



We should all be Feminist Occupational Therapists

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Chimamanda Adichie in her TED talk (2010) and book ‘We should all be Feminists’ (2014) stated the word feminist is ‘so heavy with baggage’ (pg11) that she wished to reclaim it by stating that she was;

“a Happy African Feminist Who Does Not Hate Men And Who Likes To Wear Lip Gloss And High Heels For Herself And Not For Men “ (p10)

She describes how this approach to thinking is an essential way of interrogating taken-for-granted assumptions about power, citizenship and the use of ‘othering’.

Occupational therapy students were asked to ‘draw a feminist’ this is how they saw them

Notice the half man/half woman, heads detached from the bodies and the detail given to ‘Trump’. What seems to be missing in these drawings was the understanding of feminism as a social model of resisting oppression. It is a philosophy which supports issues of occupational justice and interrogates notions of ‘choice’.



Occupational therapy, a predominantly female profession, is uniquely positioned to promote feminism as a core curriculum topic; promoting feminist philosophy and research methodologies. Feminism addresses inequality through disrupting hegemonic historical, social, political and gendered assumptions in health and social care. It is a way of viewing the world as relational, and thereby people are seen as emotionally complex and ultimately dependent on each other, in other words ‘Communalism’ and not ‘Individualism’.

Please draw your version of a feminist below

Contact details

1) https://www.google.com/search?q=we+should+all+be+feminists&client=firefox-b-d&channel=trow&tbm=isch&source=ln&tbs=surfs&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiXy8JquTIAhWMMBQKHZw9BJ0QpwUllw&biw=1366&bih=654&dpr=1#imgrc=pp6JLfx3wR-Ml-wiz-img.....0.0167.ZNb_IcXoow4#imgrc=wniemzRwwGn8M
2) https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&channel=trow&biw=1366&bih=654&tbs=sur%3Afc&tbm=isch&sa=1&ei=ISQBKc_bKq8JLaPi6WuAg&q=girls+playing+football&oeq=girls+playing+football&gs_l=img_3..013J0i5I30i4J0i8I30i3.153079.158345..160830...0.0.0.102.1546.221.....0....1..gws-

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