

Question Script for NJ Women's Voices Interview

1) What is your:

- Name: EJG (full name not disclosed for personal security reasons)
- Age: 33
- Education level: Credits towards masters
- Current profession: disabled
- Marital status: divorced
- Race/Ethnicity: Caucasian
- Hometown/where were you born: Barnegat, NJ
- Political affiliation: Independent Conservative
- Religion: Pagan

2) In what format did the interview take place:

The interview was conducted in an email format.

3) Do you have children:

No.

4) What do you think about full-time stay-at-home mothers:

I believe it is a choice that can be fulfilling for both the mother, father and the kids.

What about full-time stay-at-home fathers:

Same - I believe it is up to each individual couple to decide which parent stays home and which one works or if both choose to pursue full time employment. It depends on the people. But stay at home dads are just as good at what they do as stay at home moms - and yes, it IS a real job.

If you have or plan to have children, what influenced, influences or will influence your decision about how to manage childcare:

I will not be having children due to my compromised health. However, if I were able to have children I would stay home with them as my financial situation allows for that and I believe that having one parent at home with young children is very beneficial for them. Not to mention it would be very bonding and enjoyable for me:)

5) For you, what defines a woman? Is there anyone you can think of that embodies these qualities?

Women are defined by the fact that they possess one X chromosome and one Y chromosome in each cell. That is what makes a woman a woman and nothing else. We are not defined by our ability to have children (I know many women who are infertile; it makes them no less women) or by the way they look. Being a woman refers to nothing more than the chromosomes in your cells. All women embody these qualities - there is no "perfect package".

6) What do you believe is the most challenging part about being a woman in today's society?

Balancing home and work and being taken seriously as a

professional in a male dominated profession.

What personal struggles have you faced as a woman?

Being denied work because of my gender (I am trained in automotive repair and have worked as a day laborer while going through school - many employers have flat out told me that they would not hire me due to my gender - not my qualifications.

7) Do you think we still live in a society where women are sexually exploited by or oppressed by men?

I think that our society in general encourages the stereotyping and subjugation of women. Both genders perpetuate the negative stereotyping of women to "keep them in their place" through negative media portrayals. I don't feel that men are any more responsible for the sexual exploitation of women than women are. For every male chauvinist, there is a madam putting her girls on the street.

8) Have you personally experienced sexism or know of anyone who has?

I grew up in a family where to be respected you had to possess a penis. I have been denied work due to my gender because I applied for work in male dominated professions. The outcome is that I have learned that sexism can and does affect my daily life sometimes - regardless of how progressive I am myself.

9) Do you believe there is still a double-standard when it comes to men's and women's sexual behaviors?

I think there is as long as the media uses terms like "slut, ho, and loose" to describe sexually active women and uses "player, stud, and ladies man" to describe sexually active men.

For example, is society still more tolerant of men who have sex with multiple partners?

Yes...see above.

Are there behaviors that women can exhibit that men cannot?

No, other than getting pregnant to trap their partner and make money.

10) It's often assumed that women are more emotional than men. Do you agree or disagree with that common assumption?

I do not believe that one gender is more emotional than the other - I believe that it is more acceptable for women to be outwardly emotional than for men. I don't think it's right, but I think it is common practice in our society.

Do you think a female president would be able to handle tough situations as well as a male president?

Yes.

11) What do you know about feminism?

The term Feminism can be used to describe a political, cultural or economic movement aimed at establishing more rights and legal protection for women.

Do you consider yourself a feminist?

I consider myself a proponent of people's rights - everyone should be treated equally regardless of color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, religion...you name it. People are people and should all be treated the same.

Why or why not?

I guess the beliefs I hold are in line with feminism, although I do not limit myself to fighting for the rights of strictly women - that would be discrimination based on gender.

If you wouldn't call yourself a feminist, is there another term that better describes you?

Proponent of all human rights