



ZIONISM & FEMINISM: I AM ZION, HEAR ME ROAR

When you are told that Zionism is about colonialism, racism, sexism, what do you do?
 When you see people defining or expressing feminism in ways you disagree with, what do you do?
 When you hear the claim that it is impossible to be both a Zionist and a feminist, what do you do?

Today, many Jews are wary of being defined as "Zionists" and many women shy away from the label "feminist". We propose that this situation comes from a fundamental misunderstanding of the definition of these two concepts. Discourse is filled with declarations and examples of what these ideas are not, rather than examples of what they are. This allows individuals and organizations to distort reality in order to advance agendas that we may or may not agree with and can sometimes be extremely damaging.

We believe that freedom begins with truth. That's why it's important to go back to the basics: What does Zionism mean? What does feminism mean? And how can we navigate the discussion on the conflicts and challenges presented to Jews today all over the world that claim the two movements are incompatible?

***Zionism* is the national movement of self-determination of the Jewish people and the right to sovereignty in Zion, our ancestral homeland, the Land of Israel.** The concept of Zionism originates with the exile of Jews from ancient Israel, expressed through the prayers and traditions that have bound Jews to Zion generation after generation. Expanded through the visionaries who advanced the dream of a return, Jewish nationalism was translated into a practical and political movement that sought the fulfillment of the re-establishment of a Jewish homeland in the ancestral land of the Jews (the territory defined as the historic Land of Israel, Zion). After the re-establishment of the Jewish State of Israel, Zionism means the development and protection of the sovereign Jewish homeland.

***Feminism* is the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes translated into a social movement that aim to end sexist oppression.** It is not intended to benefit solely any specific group of women, any particular class of women; It does not privilege women over men. It directs our attention to systems of domination and the inter-relatedness of sex, race and class oppression.

Zionism is a national movement for Jewish self-determination. Feminism is a social movement for female self-determination.
 Zionism & feminism are both movements for freedom and civil rights.

If we hold the original definitions of these terms in mind, we prevent others from effectively twisting them into demonized versions of the truth.

For more information about Zionism & Feminism, visit us at: www.israelforever.org