**grabsplatter**

19 August 2012 2:53PM

to urge MPs to stop "eroding erosion of women's rights"

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Eh? How do you erode erosion?



**ElisabethArdent**

19 August 2012 2:54PM

And remeber how the EU governments collaborate to legislate against women. Reproductive rights, child care, union busting and commercial and civil law. It is all under heavy pressure from anti-feminism. And the religions are gaining ground at the expense of our rights!

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**Nolordsreform**

19 August 2012 2:58PM

From man to women, keep it up we are equal in most ways in modern life, but in some situations there is a long way to go. All the hard work of the last fifty years has been outstanding

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**ElisabethArdent**

19 August 2012 3:00PM

The anti-feminists are now building up a 'racial wall' that women are not supposed to 'trespass'.

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White women must stay with white women and blk women with black women. Simple world for simple creatures, they seem to think.

Let's put this new race-barrier to shame and continue to fight the misogynists of all colours!

Who says it better than Sojourner Truth?

I want to say a few words about this matter. I am a woman's rights. I have as much muscle as any man, and can do as much work as any man. I have plowed and reaped and husked and chopped and mowed, and can any man do more than that? I have heard much about the sexes being equal. I can carry as much as any man, and can eat as much too, if I can get it. I am as strong as any man that is now. As for intellect, all I can say is, if a woman have a pint, and a man a quart – why can't she have her little pint full? You need not be afraid to give us our rights for fear we will take too much, – for we can't take more than our pint'll hold.

The poor men seems to be all in confusion, and don't know what to do. Why children, if you have woman's rights, give it to her and you will feel better. You will have your own rights, and they won't be so much trouble. I can't read, but I can hear. I have heard the bible and have learned that Eve caused man to sin. Well, if woman upset the world, do give her a chance to set it right side up again. The Lady has spoken about Jesus, how he never spurned woman from him, and she was right. When Lazarus died, Mary and Martha came to him with faith and love and besought him to raise their brother. And Jesus wept and Lazarus came forth. And how came Jesus into the world? Through God who created him and the woman who bore him. Man, where was your part? But the women are coming up blessed be God and a few of the men are coming up with them. But man is in a tight place, the poor slave is on him, woman is coming on him, he is surely between a hawk and a buzzard.



**Writer83**

19 August 2012 3:04PM

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Response to [ElisabethArdent, 19 August 2012 3:00PM](#)

Who is building a 'racial wall' and stopping white and black women from being together?

That's a pretty outlandish thing to say, you got a link to back it up with?



**ElisabethArdent**

19 August 2012 3:06PM

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



**jessthecrip**

19 August 2012 3:10PM

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Glad to hear this. Anything, even performing in an Olympic pageant, which raises awareness (we used to call it 'consciousness-raising') of inequality and mistreatment is good, especially when it leads to taking action to improve matters.



**ElisabethArdent**

19 August 2012 3:11PM

[Recommend?](#) (18)

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Response to [Writer83, 19 August 2012 3:04PM](#)

The last month the poster boy on CIF has been the face that meets us with his anti-feminist propaganda that white and black women are not to work together. It has been a permanent stand of the CIF editorial and a clear enough message to us all.

I admit that it is very off-putting and that I have been therefore avoiding CIF. I thought, wrongly, that it might have been replaced by a more general comment and less hateful. Now I will stay away to avoid the ugly comment until it is being replaced.

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**[ScottishLady](#)**

19 August 2012 3:22PM

I am not a feminist

I fight for all

If this body rebrands itself to WOMEN AGAINST THE COALITION then I will join and march and fight

Because if the women of Britain unite and fight one fight - get this government out - that is what you call power

Why fight 1000 different fights -

Let's fight one fight - WOMEN STANDING UP FOR EVERYONE

-

WOMEN UNITED AGAINST THE COALITION - YOU WILL HAVE MY BACKING AND MY VOTE

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**[fibbertigiblet](#)**

19 August 2012 3:23PM

Response to [ElisabethArdent](#), 19 August 2012 3:11PM

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**[vikingbones](#)**

19 August 2012 3:25PM

Response to [grabsplatter](#), 19 August 2012 2:53PM

*Eh? How do you erode erosion?*

By eroding it of course

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**[fibbertigiblet](#)**

19 August 2012 3:25PM

Response to [ScottishLady](#), 19 August 2012 3:22PM

"I fight for all"

[Recommend?](#) (22)

[Responses](#) (0)

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WTF?



**phima**

19 August 2012 3:28PM

Britain is witnessing a resurgence of feminist activism as hard-won rights come under threat, said Kat Banyard, the founder of UK Feminista.

