



DAWN O'PORTER

HONESTLY...

WARNING she always says what she thinks

“Don't just call yourself a feminist, BE a feminist”

To me, true feminism is not sitting around moaning about the lack of opportunity in your own life, but actively encouraging other, less-privileged women to get the most out of theirs. I've gone backwards and forwards about what the definition of a modern feminist is, because it's been highly spun by PRs over the past five or so years and seems to mean that if you are a woman, who believes men and women should be equal, then you are a feminist. But after many sleepless nights, I don't think that's enough – to simply agree with something and leave it at that. Feminism is a movement,

it is not just a word to be used casually to describe any woman with a good attitude in a privileged society. The overuse of the word means that too many people miss the point of it completely.

This is why I think International Women's Day (March 8) is so important. It's a crucial reminder that feminism shouldn't be a selfish enterprise. That to sit and revel in the subtle comforts of your own society's progression is not what the 'movement' was created for. That there are women living in the world today without the basic human rights that so many of us take for granted, and that we – women – have the power to change the world if we really

put our minds to it.

The very first feminist movement, where women at the turn of the last century fought for the right to vote, was a selfless campaign by a strident group determined to better the way that women were regarded in society. They campaigned tirelessly for our futures, not just their present. Today, I worry that 'feminist' is more a self-proclaimed badge of honour worn by women



who actually do little to support the cause. But to truly make the changes that need making, everyone who calls themselves a feminist must be more active. Otherwise, it's like a bunch of people calling themselves chefs, but only ever eating takeaways.

When our grandmothers campaigned for the things that offer us the benefit of choice, I am sure they presumed the women who called themselves feminists in 2014 would be doing the very same thing – helping other women. Let me hit you with some facts...

The majority of people living in poverty around the world are ►

Like a lot of people, I have issues with eating wheat.

Problem is, I can't stop eating wheat.

People like me often panic that the fun is over, but it isn't. After testing all the gluten-free products on the market, I recommend **Genius Bread** – available in most supermarkets, geniusglutenfree.com. Issue-free sandwiches, problem solved (apart from the occasional pizza).

I'm loving...



◀ women. In northern Africa, more than three quarters of the children who don't go to school are girls. Over 800 women die from pregnancy-related illness every day, mostly in developing countries, and the majority of these cases are entirely avoidable. And violence against women is responsible for more deaths and disability in women aged 15-44 globally than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined. We need International Women's Day to remind us that a feminist's work is not done.

With our support, women across the world will gain the confidence

to build their own businesses and attain true independence. International Women's Day is not just one day, it's the catalyst for change. If you feel passionately about the cause then make that clear. Blogging, Tweeting, informing others on March 8 – it all counts.

Oxfam is one charity that does endless work for women across the world. Right now, their Mother Appeal is supporting women living in severe poverty, helping enable their skills and ambition. Women use power and wealth differently from men – they prioritise educating their children, for a start, which is the most pro-active way we can improve the future. There are lots of ways to get involved, whether it's fundraising with friends and colleagues, swapping last season's clothes in M&S or donating unwanted goods to Oxfam shops – I know I will be.

So, next time you call yourself a feminist, have a think about the last thing you did to actively improve the lives of other women. United action will benefit not just women, but everyone. Get involved. Men will thank us in the end.

Let me know what you think @hotpatooties #GlamourMagUK

TALKING OF FEMINISM...

This young YouTuber knows a thing or two about how to get what she wants out of life. Ever seen a kid under ten laying down the law to the guy she is going to marry? You have now: search YouTube for '5 year old needs a job'.



AUNTIE TWIT

Dawn solves your problems (well, sort of) in 140 characters

@hotpatooties aspiring journalist uni student wanting experience within newspaper/magazine – how to get into? Already do student newspaper.

@jellyyyx I wish blogging had been around when I started. Write, write, write. Build up a good blog, then you have work to show off to employers.

@hotpatooties how do you cope when your husband is away? How do you keep things going well with the distance? How do u make distance work!!

@eloiselane It's all about sharing the small details of your day. Tell each other what you had for breakfast and always say goodnight.

@hotpatooties bf and I just moved in. He has 2 cats, I have a dog. The baby gate between rooms is annoying... should we let them fight it out?

@neilmjo Firstly, congrats on moving in together. Secondly, get rid of the baby gate and let them thrash it out. They just have to get used to each other. Get earplugs!

DAWNAGRAM



love Dawn XXX

This one of me and my nephew is cute #auntieogram

IN THE NEWS • IN THE NEWS • IN THE NEWS • IN THE NEWS

I'M A PASSENGER... GET ME OUT OF HERE!



Ever have those dreams where you're locked inside a supermarket and you're allowed to eat and drink whatever you want, just to survive? Well, what about being locked on a plane? Er, no! Poor Tom Wagner from Louisiana fell asleep on board a United Express jet. When he woke up, it was pitch-black, freezing and the doors were locked. Luckily, his phone had some juice, so he could call his girlfriend and get her to send help. I bet he ate all the bread rolls while he was waiting, though. ©