



SUNSET OF A QUEEN

MARCELA OLSEN

Photography

Even the strongest women have moments of weakness,
but each one of us,
every day after,
can rise stronger than ever.

WOMEN AND FEMINISM: HOW CAN WE REVOLUTIONIZE LEADERSHIP?

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Women all over the world struggle to be seen as leaders within their communities. Feminism has played an important part in human rights and important social movements throughout the years; however, many people do not understand the basis of feminism and how it can revolutionize society by changing what leadership means. The objective of this article is to educate readers about feminism and feminist leadership as well as education and representation. This differentiates feminism from its branches and explains what it means to be a feminist leader. Additionally, it provides an insight on how much education can affect a community and its leaders. This article reiterates the importance of having diverse leaders who can represent and speak for minorities.

It's no secret that the female gender has been oppressed throughout the years, and it's no secret that women have achieved a lot to overcome sexism through feminism. However, women still struggle to be seen as leaders while fighting to overcome gender roles, education and pay gaps, and lack of representation. Even accepting and respecting the idea of feminism can be difficult. Feminism may have a bad reputation due to incorrect preconceptions, but many people are feminists without even knowing it. Feminism is "the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities. It is the theory of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes" (Watson, 2014, para. 4). Although feminists have

achieved much for their cause, they continue to revolutionize leadership through education, feminist leadership, and representation.

FEMINISM

Many people need to be educated on what feminism really is and how it can affect leadership. Even though some feminists have created different “branches” based on feminism (such as eco-feminism, liberal feminism, radical feminism), the concept of feminism in which this article is based is simple—feminism is the social, economic, and political equality between sexes (Watson, 2014). Many may ask why feminism isn’t called humanism or something to that effect since it is based on the equality of sexes. The reason why goes beyond its belief. Claire Andersson (2017) implied that the word feminism is “an idea of what reality is like” (p. 392). Calling it feminism not only acknowledges that gender equality is necessary, but also that women are the oppressed sex (even if this does not seem true in one’s immediate reality). The ability to understand and embrace feminism changes how people envision leaders who bring awareness to important gender issues the world is currently facing.

EDUCATION

Many leaders discuss how to fix one of the major issues found around the globe: education. In several countries, people can receive formal education from high school, college, or more, while in other areas of the world, many are not so lucky—especially the girls. According to Shay Spivey (2017), about 62 million girls around the globe are not in school, and many more are still fighting to receive an education. Although having a career and ensuring that women are financially independent is extremely important, an education can also ensure that women will have a safe and valued life. Spivey (2017) writes that when women are not properly educated, they are more likely to be dependent on others which results in “higher instances of domestic violence and being treated like property” (Spivey, 2017, p. 42). It is important to provide women with the necessary and basic tools so they can succeed in leadership positions.

FEMINIST LEADERSHIP

Women and men not only need to receive basic and formal education, but also an education in feminist leadership. Feminist leadership can redefine leadership because it is also about social change (Clover,

Etmanski, & Reimer, 2017). Women and men can become feminist leaders and can help others become better people and continue this important social change. Clover et al. (2017) state that feminist “leaders do seek to empower women with opportunities to speak out against discrimination and to take up roles that will bring about change” (p. 26). When feminists are armed with education and with the knowledge of a feminist leadership style, they can greatly improve their communities by recognizing where the education gap lies and how to fix it while ensuring that other people feel empowered to make the world a better place.

REPRESENTATION

Feminists who are educated provide more representation through leadership. Lately, we’ve seen the power of representation in the media. Many people are praising real-life leaders, as well as movie or book characters for representing minorities (women, people of color, etc.) Diverse representation can be seen in movies, such as *RBG*, a documentary film that tells the story of one of the most important leaders in the U.S., Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who has been fighting for gender equality in court throughout her career (Cohen & West, 2018). Because of the different cultures around the world, it is important that our world leaders are diverse and representative of their people. Those who are represented by their leaders feel more inspired to improve their communities. McLane-Davidson (2018) writes about the importance of “Black Feminist Leadership” in the HIV/AIDS community:

Their ability to define their leadership is based on their need to forge new paths and to create strategies and programs where previously there were none. This meant relying on their historical experiences as Black women and their gendered skills as nurturers and caretakers. (pp. 292-293)

Due to their history, feminist leaders were able to connect with the HIV/AIDS community because they knew how difficult it was to live with discrimination. People must be represented by leaders who understand them and listen to their ideas and concerns. Feminist leaders add more insight into what some issues look like from a woman’s or a minority’s perspective. Because feminist leadership is “a means to advance agendas

to dismantle oppressions of all kinds” (Clover et al., 2017, p. 29), these leaders ensure decisions are acceptable to the people who would actually be affected by them.

CONCLUSION

Many people still have the wrong idea about feminism, but it is important to remember the purpose of feminism: to achieve gender equality. People need to remember that feminism can help educate many women and men around the globe about current gender issues and help them understand what a feminist leader looks like. Feminist leaders can help represent minorities in politics, business, and social obligations by providing decisions based on minorities’ perspectives—feminist leadership does not see gender, and both men and women can become feminist leaders. Even though this is a global concern, there are simple things we can do to continue this social change. Feminist leadership starts by helping a struggling person get to work or class. It begins by providing emotional support to those who suffer from discrimination. Feminist leaders empower those around them to never give up on their goals. These leaders help provide the tools minorities and underprivileged people need to succeed.

