

## Minutes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sheffield Anarchist Feminist meeting, July 20<sup>th</sup>

### Theory

We continued the discussion from the previous meeting on what anarchist feminism is. It was described as bringing a non-hierarchical or class-conscious perspective to feminism, and a gender perspective to anarchism.

Patriarchy was seen as not entirely a product of capitalism, but something that existed in pre-capitalist societies and could again in future non-capitalist societies, and deserving of special attention within our political organising.

Biological sex was described as of minimal importance in determining behaviour, with societal gender roles exaggerating and enforcing the differences in behaviour between biological sexes (itself not an uncomplicated concept). Personality type was seen as a more meaningful, true distinction between individuals than gender.

We briefly discussed gender roles within radical politics. Anti-fascism was seen as one area in which machismo is common, in terms of boasting of the ability to "smash" the opposition (whether or not this is realistic). Men were described as being socialised to make statements in discussions, whereas as women tend to ask more questions and couch their statements in less forthright terms. These are not hard and fast rules, but women are often judged if they speak up "too much".

### Propaganda

We decided to make stickers with slogans and the email address of the group on. We'll think about good ideas for stickers before the next meeting.

Jonny will set up a simple Wordpress website for the group, for anyone to contribute to. It will have some information about the group and our ideas, and notice of upcoming meetings.

### Film Showing

We want to show a film, or series of films, as a basis for discussion of anarchist/feminist ideas and to raise money for good causes. This would probably take place in the autumn.

Ideas for films include the BBC series on feminism and more generally, films by

women directors. Lecture theatres at Sheffield Uni are available to the Cinema Syndicate group, and some members are in this group. The showing(s) will be for donations only, and there will be a food/info table. We will continue discussing this at the next meeting.

## Rabar Hamad

Rabar is a 16 year old living in Manchester, at risk of deportation to Iraq. There's more information on the facebook support group at <http://bit.ly/8XOGZT> and there's an online petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/hamad93/petition-sign.html>

## AFED Conference

There's an Anarchist Federation conference in Sheffield this coming weekend, and a BBQ social on Saturday at Lynwood Gardens from 6pm. Directions to Lynwood Gardens here: <http://bit.ly/dd1AB1>

## Upcoming gigs

This Friday (July 23<sup>rd</sup>) the anarchist band the King Blues are playing a free gig at Corporation as part of the Tramlines festival.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August, the vegan-feminist acoustic duo ONSIND are playing upstairs at the Rutland Arms. Entry around £4.

## Freeschool

This will now definitely take place on 8-10<sup>th</sup> October, and we will do a workshop, which we need to plan.

## Next meeting

This is planned for August 10<sup>th</sup>. The Rutland Arms is booked provisionally, but Georgia will check the availability of an alternative location, wheelchair-accessible and more suitable for people with children.