



International Women's Day – Diversity Committee Recommendations

P 020 – 525 0000

F 020 – 525 0000

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Date

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Books (fiction)

Breasts and Eggs – Mieko Kawakami	On a hot summer's day in a poor suburb of Tokyo we meet three women: thirty-year-old Natsuko, her older sister Makiko, and Makiko's teenage daughter Midoriko. Each woman is grappling with their own anxieties, and their relationships with each other. Mieko Kawakami paints a radical picture of contemporary working-class womanhood in Japan as she recounts the heartbreaking stories of three women who must survive in a society where the odds are stacked against them.
Salt Slow – Julia Armfield	Julia Armfield won the White Review Short Story Prize 2018, and Salt Slow is her debut collection of short stories, including the prize-winning 'The Great Awake'. This is a collection focused on women and their experiences in society, exploring relationships, sexuality, female bodies and female fears.
The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood	Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead, a religious totalitarian state in what was formerly known the United States. She is placed in the household of the Commander, Fred Waterford – explaining her assigned name, 'of Fred'. She has only one function: to breed. If Offred refuses to enter into sexual servitude to repopulate a devastated world, she will be hanged. Yet even a repressive state cannot eradicate hope and desire. As she recalls her pre-revolution life in flashbacks, Offred must navigate through the terrifying landscape of torture and persecution in the present day, and between two men upon which her future hangs.
Stone Blind – Natalie Haynes	As the sole mortal in a family of gods, Medusa begins to realize that she is the only one who experiences change, the only one who can be hurt, and the only one who lives with an urgency that her family will never know. Then, when the sea god Poseidon commits an unforgivable act in the temple of Athene, the goddess takes her

	revenge where she can – and Medusa is changed forever. Writhing snakes replace her hair, and her gaze now turns any living creature to stone. Unable to control her new power, she is condemned to a life of shadows and darkness. Until Perseus embarks upon a quest. At last, Medusa's story is told.
Circe – Madeline Miller	With unforgettably vivid characters, mesmerizing language, and page-turning suspense, Circe is a triumph of storytelling, an intoxicating epic of family rivalry, palace intrigue, love and loss, as well as a celebration of indomitable female strength in a man's world.
Throne of Glass – Sarah J. Maas	In a land without magic, an assassin is summoned to the castle. She has no love for the vicious king who rules from his throne of glass, but she has not come to kill him. She has come to win her freedom. If she the competition, she will be released from prison to serve as the King's Champion. Her name is Celaena Sardothien. Sarah J. Maas' books are known for their great character development and tremendously strong and well-written female leads. A must read for feminist fantasy lovers
Icebreaker – Hannah Grace	Sparks fly when a competitive figure skater and hockey team captain are forced to share a rink. In a world of ambitious athletes, the novel shows a feminist take on the romcom genre. The characters, both male and female, are emotionally intelligent and communicative, which makes for a relatable story and a very entertaining read.
Love, Theoretically – Ali Hazelwood	Rival physicists collide in a vortex of academic feuds and fake dating shenanigans in this delightfully STEMInist romcom. Elevating from a level of basic romance, Hazelwood's novels discuss the struggles of women in male-dominated fields and make for a very strong 'women supporting women' narrative.
Howl's Moving Castle – Diana Wynne Jones	Eldest of three sisters in a land where it is considered to be a misfortune, Sophie is resigned to her fate as a hat shop apprentice until a witch turns her into an old woman and she finds herself in the castle of the greatly feared wizard Howl.
Anne of Green Gables – Lucy Maud Montgomery	Anne Shirley is an eleven-year-old orphan who has hung on determinedly to an optimistic spirit and a wildly creative imagination through her early deprivations. She erupts into the lives of aging brother and sister Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, a girl instead of the boy they had sent for, and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.
Girl, Woman, Other – Bernardine Evaristo	This is Britain as youve never read it. This is Britain as it has never been told. From Newcastle to Cornwall, from the birth of the twentieth century to the teens of the twenty-first, this book follows a cast of twelve characters on their personal journeys through this country and the last hundred years. theyre each looking for something - a shared past, an unexpected future, a place to call home,

	somewhere to fit in, a lover, a missed mother, a lost father, even just a touch of hope...
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Books (non-fiction)

Headscarves and Hymens : Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution – Mona Eltahawy	In this laceratingly honest account, Eltahawy takes aim both at attitudes in the Middle East and at the western liberals who mistake misogyny for cultural difference. Her argument is clear: unless political revolution in the Arab world is accompanied by social and sexual revolution, no progress will be made. Headscarves and Hymens is the book the world has been crying out for: a powerful, fearless account of what it really means to be a woman in the Muslim world.
Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men – Caroline Criado Pérez	Data is fundamental to the modern world. From economic development, to healthcare, to education and public policy, we rely on numbers to allocate resources and make crucial decisions. But because so much data fails to take into account gender, because it treats men as the default and women as atypical, bias and discrimination are baked into our systems. And women pay the costs for this bias, in time, money, and often with their lives.
Hood Feminism – Mikki Kendall	The fights against hunger, homelessness, poverty, health disparities, poor schools, homophobia, transphobia, and domestic violence are feminist fights. Kendall offers a feminism rooted in the livelihood of everyday women. Mainstream feminists rarely talk about meeting basic needs as a feminist issue, argues Mikki Kendall. All too often, the focus is not on basic survival for the many, but on increasing privilege for the few.
It's Not About the Burqa – Mariam Khan (editor)	It's Not About the Burqa is an anthology of frank and insightful essays by Muslim women about the contemporary Muslim female experience.
Women Don't Owe You Pretty – Florence Given	The ultimate book for anyone who wants to challenge the out-dated narratives supplied to us by the patriarchy. Through Florence's story you will learn how to protect your energy, discover that you are the love of your own life, and realise that Today is a wonderful day to dump them. Florence Given is here to remind you that you owe men nothing, least of all pretty
We Should All Be Feminists – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	In this personal, eloquently argued essay - adapted from her much-admired Tedx talk of the same name - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie offers a unique definition of feminism for the 21 st century, rooted in inclusion and awareness. Drawing extensively on her own experiences and her deep understanding of the often masked realities of sexual politics, here is one remarkable author's exploration of what

