



Grassroots Global Justice IWD Presentation- Presenter's Notes

SLIDE 1:

SAY: "Welcome everyone! As you all know, our organization is a member of the Grassroots Global Justice Alliance (GGJ). In the past 2+ years, GGJ has taken on a new focus area of gender justice and feminisms. They are inviting the member organizations to grow into an understanding of patriarchy and encouraging us to see our struggles and our work through the lens of gender and sexuality."

SAY: "We are facilitating this session in honor of International Women's Day, March 8th of every year. In this moment there is so much talk about feminism: from the Women's March, to the #MeToo movement, to what happened when Grassroots women – the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) and National Farmworker Women's Alliance – intervened powerfully in Hollywood to create #TimesUp. The #MeToo movement started over a decade ago by an African American woman, Tarana Burke, and recently gained a lot of attention and momentum last year, when women in Hollywood started sharing their stories of sexual assault and harassment using the Me Too Hashtag. Earlier this year we saw the emergence of #TimesUp in response to #MeToo, when the National Farmworkers Women's Alliance wrote an open letter to the women in Hollywood asking that they share the spotlight and microphone with women in the working class, and undocumented women, who also face sexual harassment and assault in the workplace. But in our current dialogue about women's rights and gender justice, it is important for us to recognize that there is a long and global history of resistance. We have to use the momentum of the current moment to push for the changes that we value in our own version of feminism."

SAY: "GGJ is leading a social media campaign in the lead up to and on International Women's Day to begin to shift and grow the national and international dialogue about grassroots feminism. We want to participate in this campaign and say: "We are reclaiming feminisms for the grassroots." For example: Immigrant rights are women's rights, racial justice is a feminist issue, workers' rights are women's rights, trans liberation is key to women's liberation. Climate justice is a feminist issue. This tool will help us get familiar with the concept of IWD and grassroots feminism so that we can participate in the campaign and reclaim feminism wholeheartedly. Are you with me."

ASK: "Any questions?"

SLIDE 2:

Read or get a volunteer to read the quote out loud

ASK: "Does anyone have responses to this quote? What do you think she meant? Do you feel the same way, and if so why?" (1-2 responses)

After 1 or 2 responses **SAY:** "As women, and feminine presenting, and gender non-conforming people, we understand that we share a common struggle, but that we also face different levels of oppressions depending on our race, ethnicity, religion, sexual preference, gender identity, and access. However, in order to achieve true liberation, we must work for each other's freedom as well as our own."

SLIDE 3:

SAY: "For centuries, women have endured several levels of oppression. We have been treated as 2nd class citizens, as property, as added wealth to a man's societal position. There have also



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been several instances throughout history where women have fought back, resisted and defied all odds and expectations. One example of our resistance is the emergence of International Women's Day. "

Read or get a volunteer to read the entries on the timeline

SLIDE 4:

Read or get a volunteer to read the entries on the timeline

SLIDE 5:

Read or get a volunteer to read the entries on the timeline

Then **SAY:** "So, as we can see IWD has a deep and powerful history and has always drawn out the connection between the systems of capitalism and patriarchy. From its socialist beginnings, women have insisted that defeating patriarchy means defending worker's rights and promoting peace over militarism."

SLIDE 6:

Read or get a volunteer to read the slide.

SLIDE 7:

Read or ask a volunteer to read the slide

Then **SAY:** "Ironically, though IWD first began in the U.S., it has not been celebrated here in the same way as it has been across the world. When it has, unfortunately it has often been diluted and does not address a diversity of oppressions like white supremacy and capitalism. In the US, we have not developed such a tradition of shared action in the name of feminism. There may be an opportunity in this political moment to turn that tide, and we want to make sure that we are a part of it."

Share optional WMW video/s:

<https://youtu.be/Hkh1JOjshyg> - WMW video (English)

<https://youtu.be/ybNKzqp3zTc> - MMM Vídeo (Español)

<https://youtu.be/--zjTIA9kKo> - Batucada Feminista de la MMM (Español)

SLIDE 8:

Get a volunteer to read the slide out loud

ASK: "How have you observed this in your own work or community?" (2 responses)

ASK: "What do you all think of when you hear the term patriarchy" (2-3 responses)

SAY: "Patriarchy exists all around us. We see signs of it everyday and yet sometimes it can be hard to call it out. Let's see some examples."

