

Bristol Feminist Network (BFN) Position Paper

Global feminisms

Just as with intersectionality we cannot win equality unless it is equality for all, so it is with global feminism. Equality in the UK, or even in Europe is not good enough if women across the globe are not also equal.

Abortion rights, poverty, peace activism, education, access to healthcare – all of these and more are global issues. When we campaign for these things in the UK, we must also be campaigning for them everywhere.

At BFN, we campaign for equality across the globe. We organise awareness raising events about international issues and explore how they connect to our lives in the UK. If we believe in sisterhood, then we need to discover and make connections with how misogyny and inequality impacts women on all parts of the globe, and how issues that may seem far away are actually very close to us.

Violence against women, for example, is a global issue. At BFN, we believe violence against women is a weapon of war used to oppress women, whether it is happening in an 'official warzone', or in a peaceful country like the UK. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), although often portrayed in the media as a problem in 'other countries' is happening all over the world, including Bristol¹, and is part of the overall oppression and controlling of women's sexuality that we all experience.

The BFN book group is a great place to start discovering more about the global feminist issues we face.

¹ <http://www.4ypbristol.co.uk/fgm-yp>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-14216808>