Well, it's about time, and one can only hope this is going to last.

A good start might be to support for the Swedish women who wish to face their alleged abuser.

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**jessthecrip**

19 August 2012 3:28PM

Response to [ElisabethArdent, 19 August 2012 3:11PM](#)

The last month the poster boy on CIF has been the face that meets us with his anti-feminist propaganda that white and blk women are not to work together. It has been a permanent stand of the CIF editorial and a clear enough message to us all.

I think you need to explain, for the benefit of all, who and what you're talking about in a bit more detail. I expect I ought to know, but as a fairly regular commenter BTL - and a feminist - who doesn't read all Grauniad online articles and comment pieces, just those that take my fancy, I have no idea.

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**vikingbones**

19 August 2012 3:28PM

Response to [ScottishLady, 19 August 2012 3:22PM](#)

*I fight for all*

Good, then perhaps you could have a few words with my noisy neighbours.

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**diddoit**

19 August 2012 3:30PM

It's great that women fought for the right to be able to vote either Labour or Tory. With those two fabulous parties to choose from, the democratic choice on offer is truly incredible....not. How about marching for a fair voting system?

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**lbycus**

19 August 2012 3:34PM

That's what I call a legacy

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**dizzyingcrest**

19 August 2012 3:35PM

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will they be supporting full proportional representation and widening the franchise so that women and men can have a vote that counts even in solid Conservative or Labour seats.



**dizzyingcrest**

19 August 2012 3:41PM

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Response to [diddoit, 19 August 2012 3:30PM](#)

It's great that women fought for the right to be able to vote either Labour or Tory. With those two fabulous parties to choose from, the democratic choice on offer is truly incredible....not. How about marching for a fair voting system?

We should all be marching for a fair voting system this so important it goes beyond gender and class.



**diddoit**

19 August 2012 3:55PM

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Response to [dizzyingcrest, 19 August 2012 3:35PM](#)

No they're obsessed with the highly contentious, lazy catch-all term of 'objectification'. Many women agree until they realise they swoon over 'hunks' and boybands as much as men do over the female equivalents. And the authoritarian, Taliban-esque 'rules' 'doing something about it' would entail wouldn't make for a happier country.

This and slack immigration / integration policies are the main problems with the left.



**RupertBH**

19 August 2012 4:12PM

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[Responses \(3\)](#)

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I was deeply shocked by Tanya Gold's article yesterday which indicated that jokes about rape and violence against women had become both acceptable and common place. Similarly, a couple of days ago the Guardian reported that hate crimes against the disabled are at record levels.

Inequality and prejudice are on the march under this heartless and incompetent government. We know that public spending cuts have hit hardest the sick and disabled, the poor, ethnic minorities, and women; the government are whittling away at the protections provided for in the 2010 Equality Act; and legal aid has been greatly reduced or removed entirely for victims of discrimination. We are becoming a society to be ashamed of.

Maybe it is time for groups fighting different types of

discrimination and inequality to get together (maybe with the support of the TUC), and to start arguing for a more equal and just society. United we stand ...



**raehub**

19 August 2012 4:21PM

Response to [RupertBH, 19 August 2012 4:12PM](#)

Maybe it is time for groups fighting different types of discrimination and inequality to get together (maybe with the support of the TUC), and to start arguing for a more equal and just society. United we stand ...

I believe that's exactly the point of the TUC march in London in October. Get out on the streets to protest the Coalition's policies - whoever you are.

I will be.

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**35percentDaffodil**

19 August 2012 4:26PM

Response to [RupertBH, 19 August 2012 4:12PM](#)

Great comment, RupertBH.

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**Clarence**

19 August 2012 4:26PM

I happily support them, though I'm a bit alarmed that Danny Boyle only found out about Emily Wilding Davison from the plaque on a broom cupboard in Parliament. Her 1913 death at the Epsom Derby is surely well known. If it isn't, it should be. (And no, I am convinced she did not 'throw herself' in front of the king's horse in order to commit suicide: she made a huge risk - and died.) St Hugh's College, Oxford held a dinner for the first time on her behalf this year: alas, I couldn't make it. (Emily finished her degree there.) Actually, she might have become an Olympic swimmer if she'd been born 100 years later.

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**LookListenThink**

19 August 2012 4:38PM

Just a couple of comments:

1. I once asked a group of people (male and female) what they believed the 'male' equivalent of a feminist to be? Responses ranged from a misogynist to a chauvinist (and other comments too ignorant to mention here). The ignorance surrounding the notion of what being a feminist is needs to be addressed before any real progress can be made. Dispel the myths!

