

Radfem 2013

Programme

CONFERENCE THEMES

Each conference day has three themes.

Saturday's themes are:

- Eliminating Violence Against Women.
- Multiple-Oppressions of Women Under Patriarchy.
- Abolishing Prostitution and Supporting Survivor Activism.

Sunday's themes are:

- Building sisterhood and women's community.
- The Lesbian Heresy: Sisters ending compulsory heterosexuality and promoting lesbianism in the face of hostility.
- A critique of post-modernism, identity politics and queer theory.

For each theme, throughout the day we will:

- Listen to specific sisters who will speak to the whole conference about their experiences and their political perspectives.
- Debate and discuss what we've heard in smaller break out workshops
- Take action
- Plan and strategise for the future, to ensure we move forward beyond the conference.



RADFEM 2013
RESURGENCE OF WOMEN'S LIBERATION
SAT 8TH JUNE - SUN 9TH JUNE



Programme Timetable

SATURDAY, 8 JUNE

TIME / ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
8.30 – 9.00	Arrive, sign in, optional activities.
9.00 – 9.10 Welcome	Vita and Lakha Mahila
9.10 – 9.40 Connecting with Sisters	<p>Choose one of the following:</p> <p><u>A. LIVING LIBRARY: TELLING OUR STORIES - RADFEM STORY BOOKS</u></p> <p>We all have a herstory and we are all unique with empowering stories to tell about how we are survivors of patriarchy. Come and be a story book and/or listen to other story books about our struggles and our survival. A couple of examples are: “I live in a women’s community” or “I am a political lesbian”. Decide on at least one story before you arrive to this workshop and we’ll help you do the rest. Radfem story books will be told throughout the 2 days and you can tell as many stories as you like to as many women as you like. Fed up with telling stories? Simply take off your book cover and chill.</p> <p><u>B. Creative Solutions to Man-Made Problems</u></p> <p>All activism involves creative thinking, and collectively we have the skills and vision to make BIG THINGS happen. Let's connect - introduce yourself and your areas of interest in political activism in a relaxed, informal session in order to meet other women for future collaborations. We'll discover what each other's creative strengths are. Women's collective creativity is an inspiration to action!</p> <p><u>C. RADICAL FEMINIST QUIZ</u></p> <p>Join a small group of radical feminists and create a team. Work together to take the prize. Fun quiz to get the (non-gendered) brain cells going.</p> <p><u>D. RADFEM BINGO</u></p> <p>We'll give you a bingo card full of fun facts about the cool radical feminist about town. The one who has managed to work her way round the whole room and get a full house shouts RADFEM BINGO and gets the prize. It's surprising what we learn about each other playing radfem bingo.</p>

9.40 – 10.00 Introduction to Radical Feminism	Exploring the difference between ‘radical’ and ‘liberal’ feminism. Lierre Keith
10.00 – 11.30 Sister Speaker Session	Eliminating Violence against Women Million Women Rise (TBC) Anti-Racism and Building Bridges between all women, with the Multiple Oppressions we have amongst women as a class: Dani Tauni Abolishing Prostitution and Supporting Survivor Activism: Sheila Jeffreys and Rebecca Mott
11.30 – 11.45 Morning Tea	Optional Activities (see bottom of program guide for details)
11.45 – 13.00 Discussion Workshops (break out)	<p><u>A. CONGOLESE WOMEN - COMMON CAUSE</u></p> <p>Marie Claire Faray</p> <p>The Eastern part of DR Congo has been labeled the rape capital of the world, with 250,000 cases of reported rapes and an estimated 1 million unreported cases. Sexual violence has been used as a weapon of war, intimidation, humiliation, displacement and control. The perpetrators are occupying forces from neighbouring countries, local militias, government soldiers, UN Peace Keepers, Police and civilians. There is no justice system on the ground even though DR Congo is signed up to international laws to protect women and children. Discussion about the campaign.</p> <p><u>B. MALALA CAMPAIGN</u></p> <p>Shahida Choudhry</p> <p>Come and find out how the Malala Campaign is supporting Malala and other girls’ get an education. Find out how you can get involved.</p> <p><u>C: PROSTITUTION, TRAUMA AND DISABILITY: A SURVIVORS AND EXITED WOMEN’S PERSPECTIVE</u></p> <p>Rebecca Mott and Kat A Strophie</p> <p>The sex industry lobby are using disabled people to further their agenda, by claiming that disabled men have a right to be sexually serviced by women. Survivors say impairments are not an excuse for men to prostitute women and offer an alternative analysis that prostitution is, in fact, one of the leading causes of disability, trauma and mental illness in women and girls.</p>

