

Question Script for NJ Women's Voices Interview

1) Background Information:

Q: What is your name?

A: Louise Soden

Q: Age?

A: 42

Q: Education level?

A: High School Education, Some College Classes

Q: Current profession?

A: Administration at Acme Markets and Trainer / Early Childhood Educator at Pemberton Township

Q: Marital status?

A: Married

Q: Race/Ethnicity?

A: White

Q: Hometown/where were you born?

A: Irvington, NJ

Q: Political affiliation?

A: Democrat

Q: Religion?

A: Catholic

Q: Relationship to me?

A: Co-worker

Q: Do you have children?

A: Yes

Q: How many?

A: 4

Q: What ages/genders?

A: Male - 17

Female - 10

Male - 9

Female - 6

In what format did the interview take place? Phone

2) Questions about Feminism:

Q: What do you know about feminism?

A: Feminism refers to movements aimed at defending equal political, economic and social rights and equal opportunities for women. I know that many people have taken this stand for years in order for me to be able to have what I have today.

Q: Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not?

A: I would call myself a feminist because I believe that women should be treated the same as men. I would stand up for any woman's rights. It would only be a loss to me if I did not stand up for ALL women. Over the years women have been able to prove that they can do the same jobs as men without restrictions.

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

A: Being a feminist does not mean giving up romance or chivalry, it means being treated equal. Sometimes a man needs to treat a woman like a woman, And romance and chivalry shows respect. Most women I know like to be respected.

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: In my opinion, the greatest obstacle that the feminist movement has overcome has to be equal opportunities at jobs, which include those jobs in politics. Many women have climbed the ladder of success. I think it will not be long until a woman is president.

I believe the feminist movement has hurt women because women who try to achieve the same level as men in high positions are considered too powerful and a threat. Some women are referred to as crazy.

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 both sexes being the same and that will never happen. Women have the power to bear children and that is a BIG part of being different. It creates a big difference in the way each sex is treated, physically and emotionally men and women will always be different and for that reason they will never be treated equal.

3) Questions about Work and Family:

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: Society views housewives and women of the home, good only for cooking, cleaning and bearing children. If I had the option to be a housewife without having to work outside the home I believe I would enjoy it for some time but in the end it loses a challenge that you get from

working at a job. Although, don't get me wrong, being a housewife IS a job and sometimes it is more exhausting than a job outside the home. For a strong woman like myself i feel less of a woman if I cannot work and bring home money to live on. It proves to me as a woman that I can do it all and should be treated as equal because of my job.

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: Growing up my father made all the decisions in the household. WHY? He was the only one who worked and being the bread winner always gave that person more power. If you made the money and paid the bills you had more say in what went on in the household.

I do not believe it was the gender that influenced the decisions. It was the fact that he was the one who brought the income to the home.

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: Yes I do believe that women in male dominated professions must diminish their feminine traits in order to gain respect from their peers.

Their peers will look at them as weak if they have more feminine traits. They must show the traits of men in order to be seen as equal, powerful and confident.

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: Yes, I definitely think that in the near future we will have a woman president. Society has grown so much that race has been overcome in the position of president. It is only a matter of time that society sees women in that position as well. Hilary Clinton and many other powerful women in politics have helped pave the way for us to see women as leaders.

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

A: The most challenging aspect of being a woman to me is focusing on a job outside the home as well as being a wife and mother. You have to advance in your career and still have feminine traits to be a homemaker. Some males share the same struggle. Then there are men that will always think they are more powerful and a woman must wait on their every need. My advice to young people today is to keep equality strong. Today many women are the bread winners while men stay home with the family. Role reversal has changed immensely in the world. This has given women more respect and power in society.