SLIDE 9-10:

After revealing ONLY the pictures, **SAY:** "Take a moment to reflect on these advertisements. How do they make you feel or what do they bring to mind? What do they show us about patriarchy?" (1-2 responses)



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SLIDE 11:

Reveal the green bar, and get volunteer to read aloud

ASK: "What do you think about the idea of 'devaluation of women's work'?" What does this point to about the connections between patriarchy, capitalism and white supremacy? How might the world look different if 'women's work' was valued?" (1-2 responses)

SLIDE 12-13:

After revealing ONLY the pictures, **SAY:** "What about these advertisements. How do they make you feel or what do they bring to mind? What do they show us about patriarchy?" (1-2 responses)

SLIDE 14:

Reveal the green bar, and get a volunteer to read aloud

ASK: "What do you think about the idea of 'commodification of women's bodies' (portraying women as objects for sale, or to sell another product)? What does this tell us about the connection between capitalism and patriarchy?" (1-2 responses)

SLIDE 15-16:

After revealing ONLY the pictures, **SAY:** "What about these advertisements. How do they make you feel or what do they bring to mind? What do they show us about patriarchy." (1-2 responses)

SLIDE 17:

Reveal the green bar, and get volunteer to read aloud

ASK: "What do you think about the idea of 'Control over women and LGBTQ people's bodies'?" Where else do you see this aspect of patriarchy?" (1-2 responses)

SLIDE 18:

SAY: "Picture 1 represents the preference or even selective birth of male children. Picture 2 represents homophobia and transphobia. Picture 3 represents unequal pay between men and women. Picture 4 represents gender stereotypes, or the idea that women should be concerned with or interested in things like jewelry, shoes and babies while men should be interested in cars, tools and working out."

ASK: "What do these images bring to mind? Do they resonate with what you think of patriarchy" (2 responses)

SLIDE 19:

Reveal green bar and then **SAY:** "These are just some of the ways that we see patriarchy can you all think of other examples?" (2 responses)

SLIDE 20:

Get a volunteer to read out loud



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SAY: "All of the examples we just talked about we often experience in our own bodies, in the media, in our cultures, religious institutions, but also on the streets and even in our movements. Someone verbally or physically assaults us. Someone tells us who we should love. The government does not regulate unequal pay in the workforce. Or society and our culture undervalues work like being a mother, care-worker, etc. This personal experience is important and can make us feel passionate about change, but we also need to think bigger and about root causes. To think in terms of systems of oppression and unequal power."

ASK: "Why do people think it's important to have a systemic or structural understanding of oppression or injustice?" (1-2 responses)

LOOK FOR: (try to draw out from people)

- To recognize the scale and deep roots of the issue
- To help bring our experiences together, not feel isolated and grow our power
- To recognize that government institutions often reinforce patriarchy
- To be able to identify a collective target

SLIDE 21-24:

Get volunteers to read the definition point by point

After each point ask for responses or questions

Then **SAY:** "Unfortunately the system of patriarchy is alive and well, just look at who is in the white house, but as we have said, there has long been feminist resistance around the world."

SLIDE 25:

Get a volunteer to read quote aloud

SAY: bell hooks is a Black feminist activist and scholar who has written many books that are important contributions to the feminist movement. She focuses largely on the intersection between race, class and gender.

ASK: "Does her quote match how you think about feminism? Is there anything that you would add or change?"

Then **ASK:** "Sometimes, feminism can be a hard thing for people embrace, why do you think that is?" (2-3 responses)

Then **SAY:** Women, and particularly women of color, have long been resisting in the name of feminism all over the world. We need to demystify it as a concept. We need to reclaim it."

SLIDE 26:

Read the slide aloud

ASK: "What do we mean by a 'diversity of feminism(s). What types of feminism have you heard of?" (1-2 responses)

SLIDE 27:

Read the slide aloud



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ASK: "Why is it important to recognize a diversity of feminisms?" (1-2 responses)

ASK: "What are examples of feminist traditions from your community?" (1-2 responses)

SLIDE 28:

Get a volunteer to read aloud

ASK: "Does this align with our thinking, our organization's vision and politics? How so? How can we strengthen it even further?" (1-2 responses)

SLIDE 29-31:

Get volunteers to read each point aloud popcorn style

ASK: "Which of these stands out or is of particular importance to you and why? Do you have any edits or additions?"

SLIDE 32-37:

Get volunteers to read each point aloud popcorn style

ASK: "What does it mean to 'reclaim feminism for the grassroots'? What might this look like in our own work?"

SLIDE 38:

For point 1 – See Social Media Campaign handout, and share with participants.

SAY: "We are asking for 2 to 3 volunteers to make affirmative statements reclaiming feminism for the grassroots, or stating why they are a grassroots feminist in either a video or a meme, or BOTH! We will participate in the launch of the social media campaign on March ___ and post to our organization's social media pages. Please repost on your own personal pages as well."

Ideally videos and memes will be posted on March 8th, but if your event is on the 9th, 10th or 11th, that same date is fine)

For point 2 – **SAY:** Talk to your friends, family, neighbors, about grassroots feminism, especially when current news is brought up about #TimesUP or #MeToo or any current dialogue around feminism.

For point 3 – **SAY:** As an organization, let's discuss how we should participate in IWD actions/strikes/events.

SLIDE 39:

SAY: "No Pride for some of us without liberation of ALL of us. Marsha P. Johnson was a mother of the Trans & Queer Liberation Movement. She dedicated her life to helping Trans youth, sex workers and poor and incarcerated Queers. She also played a critical role in the LGBTQ resistance against police violence in the West Village - NYC in 1969. The annual Pride parades and celebrations across the globe mark the anniversary of this resistance movement, known as the Stonewall riots. We honor her legacy by supporting Trans women of color to live and lead."