



A GLOSSARY FOR INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISTS

Feminism is a social, cultural and political movement that advocates for gender equality and the elimination of gender-based discrimination, sexism and patriarchal oppression. It aims to challenge and transform gender norms and unequal power structures, and promotes the establishment of equal rights and opportunities for all individuals.

Intersectionality is a framework that recognizes how experiences of oppression and privilege are shaped by different, interacting social identities such as race, gender identity, sexual orientation, class and other.

Oppression, from a feminist perspective, is a systemic and pervasive form of discrimination and domination. It involves the use of power and violence to maintain and reinforce social, cultural, and economic structures of inequality, limiting the opportunities and agency of marginalized individuals.

Colonialism is the practice of extending and maintaining control over another society or territory. It involves the imposition of cultural, economic and political power of the colonizing people.

Decoloniality is a critical movement that addresses the inequalities resulting from the legacy and ongoing effects of colonialism, imperialism, and neocolonialism. It promotes a non-Eurocentric worldview by challenging the perceived universality of “Western” knowledge and culture as underpinnings of modern society.

Decolonizing feminism is an approach that involves examining and deconstructing the interlocking systems of colonialism, patriarchy and capitalism and their historical and ongoing effects on individuals and social groups. It is working towards the creation of a more inclusive and diverse society for all, and particularly aims to promote the voices of those traditionally marginalized.

Coloniality is the ongoing legacy of colonialism, including its economic, political, and cultural impacts, and the structures that continue to perpetuate forms of oppression and exploitation.

The coloniality of knowledge is a concept adapted from the Peruvian sociologist Anibal Quijano. It refers to the systemic dominance of Eurocentric knowledge systems, which have marginalized or erased the knowledge and perspectives of colonized and oppressed communities.

Coloniality of gender builds on the concept of the “coloniality of knowledge” and refers to the ways in which colonialism has influenced and imposed gender norms and hierarchies in colonized societies.

Global North* generally refers to the more economically developed and politically dominant countries in the world, which are primarily located in Europe and North America.

The Global South* refers to economically less developed and politically marginalized countries in the world, which are typically located in regions of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



**These terms are imperfect considering the geographic reality and are criticized for homogenizing contextual and cultural differences.*

BIPOC is an acronym that stands for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Anti-racism is the active resistance and opposition to racist beliefs, attitudes, practices, and policies, which seeks to recognize and address the systemic nature of racism.

Allyship is considered to be the support given by people with more systemic power (“allies”) to people and communities that experience oppression or marginalization in pursuit of equality and justice.

Climate justice refers to the recognition that the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect marginalized and vulnerable communities, and calls for addressing both the root causes of climate change and the systemic inequalities that contribute to these disparities.