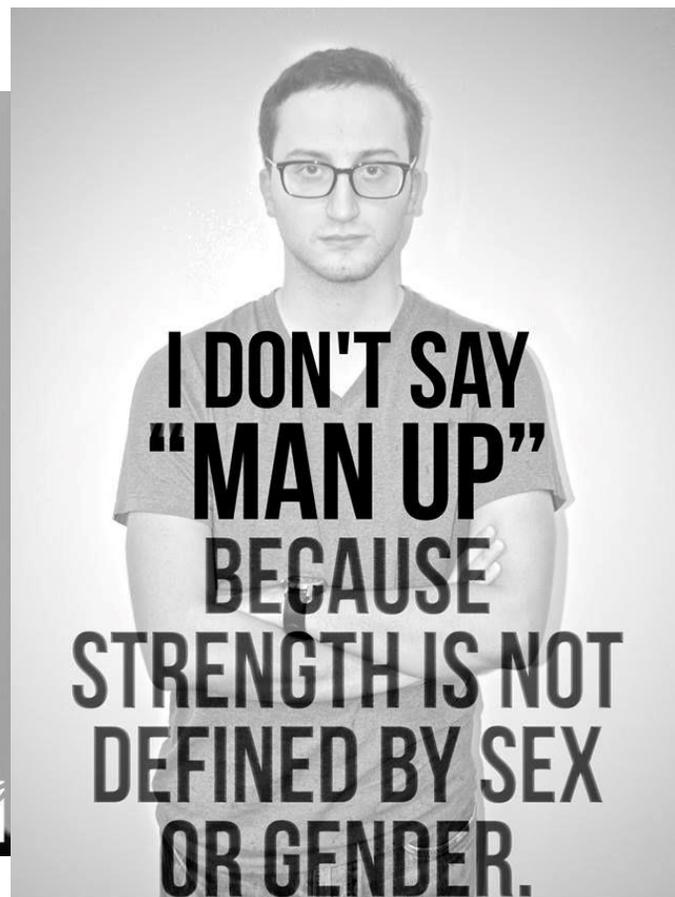
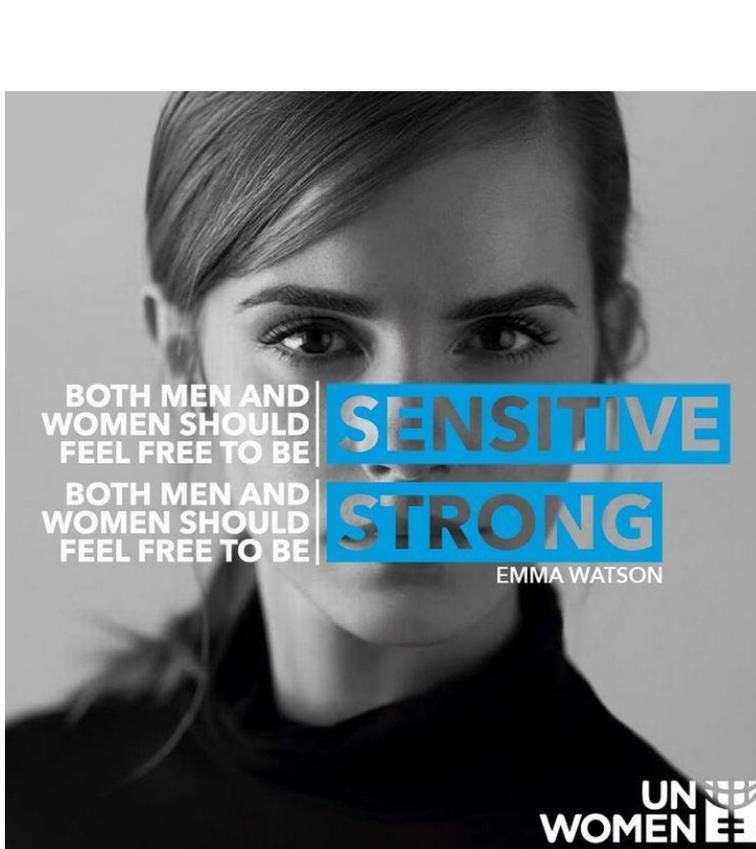


Gender Issue

Non-Fiction Text Study

Short and Long answer questions
Comparison question
Transactional Writing





Emma Watson: Gender equality is your issue too

Speech by UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson at a special event for the HeForShe campaign, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 20 September 2014

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“Today we are launching a campaign called “HeForShe.”

This is the first campaign of its kind at the UN: we want to try and galvanize as many men and boys as possible to be advocates for gender equality.

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Feminism by definition is: “The belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities. It is the theory of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes.” However, my recent research has shown me that feminism has become an unpopular word. Why is the word such an uncomfortable one?

