

Academic Conclusion

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About a hundred years ago, the first women were given the right to vote in Canada. This was only possible because of the work of the suffragettes, but their fight wasn't for the rights of all women. The suffragettes achieved their goal in 1918, when women got the right to vote. However, women of colour didn't get that right until the mid-twentieth century.

Feminism has moved on past the ideals of the suffragettes. The suffragettes were only advocating for white women to have the right to vote, and advocating for the right to vote for black women at the time was considered radical. The first big convention for women's rights was in 1848 at Seneca Falls, and not a single black woman was invited. (Brown, *ACLU.com*.) Past feminist movements, including the suffragettes, haven't done enough to advocate for women who are further marginalized, such as women of colour, LGBTQ+ women, and disabled women. This is why the next steps of the movement are about intersectional feminism.

Lawyer and activist Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term "intersectional feminism" in 1989. Intersectional feminism suggests that many women have multiple sources of oppression. They face gender discrimination, but may also experience discrimination for their race, religion, sexuality, socioeconomic class, or other factors. (*UNWomen*.) Intersectional feminism requires consideration of historical and current context of someone's situation. This consideration must also be turned into action; when we protest, petition, and make change, we must work towards and fight for the rights of all women, which can mean a lot of different things.

Young women in the US right now are at risk of losing rights, especially with the recent confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, shifting it entirely towards conservatism. This new conservative court could repeal rulings made by previous liberal jurors, including important ones for women and other minorities. They could be forced to carry children that they can't financially support. LGBTQ+ women could lose marriage rights and discrimination protections, and transgender women will have even less protection. They could lose insurance or healthcare coverage, which is especially harmful for disabled women who rely on that insurance to stay alive. One case of this is the thousands of people who rely on insulin, the price of which is steadily increasing. "Nothing about it has changed, except the price has gone up from \$21 a vial to \$275 a vial," says Laura Marston, who was diagnosed with diabetes at age 14. (qtd. in Prasad, *BBC*.) This is just one example of something that impacts women that we need to fight for— there are many more. Intersectionality is listening to the voices and struggles of all of these women, and fighting for their rights as well as our own.

Feminism, since even before the suffragette movement, has advocated for women. But to move on into the future, the movement needs to be intersectional. The voices of all women need to be heard, especially those who have been ignored for far too long.

Works Cited:

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