2. Men are / can be feminists too.

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**peterthompson49**

19 August 2012 5:07PM



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Response to [LookListenThink](#), 19 August 2012 4:38PM

Absolutely, so, write the article before someone else does.



**maxon**

19 August 2012 5:25PM

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This is a great way to connect with the history of the women's movement and all that it has meant and to bring that forward into current activism. I always love it when people who say they are not feminist suddenly get it. Go Olympic Suffragettes!



**bluerider**

19 August 2012 5:26PM

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Response to [NotGoliath](#), 19 August 2012 2:48PM

The sex slave industry is probably the most important issue right now?



**bluerider**

19 August 2012 5:31PM

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Response to [ElisabethArdent](#), 19 August 2012 2:54PM

religions are gaining ground at the expense of our rights!

Er....could you be more specific. It's a big like saying the Left are all Marxist who want to put you in a gulag if you don't support a bloody revolution.



**aviddiva**

19 August 2012 5:33PM

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Watching the opening ceremony of the Olympics, I was shouting at the TV because the vast majority of the early 'show' showed men. The implications were obvious. Men are 'subject'. And what character is quoted from The Tempest? The subjugated, half-human Caliban vaunting the island: yet who sees Miranda solely as a generator of his lust and power to people the island. But, hey, he's one of the lads too, not dissimilar to those I taught who had similar attitudes towards their girl peers. And they would laugh knowingly when mention was made of the availability of porn on the internet. All this in sex and relationships education classes.

The objectification of women is as important as it ever was. So much drama on TV in recent years and news items have proliferated the attitude that women are there solely for the

gratification of men, often violent men; from bludgeoning a woman and placing her corpse in a freezer to stoning an 'adulteress' to death; from trafficking women from other parts of the world for slave-sex to putting three women in gaol for two years for daring to criticise their country's corrupt (male) president. Where are the men who are appalled by this attitude towards their mothers, sisters, lovers, partners and daughters? When are they going to make their voices heard? What messages are they giving their sons?

World religions' messages promote the loathing of women; for centuries women have been punished for daring to be sentient, thus being held responsible for men's demeaning appetites, as seen in the porn industry. And the usual response from some men and boys if one of their 'brothers' enjoys those so-available images the industry churns out? Simultaneous and salacious approval.



**Richyrich22**

19 August 2012 6:08PM

[Recommend?](#) (4)

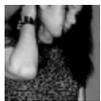
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Response to [LookListenThink](#), 19 August 2012 4:38PM

1. A masculist if they are fighting for male rights, a feminist if they are fighting for womens rights (or both of these; they are not mutually exclusive).
2. They can be sure. I personally *don't* believe the idea that feminism is universal (fights for all rights). It will always (due to resources being stretched or hindering benefit) be primarily about women's rights which means that until we have a universal rights movement encompassing both genders it needs a yang to its yin (note that this does not mean it should conflict with feminism, just that it balances and supports rights). Thats not to say feminism cannot benefit men, I believe it does, but by bringing rights to the forefront of discussion/making men more conscious of their own rights.



**Ryan Brighton**

19 August 2012 6:11PM

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Response to [RupertBH](#), 19 August 2012 4:12PM

Yes, about the "disabled hate crime" article..when records only go back to 2009, reaching "record levels" isn't that astonishing, if you think about it. Then there's the number of reported crimes, 2000. With 10 million recognised as disabled, it is not a large number under an stretch of the imagination. Obviously sad when it happens, but building it up into an epidemic is just damned irresponsible.

As for Tanya Gold..two comics known only by their own mothers, and Russell Brand, a comedian who's fanbase is made up almost entirely of women are not proof of a wave of woman-hating.



**tankerton**

19 August 2012 6:12PM

The suffragettes – who hope to track down Edwardian costumes for the rally – will join a broad coalition of groups that includes the TUC deputy general secretary, Frances O'Grady, and the director of Liberty, Shami Chakrabarti

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If I were you, I'd be a bit cautious about letting Shami Chakrabarti muscle in.

Some feel she's done more harm than good in the area of human rights. By, for example, supporting the "right" of a speeding motorist not to say who was driving the car at the time of the offence, Liberty have helped muddy the waters and have made it easier for papers like the Daily Mail to make fun of the whole area of Human Rights. This creates a climate where it's easier to take away proper rights such as protest.



**Peter Baker**

19 August 2012 6:23PM

Response to [NotGoliath](#), 19 August 2012 2:48PM

Really? I am sick of feminist campaigns, not because i don't believe in equality, but because they are so moronic.