	<p><u>D. WOMEN, POVERTY AND THE STATE - A RADFEM PERSPECTIVE</u></p> <p>Vita</p> <p>Focus on the way women are treated when divisions between the working class poor and the rich increase. Increase in women carrying out traditional unpaid roles in the domestic sphere, the state/media demonising particular women in order to get public support for throwing them into poverty e.g. single mothers, young single mothers, disabled women, women asylum seekers. There has been yet another global backlash against abortion rights and the workshop will explore how impoverished women are particularly impacted on.</p> <p><u>E. PRIVATE PATRIARCHY AND VIOLENT FATHERING</u></p> <p>Lynne Harne</p> <p>MREs (male rights extremists) are gaining rights in terms of the domestic sphere at the expense of the women and children's safety. Exploring Lynne's research in her new book.</p> <p><u>F. OLDER WOMEN</u></p> <p>Elaine Hutton</p> <p>Many older women feel invisible, some feel sexualised as older women. Women are living longer and are having to survive economic hardships as older, often disabled, women while benefits and pensions are decreasing and at risk. Ageism within the healthcare system, isolation for older lesbians, ableism and racism within services and an increasingly privatised and inaccessible NHS are just some of the challenges older women face. A workshop which will explore these issues and identify what can be done to address them.</p>
<p>13.00 – 14.00</p> <p>Lunch</p>	<p>Survivors of Prostitution / Exited Women's Caucus 13.00 – 13.30</p> <p>Optional Activities (see bottom of program guide for details)</p>
<p>14.00 – 15.30</p> <p>Action</p>	<p>Choose one of the following:</p> <p><u>A. DIRECT ACTION AGAINST MALE VIOLENCE</u></p> <p>A direct action highlighting how men's behaviour is central to the continuation of the sex industry. We will be singing/chanting/leafleting and other forms of direct action (details given on day). The action will be lawful. Leaves at 1.45pm. Meet at main door.</p> <p><u>B. CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING AS ACTIVISM:</u></p> <p>To be confirmed</p>

	An opportunity to take part in a Consciousness Raising Activity and to explore how Consciousness Raising Changes the lives of women and is vital for the development of women's liberation and activism.
15.30 – 16.00 Afternoon Tea	Optional Activities (see bottom of program guide for details)
16.00 – 17.00 Planning Ahead	Strategy Sessions on the days three themes More info coming soon
17.00 – 18.45 Break	<u>Relax and get ready for the evening social</u>
19.00 – 00.00 Sister Social	2 Course Buffet, Performers and Disco

SUNDAY, 9 JUNE

TIME / ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
9.00 – 10.30 Sister Speaker Session	<p>Building International Sisterhood and Defending Women Only Space Femi Otitoju</p> <p>The Lesbian heresy: Understanding the impact of compulsory heterosexuality on the class of women and supporting lesbianism and lesbian-only spaces, in the face of hostility. Sheila Jeffreys</p> <p>A Critique of Post Modernism, Identity Politics and Queer Theory: Julia Long and Kat A Strophie</p>
10.30 – 11.00 Morning Tea	Optional Activities (see bottom of program guide for details)
11.00 – 12.30 Discussion Workshops (break out)	<p><u>A: (RE) BUILDING RADICAL LESBIAN FEMINIST COMMUNITIES</u></p> <p>Julia Long, Vita, and members of the Poli Lez collective.</p> <p>How do we balance our politics with the necessity of living under patriarchy? We often need to balance paid/unpaid work, a demonizing benefits system, etc. with creating alternative systems to the patriarchal structures which exist. Our world is man-made and yet,</p>

somehow, we have to carve ourselves lesbian feminist spaces, in very challenging times. A workshop to discuss strategies/support mechanisms.

