

1. Background Information:

What is your name?

Georgina Shanley

What is your age?

Older than Time

What is your education level?

B.S. degree

What is your current profession?

Environmental/Human rights activist

What is your marital status?

Married

What is your Race or Ethnicity?

Race: Human

Where were your born, your home town?

Duleek, Count Meath, Ireland

What is your political Affiliation?

Green, because I like the color!

What is your Religion? Do you consider yourself a religious or spiritual person?

If there is something I can do that is considered a “good “action, I will. I do not worship in a temple. I believe there is no one greater or less than another and that there are Universal Laws that are way beyond human laws.

What is your relationship to me?

Neighbor

Do you have children? How many? What ages/ gender?

2 sons – 24 & 26

In what format did this interview take place?

Email

What do you know about Feminism?

To me “feminism” means exerting the right of a woman to be recognized as an equal to a man. A woman is not the same as a man but just as I believe that we are all equal by being born human, a woman has also to claim that right.

Do you Consider yourself a Feminist? Is there another term that better describes you?

I would consider myself a humanist. I recognize the need for a feminist movement because throughout the world presently, and over the course of history women are/have been treated as 2nd class citizens.

Do you think being a feminist means giving up romance and chivalry?

I do not understand why being a feminist would mean giving up romance and chivalry.

In your option, what has been the greatest obstacle that the feminist movement has overcome?

Coming from Catholic Ireland I would have to say that birth control is a great achievement and also the right of women to vote. I do not see any global downside on fighting for the right of women to make decisions and to have dignity in life. Any extreme belief I feel is a problem and relating to feminism I have some women friends who will cast their votes for a woman regardless of the platform i.e.

Margaret Thatcher, Sarah Palin etc. Blindly following an “ism” can be very destructive.

How does society view housewives? If you had or have the option of being a housewife, would you consider it? Why or why not?

It is embarrassing to say I do not work; more specifically I do not work for money. Western capitalist society views the job of housewife as 2nd class. I just returned from China and met many professions, economically successful women who look down on stay-at-home mothers. I believe in being responsible for our actions and when we bring children into this world how we nourish and guide them

will determine what kind of adult they will be. I see a problem with a society that expects and encourages a mother to work and there are no quality, affordable facilities for the children. So many of our young are being left alone with only the TV as their guardian. That said; I went back to work 6 weeks after my 1st son was born. It was a challenge. I had a family next door to dote on him so I was fortunate. But for the past 17 years I have run an after-school program to help children with homework and to feed them and guess what, there is no one home. Major problem! There has to be some balance.

When you were going up, did a specific person in your household make the majority of decisions or otherwise run the household? Do you think the person's gender influenced when or what types of decisions she or he made?

I grew up in Ireland in a large family. My father was 21 years older than my mother. He made major financial decisions and my mother ran the house. She was always consulted by him. He, who earns the money has the power.

Do you think women in male-dominated professions must diminish their feminine traits in order to gain respect from their peers? Please explain.

I would say that even as far as exterior dress women in male-dominated professions have to conform to the dark colored, tailored look of men, unless she is the ultimate boss. Yes, women in these high pressure male-dominated jobs have to take on so-called masculine traits....no crying!

Now that the United states has elected a Black male president, do you think the country will elect a Female President in the near Future? Please explain.

There is a good chance we will see a woman president. Too bad women still have to don masculine personas aka Hilary Clinton, Janet Reno etc but when there finally is a breakthrough Madame President can start wearing hot pants, psyche!

What would you consider to be the most challenging aspect of being a female? Do you think males share these struggle? What advice do you have for young people today?

My life experience has been unusually positive working and dealing with men. Maybe having 5 strong brothers gave me a head start. I would say that my most challenging aspects have been certain men not taking a woman seriously because of their failings and the simple fact that men have louder voices. Often in conversation the loudest voice prevails regardless of the content. In many fairy tales and books of the young the “boy” is portrayed as the bad one and at least the one doing the mischief. I think it is difficult for young men. There are a lot of expectations of success placed on our young males. My advice for young people is what my father always advised us, “Always do what is right, this way you can hold your head up.” I would add that “you are only young once and no one is perfect. We are innately wired to break rules. So long as you are not hurting anyone or yourself live life.” I also liked what my mother whispered in my ear, Georgina, if one other person in the world can do it...you can too”. Meaning there is nothing we cannot do!