Overall, feminism can change the way we look at leadership—leadership will become more than what we believe it is. Leadership will not only become achievable to all but also become a way to advance social changes in our communities. Feminists and women can revolutionize leadership by not only representing minorities, but also by empowering their followers to take a stand, lead, and fight for what is just.

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ELIZABETH NIELSEN is a mechanical engineering major and outdoor enthusiast who loves anything active or challenging. She believes we are all equal, not the same, and that is a very good thing.

ALLIE HOLDEN is a Utah Valley University graduate in science. She has been featured at the Springville Art Museum, University of Utah, Utah Valley University's Fulton Library, and American Fork Library. She has won various awards and scholarships for her craft. She is constantly inspired by her leaders and people around her. She uses her creativity to express ideas that light up others in ways words cannot. She specializes in large scale painting of sceneries and colorful portraits.

J.S. KOVACH was born in Colorado to parents who taught her to love and respect the wildness of nature. Through regular hikes, camping trips, and wilderness exploration, she has discovered first-hand how empowering outdoor recreation can be. She is currently pursuing a degree in exercise science and outdoor recreation at Utah Valley University, with a plan to one day design nature programs for children with disabilities and lead wilderness programs empowering women.

MCKENZIE LAYCOCK is a preschool teacher who also has a love and passion for health and fitness. She struggles with anxiety and depression and has found that living a healthy and fit lifestyle not only helps her improve physically but mentally as well. She hopes to spread awareness for mental health and show everyone that no matter what you're struggling with, confidence, hard work and persistence will help anyone achieve their goals!

SARAH J. LYLE is a sophomore at Utah Valley University. She is working towards her degree in exercise science. She loves the arts and was a competitive figure skater for 13 years, earning a triple gold medal in the sport. She now teaches figure skating at the Peaks Ice Arena and the Park City Ice Arena. She enjoys drawing and painting when she comes home from a busy day at work.

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CHRISTINA RODGERS is 22 years old, the mother to a little girl, and the wife of almost three years to the most amazing man. She started life with no family, having grown up in an orphanage until she was five. This inspired her to become the best mother, best wife, and best anything that she can be, as she believes that each person deserves this effort.

ISABELLA SIMONE is currently a junior at Timpanogos High School (THS). She aspires to be an artist, comedian, and creative writer. She is in the presidency of the Art Club at THS.

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TRACIE WHITLOCK attributes much of her success to her mother's loving leadership. She is attempting to pay that gift forward to the next generation with her husband. She has raised five outstanding children who are making meaningful contributions to society. After enjoying twenty-five years in her chosen vocation as a stay-at-home mom, Tracie is pursuing a second career as a professional mental health counselor specializing in marriage and family relationships. She will graduate from Utah Valley University in the spring of 2019 with a major in behavioral science, an emphasis in family studies, and a minor in psychology.

OFFICER SHINNERS GRADUATED AS THE CLASS LEADER FROM THE UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY, CLASS #33, IN 2016. FROM HIS FIRST DAY IN CLASS HE LED BY EXAMPLE, DISPLAYING HONOR, POSSESSING INTEGRITY, DEMONSTRATING TEAMWORK, TEACHING US TO PLAY BY THE RULES, BUILDING TRUST WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES, AND TREATING PEOPLE FAIRLY.

BELOW ARE STATEMENTS FROM HIS CLASSMATES.

- **HE WAS A GOOD AND TRUE LEADER . ALWAYS HAD MY BACK .**
 - **ENCOURAGED ME . GREAT JOB LEADING THE CLASS .**
 - **WILL BE A GREAT OFFICER . GOOD MOTIVATOR .**
- **EXCELLENT JOB AS A LEADER . ALWAYS ASKING FOR INPUT .**
 - **VERY HELPFUL . GREAT CLASS LEADER .**
- **REALLY CARES ABOUT OTHERS . ONE OF THE BEST IN THE CLASS .**
 - **HE IS A GREAT LEADER . ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP OUT .**
 - **EVERYTHING A LEADER SHOULD BE .**

LEADER

- **WOULD ENJOY HAVING HIM AS A PARTNER .**
- **GREAT EXAMPLE OF LEADERSHIP IN THE CLASS .**
- **EASY TO TALK TO AND GET ALONG WITH . HARD WORKER .**
 - **FANTASTIC LEADER . REPRESENTS THE CLASS WELL .**
- **TOOK THE TIME TO MAKE SURE ALL WERE WELL . TRUE LEADER .**
- **NATURAL LEADER . HE IS THE MAN . WILL BE A GREAT OFFICER .**
 - **WORKED WITH HIS TEAM TO SOLVE PROBLEMS .**

IN MEMORY OF



JOSEPH SHINNERS

ON JANUARY 5, 2019, MASTER POLICE OFFICER JOSEPH SHINNERS OF THE PROVO CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS KILLED IN THE LINE-OF-DUTY.

LESS THAN ONE MILE AWAY IS THE CAMPUS OF UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY WHERE OFFICER SHINNERS GRADUATED CUM LAUDE WITH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE MAJORING IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND A MINOR IN SPANISH.

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The Journal of Student Leadership is a double-blind, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, academic journal that addresses ideas, theories, and issues of leadership. The journal's two purposes are to:

1. Contribute to the scholarship and discussion on leadership.
2. Provide an engaging outlet for research, writing, editing, and publishing.

We welcome papers and essays on leadership topics from all relevant disciplines, including business, education, law, policy, social sciences, arts, humanities, and technology.

We invite perspectives on leadership from every sector of the academic community. Academicians and students are equally welcome to send their papers to the editors of the journal before formal submission for feedback and likelihood of acceptance.

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