B. CUT THE BULL SHIT: IDENTITY POLITICS, QUEER THEORY AND THE APPROPRIATION OF RADICAL FEMINISM

Cathy Brennan

This workshop will discuss the manner in which Queer Theory has appropriated Women and Lesbian narratives of oppression as a means to advance the rights of Men. We will identify tactics used by Queer advocates, discuss ways in which Feminists can support each other in identifying these tactics, and strategies for combatting them.

C. SISTERS TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE AND MALE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Facilitator to be announced.

Man's damage to the environment is irreparably destroying our chance and our children and our children's children of a patriarchal-free future. It is male violence and greed which is causing this long term irreversible damage. Increasing numbers of women are being badly affected by climate change. They are trapped, unable to flee from floods/droughts and are climate migrants trapped in poverty and dependent on male protection and approval. How can we as radical feminists create a different future?

D. FEMINIST ETHICS

Facilitator to be announced.

What are "feminist ethics"? Why are they important to building international sisterhood and bringing about radical social change? What are the challenges of putting them into practice?

E. INTERGENERATIONAL FEMINIST COMMUNITY

Facilitator to be announced.

This workshop is for women of all ages, old, young and in between, to come together and share experiences of being a feminist, explore the herstory of our movement and to discuss how women of all ages can learn from each other and grow together. Radical feminism is becoming increasingly intergenerational, we need to make sure that our herstory is re-membered and shared, to pass onto future generations of feminists.

F. FUNDAMENTALISM, MISOGYNY AND THE STATE

Elizabeth Carola

	How official and grassroots support for religious, ideological and gender fundamentalisms combine to act as a tool for social control generally and controlling women specifically. especially in times of austerity. How can we understand the appeal of fundamentalisms and so effectively counter them with feminism, secularism and genuine democracy.
12.30 – 13.30 Lunch and Film Screening	Screening of Lesbiana
13.30 – 15.00 Action	<p>Choose one of the following:</p> <p><u>A. DIRECT ACTION AGAINST MALE VIOLENCE</u></p> <p>A direct action against male violence (details given on day). The action will be lawful. We will be carrying out/learning singing/chanting/leafleting and other forms of direct action. Leaves at 1.45pm. Meet at main door.</p> <p><u>B. CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING AS ACTIVISM: ELIMINATING COMPULSORY HETEROSEXUALITY</u></p> <p>To be confirmed</p> <p>An opportunity to take part in a Consciousness Raising Activity and to explore how Consciousness Raising Changes the lives of women and is vital for the development of women's liberation and activism.</p>
15.00 – 15.30 Afternoon Tea	Optional Activities (see bottom of program guide for details)
15.30 – 16.30	<p>Strategy Sessions on the days three themes</p> <p>More info coming soon</p>
16.30 – 17.00 Closing Session	<p>Final Round Up</p> <p>Elizabeth Corola</p>
17.00 End	Close of Conference

Optional Activities

There will be a number of optional activities throughout the day which you can participate in if you choose, these include:

Letter to a Sister

When you arrive, you can write a letter to a radfem sister at the conference. These will join the thousands of tweets radfem have been tweeting in the run up to the conference. When you go home, we'll give you a letter or a tweet as a sisterly reminder of the power of women together.

Alternative Therapies

Some alternative relaxing therapies will be available during breaks. These will be held in breakout room 1 (put your name on the timetable on the door to sign up - first come first served).

Direct Action

We will be taking one (lawful) direct action per day as part of the conference but you will always have an option not to come. Please tell us about any access needs you have. More details of each action in the program.

Lobbying

Throughout both days, there will be opportunities to write letters to lobby for causes that you may feel passionately about. A stall will be set up with letter writing materials and boxes to drop your letters into, so that we can send off a mass of letters following the conference.

Living Library

You can be a radfem story book at any time throughout the 2 days. You can change your book cover as many times as you like (For more details see workshop choices).

Message Board

There will be a message board available in the main hall. You can leave a message there for any woman at the conference. Organisers can't be responsible for anything you may have lost so please use the message board for lost property as well as other practical information,