-Females are discriminated against, but so are men. 95% of custody battles go to women. 1/4 of all primary schools don't have a single male teacher. We need equality protestors, not femanist protestors.

-harrassment, discrimination and prostitution is already illegal, and most crimes go unsolved. This isn't dicrimination against women, it's the police choicing to investigate more seriouse crimes, like murder and rape.

- People are allowed to protest, and express there views. We may disagree with them, but the point of protest is to express there views. no one listen in the UK, the US is the main battle ground for this.

We have a long way to go, but it's towards equality, not womens rights. Protecting womens rights, while not protecting mens is sexist too.

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**SevenSeas7**

19 August 2012 6:35PM

Response to [ScottishLady](#), 19 August 2012 3:22PM

**Even better: Why not "People for equal rights for all people regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, culture, disabilities (and any important ones I've missed) against the corporatocracy.**

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So not just against the coalition, but against corporatocracy - this word needs to be used again and again as it is so important that everyone is educated on this. (I only found out about the following recently myself). It seems all of the main parties have the same agenda as the coalition - Labour and probably any other major party will be just as bad when they get into government as they will also follow the neoliberal/neo-con ideologies (and therefore also carry on doing things like asset stripping, trying to remove workers' rights, destroy the welfare state and eliminate the NHS etc).

And the reason for this? The reason politicians of any party don't make any changes that make society better for the general public? Well, because most, if not all of the politicians (in all major parties) are bought and paid for. The current political system means that people (usually corporations) with the most money can successfully lobby governments so that the outcome is policies that help these said corporations (and funnily enough usually means profits for these businesses)!

So basically, we are living in a corporatocracy where politicians are puppets to the real controllers: the multi-national businesses, aristocracy and banks (and the mainstream media who are in their pockets) that hold all the money and power. Incidentally, this elite have gained their power through underhand ways and/or violent means (e.g 1: look at the history of the Federal Reserve; there are many books; 2: The aristocracy stole our common land through the Inclosures Acts and Highland Clearances acts. There are many articles & books on these subjects out there if you are interested).

The elite will do everything at their disposal to keep the status quo and so if we want real change it will probably have to take a massive revolution. **Yes, I will join the fight if you change the name to something like what I highlighted at the top (hopefully a more easy-to say name)!**



**SevenSeas7**

19 August 2012 6:40PM

Response to [SevenSeas7, 19 August 2012 6:35PM](#)

\* Asset stripping. And more typos! Sorry for all the errors - I'm doing too much at the same time (including making tomorrow's lunch, cleaning up cat vomit).

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**LookListenThink**

19 August 2012 6:47PM

Response to [Richyrich22, 19 August 2012 6:08PM](#)

I am acutely aware of the terminology, but thank you for your response. I am also aware of current debates surrounding the 'crisis in masculinity'. However, my point related to the

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misconceptions of feminism prevalent in wider (patriarchal) society. Once an overarching definition of feminism is provided and understood, informed debate may move forward...a linguistic reclamation of sorts, if you will.



**dibehindthewheel**

19 August 2012 7:10PM

@ SevenSeas7

You're right, the present Lib/Lab/Con, Bilderberg-led politicians are all PUPPETS - with the grubby paws of the Corporate Banksters shoved well 'n truly up their jacksies!!

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**Bjerkley**

19 August 2012 7:38PM

Response to [Peter Baker, 19 August 2012 6:23PM](#)

95% of custody battles go to women. 1/4 of all primary schools don't have a single male teacher. We need equality protestors, not femanist protestors.

95% of custody battles do not go to women. Children are more likely to end up with mothers post divorce, but only because currently mothers are more likely to be the ones staying home looking after the children pre divorce.

I do agree, though, that we should all be looking towards an equal society, as then we would see that the causes espoused on behalf of both men and women can actually be served by helping each other, rather than putting them in opposition.

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**Bjerkley**

19 August 2012 7:48PM

Response to [Clarence, 19 August 2012 4:26PM](#)

happily support them, though I'm a bit alarmed that Danny Boyle only found out about Emily Wilding Davison from the plaque on a broom cupboard in Parliament.

I took that to mean that he became enthralled with the idea of including her because of the plaque he saw, rather than never having heard of her.

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**jobsagoodin**

19 August 2012 7:49PM

Britain is witnessing a resurgence of feminist activism as hard-won rights come under threat

I'm tempted to ask what rights are being eroded exactly but doubt I'll get a sensible answer.

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**RupertBH**

19 August 2012 8:18PM

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Response to [35percentDaffodil, 19 August 2012 4:26PM](#)

Cheers 35percentdaffodil.



