

Half Power, Full Pay – But Then What?

- Why settle for equality when you can change society fundamentally?
- A woman asked four young debaters about equality:
- What kind of society do you dream about?

"The ideal would be if men let out their softer sides."

Manne Forssberg, 15, a student at the Adolf Fredrik music school in Stockholm, where he started a therapy group for guys:

- Men and women are different by birth and we have roles to play, but that doesn't mean that we can't have the same jobs, the same wages and such. The ideal would be if men let out their softer sides. I struggle a lot that guys should embrace their feminine sides. It should be as easy for women to have good jobs like men.



"You should see the person before their gender – and do away with old man's power."

Alexandra Dahlström, 15, actress:

- We should see the person before their gender! Oops, I'm getting ahead of myself. We have to change things.
- In a way, radical and very angry feminists are good. But I don't think you can change something in a good way by force. Then everything would turn back.
- Bad feminists must rebel.
- But what's important now is that men in power should not be in power anymore.



"Stop searching for the differences and see more similarities – we all have hair on our legs and smell."

Linna Johansson, 20, editor of the feminist magazine Bleck:

- First, everyone gets paid for what they do, secondly, that we are not so stereotypical and cliché-ridden, but that we have full access to our records. And us women are not looking at differences in our bodies, but we see more similarities. A woman and a man's body are quite similar. We all have hair on our legs and we smell.



"Unfortunately, I think that women have it worse - but inequality leads to greater struggle."

Carolyn Evander, 15, the initiator of the school campaign, "Refuse to be called a whore":

- Basic things like equal pay for equal work, no discrimination against women. The women issue is a classic issue for me. All this talk about maids is outrageous. Unfortunately, I think that women will be worse off as society becomes more unjust. But inequality leads to a simultaneous increased struggle.



Drude Dahlerup

The professor: Feminists must have future visions.

Today's feminists lack vision.

Drude Dahlerup, a professor of gender studies at Stockholm University.

- Gender policies must be combined with visions of what kind of society we want. It's obviously important that women get half the power and the equal salary, but the goals can't be to get women into all the hierarchies that already exist.

Is today's women's movement too fragmented?

- No, on the contrary. In Denmark, everyone says "Equality? Naturally." But there is no discussion. With various groups comply and debate. I welcome that.

You have said that each new generation of feminists rebel against the past. Is that a problem?

- Yes, feminists don't learn about earlier feminists. In contrast, they assume the myths created about the old ones. Actually, we do don't revolt against the past, but against the myths that surround the earlier generation.

What does your vision looks like?

- A system that is based on solidarity, a system in which the conflict between work and family are not only a problem for women. My vision also has traits of a highly developed democracy where the people decide society.

Is it possible?

- Of course, otherwise I would have retired.

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Petter Lidbeck

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