

# Emma Watson's Speech at UN

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Today, we are launching a campaign called “He For She.” I am reaching out to you because we need your help. We want to end gender inequality, and to do this, we need everyone involved. The more I've spoken about feminism, the more I have realized that fighting for women's rights has too often become synonymous with man hating. If there is one thing I know for certain, it is that this has to stop. For the record, feminism, by definition, is the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities.

I started questioning gender-based assumptions a long time ago. When I was eight, I was confused at being called bossy because I wanted to direct the plays that we would put on for our parents. But the boys were not. When at fifteen, my girlfriends started dropping out of their beloved sports teams because they didn't want to appear muscly. I decided that I was a feminist. But my recent research has shown me that feminism has become an unpopular word. Women are choosing not to identify as feminists.

Why has the word become such an uncomfortable one? I think it is right that I should be able to make decisions about my own body. I think it is right that women be involved on my behalf in the policies and the decisions that affect my life. But sadly, I can say that there is no one country in the world where all women can expect to receive these rights. These rights I consider to be human rights, but I am one of the lucky ones. My life is a sheer privilege, because my parents didn't love me less because I was born a daughter. My school did not limit me because I was a girl, my mentors didn't assume that I would go less far because I might give birth to a child one day. These influences were the gender equality ambassadors that made me who I am today. They may not know it, but they are the inadvertent feminists who are changing the world today. We need more of those.

In 1995, Hillary Clinton made a famous speech in Beijing about women's rights. Sadly, many of the things she wanted to change are still true today.

But what stood out for me the most was that less than 30% of the audience were male. How can we affect change in the world when only half of it is invited, or feel welcome to participate in the conversation? Men, gender equality is your issue, too. Statesman Edmund Burke said, all that is needed for the forces of evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing.

If you believe in equality, you might be one of those inadvertent feminists that I spoke of earlier, and for this, I applaud you. We are struggling for a uniting word, but the good news is that we have a uniting movement. It is called He For She. I am inviting you to step forward to be seen, and to ask yourselves, “If not me, who? If not now, when?”

出典：<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/9/emma-watson-gender-equality-is-your-issue-too>