

Bristol Feminist Network (BFN) Position Paper

Intersectionality Equality for All

At BFN we believe in equality. This doesn't mean equality for some. It isn't good enough if white, able bodied, straight, middle upper class women are equal with their male equivalents whilst other inequalities continue to flourish.

Racism, homophobia, religious bigotry, discrimination based on gender, sexuality, class or disability all interweave (or intersect) in lived experience to produce inequality. BFN knows that our sexist society is experienced differently by different women and that we need to recognise and respect those differences, seeing them as different manifestations of a system of power relations that oppress us all.

This kind of understanding is known as intersectionality and it matters to us at BFN.

Under a patriarchal capitalist society, some people are more equal than others. It's called privilege. At BFN, we ask people to question and recognise their privileges, whether that privilege is their ethnicity, their sexuality, their class status or education, the fact that they are able bodied, cis-gendered etc.

To this end, we strive, in discussion groups, public meetings, online discussion etc. to be aware of and avoid

- Disability discrimination
- Homophobia
- Transphobia
- Queer-phobia
- Racism
- Class snobbery and hatred
- Religious discrimination/hatred
- Sexism and misogyny

This behaviour is unacceptable.

We understand that we have to do more to be inclusive to all and we appreciate advice and discussion around how we can make BFN open to everyone.

And we will continue to campaign for equality for all, not equality for some.