**RupertBH**

19 August 2012 8:20PM

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Response to [raehub, 19 August 2012 4:21PM](#)

Good point. But I thought the Feminista march was about gender equality but not the other equality "strands"? I'll look again.



**HollyCoast**

19 August 2012 8:25PM

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"The suffragettes – who hope to track down Edwardian costumes for the rally"

I am a costume designer who is planning to attend the UK Feminista Rally in October, I'd like to offer my help in any way to the Olympic Suffragettes in support of their cause. Tried searching for them on Facebook to no avail.

Any ideas of how I can contact them?



**seeingly**

19 August 2012 8:26PM

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Response to [Ryan Brighton, 19 August 2012 6:11PM](#)

there's the number of reported crimes, 2000. With 10 million recognised as disabled, it is not a large number under an stretch of the imagination.

Obviously sad when it happens, but building it up into an epidemic is just damned irresponsible.

The number of reported crimes is the tip of the iceberg.

There is institutionalised crime against disabled people, especially learning disabled people which has never been properly tackled - everyone acts outraged when cases come to the attention of the media, but it has been there for years and shows no signs of going away.

There are a lot of serious breaches of what used to be the DDA in all types of education. Bullying at all levels.

In the work place disabled people are often dismissed when their disability emerges, especially if they are people with emerging disabilities.

Then there are the below the waterline taunts that accompany all

of this, and more.

Even more insidious is the constant drip drip drip of disability based prejudice in the media, and the way that disabled people are being expected to absorb the financial deficit as though they are the people who created it. It is also likely that the redefinition of disability that is now occurring is a breach of human rights, and also possibly criminal. As in how do you, in any civilised society, define a diabetic person, with major health issues secondary to diabetes, who has lost both legs, and four fingers off one hand, with poor sight, as fit for work? And this is not even an extreme case, there are some that are far worse.

I do believe that at some point this will be taken to the International Court of Human Rights, and that people who have had to undergo this will be vindicated by it being declared illegal, and that some persons responsible will be held accountable for not just instigating a reign of terror on disabled people, but for trying to distort popular opinion so that 'hate' against disabled people is normalised.

Mostly it is not possible to catalogue it all, if people did they would be accused of not being able to take a joke, or taking themselves too seriously, or over sensitive. But in truth it mounts up, and 'hate crime' is not really an adequate description. Crime is, as is breaking the law, or discriminating against the disabled. It is also more honest. Because after all, hate could be something subjective, or in the recipients imagination, but crime is much more real. So lets call it by it's true name. Criminal abuse, and where physical acts have happened, criminal assault.

An epidemic - well, yes, actually it is. And it is bloody irresponsible to say it isn't.



**Sandrovic**

19 August 2012 8:28PM

The feminists should be out stoning the embassies of countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Somali, Afghanistan, committing acts like the brave Ukrainian women of FEMEN, painting messages at night on religious buildings up and down the country. The ones who just want to more money or more maternity leave, who can see no further than the ends of their own noses, make me sick. Harriet Harman, Cherie Blair..... does anyone seriously think they have it in them to stand up for their fellow, oppressed sisters in third world countries? I honestly think they would rather die than go to Davos and demonstrate against the NWO in front of armed thugs.

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**RupertBH**

19 August 2012 8:31PM

Yes, about the "disabled hate crime" article..when

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records only go back to 2009, reaching "record levels" isn't that astonishing, if you think about it. Then there's the number of reported crimes, 2000. With 10 million recognised as disabled, it is not a large number under an stretch of the imagination. Obviously sad when it happens, but building it up into an epidemic is just damned irresponsible.

As for Tanya Gold..two comics known only by their own mothers, and Russell Brand, a comedian who's fanbase is made up almost entirely of women are not proof of a wave of woman-hating

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I take your point about the disabled hate crime figures in the article not going back far. But other research also seems to indicate a quite dramatic rise in crime and harassment against disabled people over the last few years. See, for example, the EHRC's *Hidden Places* Formal Investigation and Nocon et al's analysis of the British Crime Surveys 2007-2010. These all paint a picture of where the UK is heading and it is nothing for us to be proud of.

As regards your comments about Ms Gold's article, you need to go back and read it again maybe. She cites a range of well known comedians; and suggests that rape "jokes" are common across the comedy scene, right down to the open mic nights.

To me people who use "humour" to try and normalise rape are scum and deserve to be thrown off stage.



**RupertBH**

19 August 2012 8:33PM

Response to [seeingclearly, 19 August 2012 8:26PM](#)

Nice post Seeingclearly.

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