I think it is right that as a woman I am paid the same as my male counterparts. I think it is right that I should be able to make decisions about my own body. I think it is right that women be involved on my behalf in the decision-making of my country. I think it is right that socially I am afforded the same respect as men. But sadly I can say that there is no one country in the world where all women can expect to receive these rights.

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No country in the world can yet say they have achieved gender equality. Men—I would like to take this opportunity to extend your formal invitation. Gender equality is your issue too.

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Because to date, I’ve seen my father’s role as a parent being valued less by society despite my needing his presence as a child as much as my mother’s.

I’ve seen young men suffering from mental illness unable to ask for help for fear it would make them look less “macho”—in fact in the UK suicide is the biggest killer of men between 20-49 years of age. I’ve seen men made fragile and insecure by a distorted sense of what constitutes male success. Men don’t have the benefits of equality either. We don’t often talk about men being imprisoned by gender stereotypes but I can see that that they are and that when they are free, things will change for women as a natural consequence.

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If men don’t have to be aggressive in order to be accepted women won’t feel compelled to be submissive. If men don’t have to control, women won’t have to be controlled. Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive. Both men and women should feel free to be strong.

If we stop defining each other by what we are not and start defining ourselves by what we are—we can all be freer and this is what HeForShe is about. It’s about freedom.

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Thank you.

The Sunday Telegraph



Letters to the editor

Sir,

I recently had a religious studies lesson where we talked about gender and the role it plays in modern society.

- 5 Having watched Emma Watson's speech about gender equality the night before and agreed with everything she said, I was disappointed by how ignorant some of the other boys in my class were. I felt compelled to write down my views of gender equality.

We're lucky to live in a western world where women can speak out against stereotypes. It's a privilege. Gender equality and feminism is not about "man-hating" or the idea of "female supremacy". It is, by definition, the opposite. The definition of feminism is, "a person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes." It's pretty simple really, and if you believe in those things, then you're a feminist. Feminism can also be interpreted as a woman owning her sexuality, in the same way men do, wearing clothes that make her feel good about herself, or that show off her body, with freedom from the threat of rape, because she wants to. 10 15

We live the gender stereotype without realising it; we have been born with it, we played with toys designed for our genders, we go to schools which are segregated, we play sports which other genders do not, and it takes some mindfulness for many people to even acknowledge its existence and the injustice it entails for both genders. If we want equality, it will take more effort than paying women the same as men, or giving women equal opportunities to men. 20

If we really want equality we must try our best to ignore gender and stop competing with one another. We must stop comparing ourselves to each other, particularly other people of the same gender, because that leaves us with a feeling of insecurity and self-doubt. 25

We must stop pressuring each other to fit with this stereotype which more often than not leaves us feeling repressed and unable to express ourselves. And most of all, if we really want equality, we need to stop caring. Stop caring about gender, stop caring about another person's sexual preference, stop caring about how far someone fits in with the stereotype and stop caring, most of all, about how much we fit this stereotype. We must not let gender define us. 30

Kind regards

Ed Holtom

Questions

Re-read extract 1. Answer the questions below.

1. Identify four rights that Emma Watson believes all women should be entitled to. (2)
2. Identify two examples Emma Watson gives to show that gender inequality affects men as well. (2)
3. Identify two examples of persuasive language. (2)
4. Explain the effect of the metaphor 'men being imprisoned by gender stereotypes'. (2)
5. Analyse how Emma Watson uses language and structure to persuade her audience. (8)
Support your views with detailed reference to the text.



Boys should listen to Emma Watson
SIR – I watched Emma Watson's UN speech and agreed with



Re-read extract 2. Answer the questions below.

6. Identify three examples of gender stereotypes the writer refers to. (2)
7. Identify two ways in which we can achieve gender equality, according to the writer. (2)
8. Identify an example of repetition used as a persuasive device. (1)
9. Analyse how Ed Holtom uses language and structure to appeal to the reader. (8)
Support your views with detailed reference to the text.

Compare
&
Contrast

10. Compare how the writers of Extract 1 and Extract 2 present their ideas of the importance of gender equality. (12)
Support your answer with detailed references to the texts.

11. Write the text for a leaflet informing pupils at your school about gender inequality. Use the information from both texts to support your ideas. You could include:
 - examples of gender inequality
 - examples of gender stereotypes of both sexes
 - how we can achieve equality(25)

OR

12. Write a film, book or music video review in which you criticise your text for its promotion of gender stereotypes. You could include:
 - common gender stereotypes
 - reasons you feel the book/film/music promotes gender stereotypes
 - why it is important to fight against gender stereotypes(25)