

Question Script for NJ Women's Voices Interview

1) Name?

Kendra Lee

• **Age?** 26

• **Education level?**

High School Diploma, Majored in Business for 2 years @ Berkeley College in Woodbridge, NJ, left to pursue degree in massage therapy at Cittance Institute in Jersey City, NJ.

• **Current profession?**

Unemployed

• **Marital status?**

Single

• **Race/Ethnicity?**

African-American/Puerto Rican

• **Hometown/where were you born?**

African-American/Puerto Rican

• **Political affiliation?** Democrat

• **Religion? (Or, would you consider yourself a religious/spiritual person?)**

Christian (just believe in God)

• **Relationship to me (the interviewer)?**

Friend

2) Do you have children? (How many? What ages/genders?)

Yes. One child, 1/female

3) What do you know about feminism? Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not? If you wouldn't call yourself a feminist, is there another term that better describes you?

I do not know much about it. Maybe it depends on what being a feminist consists of. A strong and independent woman.

4) What do you think of the media's portrayal of the ideal female body? Does it impact your own perception of your body? How or why not?

In some ways it is very upsetting and demeaning. Real women in society do not act the way the media portrays them to be like in reality shows and music videos. It does not impact my perception, because I know what it means to be respectful of my body.

5) As a child were you ever told you couldn't do something simply because you were a girl? What was the situation? Were you ever told you couldn't be what you wanted to be when you grew up because you were a girl? If yes, who told you that and why? If no, who encouraged you to be whatever you wanted to be?

Don't remember ever being told I couldn't do something. I do remember a boy in primary school told me my favorite color could not be yellow, because yellow was a boy's color. My mother and my aunt encouraged me to be what I wanted to be, no matter what I did they were there to encourage me, even after I quit school to try something else, they were okay with it.

6) As a woman do you feel pressured to be successful in the fields of family/home life, business/work life, income and appearance? What defines a successful woman in your mind? What factors influence your opinion of what defines a successful woman? Has your understanding of success changed over the years?

Yes. Not so much as a teenager, but now that I have a child and am a mother I feel like it is my duty and responsibility to be successful for my daughter. A successful woman is a woman who is happy both with her family, her career, and her faith. Materialistic things are nice but they do not define success. My own mother's struggle at success influences my opinion. I don't believe she failed at success; it just has a different meaning in her situation. Although she does not have a career, because she never graduated from high school, she has managed to raise 6 children

to the best of her ability, that to me is success. I used to think success was like wearing fancy clothes, high heels, driving a nice car, and working in New York City meant I was a successful woman, but not anymore, success is what you make it.

7) As an adult do you ever feel that you are treated differently due to your gender? How so? Do you like being treated differently because you are a woman or would you prefer it didn't happen? Does it depend on the situation? Please explain.

Yes. Sometimes when I go for job interviews, they ask me why I applied for the position. For example, I had applied for some security jobs in banks and hotels, and for the most part I never received a call back. But I received a call back from a hotel, and during the interview they offered me in a job in housekeeping instead. Depending on the situation, I believe in equal treatment, I want to be treated as the next person, however it does depend on the situation. For example, if I applying for a job that preferred the hiring of a woman I would like to be acknowledged before a male applicant. It all depends on the needs of the population I will be serving.

8) How would you define gender equality? Would you say gender equality is important to you? Why or why not?

Gender equality means equal treatment, equal workload, equal pay, equal education, and equal opportunities. Yes gender equality matters to me, I am constantly being underpaid and losing out on job opportunities.

9) It's often assumed that women are more emotional than men. Do you agree or disagree with that common assumption? Do you think a female president would be able to handle tough situations as well as a male president?

That's a tough question. I do not know if emotional is the correct word. Because women since creation have been shown to care and love their family, provide for their home needs, we have been seen in that fashion. Men can also be that way too, there are many men in the world that do the same deeds as women, but are

not seen as emotional they are seen as strong or caring. The word emotional may not sound like a correct description when it comes to men. So I don't think I agree with that assumption. A female president would definitely be able to handle tough situations as well as a male president. There is no difference when it comes to ability.