

New Jersey Women's Voices Interview

Name: Krista Cinotti

Age: 31

Education level: College degree

Profession: Commercial Insurance Broker

Marital status: Single

Race/Ethnicity: Caucasian

Hometown: Mahwah, NJ

Political affiliation: Independent

Religion: Christian

Relationship to me: Niki's boyfriend's sister

Do you have children: No

Format of interview: Face-to-face

Q: What do you know about feminism?

A: Feminism is a movement that began in the late 1800's and took full force in the 1900's with women fighting for the right to vote. Feminism is a movement that focuses on the equality of women in society, the workplace, the armed forces, etc. within a patriarchal society.

Q: Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not? (If you don't call yourself a feminist what, is there another term that better describes you?)

A: No, I would consider myself an "equalitist". I believe all people regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. are equal and should be treated accordingly.

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

A: No, I do not think that having good manners and putting an effort into your relationship has anything to do with the equality of women in society.

Q: In your opinion, what has been the greatest obstacle that the feminist movement has overcome? has the feminist movement hurt women or men in any way? Please explain.

A: The greatest obstacle in my opinion is getting society to view women and men equally, while still allowing women to be ladies. I do not think it has hurt men or women. Unfortunately, we live in a society where people need to fight for what they deserve and if women did not fight for equality, it would be even worse than it is today. It has not hurt men because in our society, they are the "ruling gender". While they may think it has hurt them, even today when the tables are starting to turn in some scenarios, men still control most situations. Many men most likely believe it has hurt them because it has forced them out of their comfort zone.

Q: What would equality for men and women entail? Can men and women ever achieve true equality? How so or why not?

A: Equality for men and women would entail someone's gender not playing a factor in any decisions with regard to pay, job role, society, the armed forces, etc. I do not believe it is possible because society is run by human beings and by nature, people protect their own. In reality, women and men are equal because each gender has their faults and benefits; however, whichever gender is "ruling" society at any particular point in time, will most likely be unfair to the opposite gender in some way.

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

A: I think society is starting to understand the value and hard work of a woman who stays at home. I would consider it because I think raising your children with strong values is important and if I had the ability to raise my children without putting them into daycare, I would do so.

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

A: Interestingly enough, I believe the decision making was split based on gender, i.e. my father mostly made decisions regarding the finances and my mother made decisions regarding raising the children. I do think their gender influenced their decision making and also how they handled situations.

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

A: No, I believe the key is remaining professional and doing a good job, because whether you are very feminine or not, if you do your job well and act in a professional manner, no argument can be made against you without it being discrimination. I do believe women should not use their feminine traits to get ahead as it damages the fight for equality.

Q: 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.

A: I think it is unlikely that a female president will be elected in the near future. I think most people are still afraid of a woman's emotional side and how it would affect their decision making. Also, the current female politicians that have run for office have not had the best showing in my opinion.

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

A: The most challenging aspect of being a female is being confident and loving yourself for who you are. I think males struggle with this also, but not as much as women do. My advice for young people today is to not get caught up in the media and to make sure they stay true to themselves. They need to learn not to let the little things get to them and that there are people around that can help them with their questions and struggles because there is someone who has done it before them. They also need to know that taking pride in themselves, their work and their goals will get them far.