

Rekord has created a weekly feature to give the people of Pretoria a platform to voice their opinions on burning issues in society. This week we have a man and a woman talking about feminism and the emancipation of women.

# People in Pretoria speak out

## Feminism self-destructive

**Thato Mahlangu**

Feminism is defined by the *Oxford English Dictionary* as the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes.

Why then are most feminists only for women and not for the equality of both sexes?

As a young man, I often ask myself what it is to be a feminist in a world that is filled with so many young men who feel they too need the same attention their counterparts are getting?

What do we make of this unfair imbalance and the division of men and women by women who are fighting for empowerment? Are they not misunderstanding the concept of feminism?

Today, a feminist is one who advocates for the emancipation, empowerment and advancement of women. She looks after her sister's children, especially the girls.

She would do anything to protect and help her sister with her wardrobe and makes sure the mistress (if any) is dealt with correctly and accordingly.

She is inspired by women like her sister, who do not just hold good jobs, but also

maintain good bodies.

She is jealous sometimes but she tries her best to make sure her sister knows she would move mountains for her.

She is her sister's keeper after all. She, too, is empowered and powerfully beautiful. Apparently she hates men too.

The sad thing about this beautiful, powerful sister is her future husband will be a lazy man who will moan all day.



Thato Mahlangu.

Do you know why? Because feminism has failed to equip not only her but those she loves, those she would eventually grow old with someday.

I do not feel sorry for her because her only goal was to be empowered.

Don't misunderstand me, there is nothing wrong with pushing for the empowerment of women, but at whose

cost do they push for it?

South Africa has a high incidence of children abandoned by their fathers or are products of rape.

I would hate to see young men go around making babies without protection and without taking care of their offspring, but who is to blame because they are not empowered.

Feminism is falling, whether we like it or not.

## Also emancipate each other

**Kea Modise-Moloto**

When we talk about women being emancipated, the question is what type of woman?

Is it the corporate career and business-woman? The unemployed mother of four children with empty stomachs? The teen girl forced into a sexual relationship with a man old enough to be her father? Or the girl forced to sleep with her stepdad or mother's boyfriend to keep a roof over her family's head or food on the table?

What about human trafficking? There are more women trafficked than men...

What about our female political leaders? In the last two years the leading party's women's body could not support South Africa's readiness for a woman president... are they emancipated?

What about the many women who failed to complete high school due to unaffordable sanitary towels while condoms were distributed at no cost to men who wanted to indulge in sexual activity?

Which woman is emancipated?

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines emancipation as the fact or process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions.

I am not convinced that we are even halfway there, especially when we still require a man's permission to speak our minds, and express or share our opinions.

A case in point is the ANC Women's

League that could not say "yes we are more than ready for a female president". They could not do so because in doing so they would be speaking against the ANC NEC, which comprises mainly men.

I think maybe our girls, teens and those in their twenties are the closest we have to emancipated women.

Why? Because their brains, minds and emotions know no limitations or boundaries.

Each woman must treat, educate and empower other women towards being emancipated beyond the economy, which I feel is what has been the focus for a long time at the expense of personal, emotional, mental and cultural emancipation... even physical.



Kea Modise-Moloto.

## Photographer captures couple dancing

**Thato Mahlangu**

Pretoria-based photographer Kgomotso Kgopa noticed a couple dancing in the streets of Soshanguve and just had to photograph them.

Kgopa, who is a self-taught photographer, said he was surprised by the two who were showing each other affection in public.

"They did not care who was looking and that was so beautiful," said Kgopa.



Sanele and Phindile Khuzwayo. Photos: Kgomotso Kgopa