	it means to be a woman now - an of-the-moment rallying cry for why we should all be feminists.
Women, Race and Class – Angela Davis	Ranging from the age of slavery to contemporary injustices, this groundbreaking history of race, gender and class inequality offers an alternative view of female struggles for liberation. Tracing the intertwined histories of the abolitionist and women's suffrage movements, Davis examines the racism and class prejudice inherent in so much of white feminism, and in doing so brings to light new pioneering heroines, from field slaves to mill workers, who fought back and refused to accept the lives into which they were born.
Feminists Don't Wear Pink and Other Lies – Scarlett Curtis	Published in partnership with Girl Up, the UN Foundation's adolescent girl campaign, this timely and empowering collection of essays from actors, writers and activists explore the contributions and complications of the heart of the feminist movement.
The Guilty Feminist – Deborah Frances-White	The "everything you have always wanted to know about feminism but were afraid to ask" manual. This book reassures us that we don't have to be perfect to be a force for meaningful change. Exploring big issues of identity, equality, intersectionality, and the current feminist agenda, she explodes the myth of the model activist and offers a realistic path toward changing the world.
Not Just for the Boys: Why We Need More Women in Science – Athene Donald	Why are there still too few women scientists? Drawing on personal experience and those of leading women in science, Athene Donald presents a powerful, persuasive account of the historical and continuing systemic barriers and embedded bias that women face in the scientific sphere, arguing the moral and business case for greater diversity.
Dat zou jij nooit toelaten – Tessel ten Zeege (Dutch)	Partnergeweld komt niet alleen voor bij gesettelde stellen. Juist jonge mensen, nog onervaren in de liefde, zijn er kwetsbaar voor. In dit boek doet Tessel ten Zeege niet alleen haar eigen verhaal, ze biedt ook de informatie die anderen nodig hebben om partnergeweld te voorkomen, herkennen en doorbreken.
Optimistische woede: Fix het seksisme in de literatuur – Fixdit (Dutch)	Elf vrouwelijke schrijvers zijn verontwaardigd over de ongelijke positie van vrouwen in de letteren, en verenigden zich in het collectief Fixdit. Vanuit bondgenootschap strijden ze voor verandering, in de literaire wereld én in de canon. In de elf stukken van dit manifest diepen zij het probleem uit. Woedend, strijdvaardig, en vooral: optimistisch.

Films & Series

On the Basis of Sex – Available to rent online	The true story of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, her struggles for equal rights, and the early cases of a historic career that lead to her nomination and confirmation as U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice.
Hidden Figures – Available to stream on Disney+	The story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program.

<p>The Bold Type – Available to stream on Videoland and Amazon Prime</p>	<p>Three best friends girlboss their way through life as they work at the New York based <i>Scarlet Magazine</i>. Besides all the drama, important topics like sexuality, race, body positivity and (mental) health are discussed from a feminist point of view.</p>
<p>Bombshell – Available to stream on Amazon Prime</p>	<p>A revealing look into the most powerful and controversial media empire America has ever known; Fox News. Based on the true scandal, Bombshell tells the explosive story of the women who broke silence and accused the head of Fox News, Roger Ailes, of sexual harassment.</p>
<p>Young Promising Woman – Available to stream on Amazon Prime</p>	<p>This sinister masterpiece stars Carey Mulligan as Cassie, a troubled young woman haunted by a traumatic past as she navigates balancing forgiveness and vengeance. She is wickedly smart, tantalizingly cunning, and living a secret double life. Now, an unexpected encounter is about to give Cassie a chance to right the wrongs from the past.</p>
<p>Battle of the Sexes – Available to stream on Disney+</p>	<p>In the wake of the sexual revolution and the rise of the women's movement, the 1973 tennis match between women's world champion Billie Jean King (Emma Stone) and ex-men's-champ and serial hustler Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell) was billed as the “Battle of the Sexes” and became one of the most watched televised sports events of all time, reaching 90 million viewers around the world. As the rivalry between King and Riggs kicked into high gear, off-court each was fighting more personal and complex battles</p>
<p>Erin Brokovich – Available to rent online</p>	<p>An unemployed single mother becomes a legal assistant and almost single-handedly brings down a California power company accused of polluting a city’s water supply.</p>
<p>Little Women (also a book) – Available to stream on Amazon Prime</p>	<p>Jo March reflects back and forth on her life, telling the beloved story of the March sisters – four young women each determined to live life on their own terms.</p>
<p>I May Destroy You – Available to stream on HBO Max</p>	<p>When London blogger Arabella experiences sudden fame by a hit bestseller, she's trying to find something relevant to say for the difficult second album. While trying to live up to the expectations of both her agent & publicist, she struggles to focus on work. After a night out, which she only remembers through nightmarish flashbacks, Arabella finds herself dealing with a sea of overwhelming emotions. Her life slowly unravels as she tries to discover what happened that night, recollecting images of a serious sexual assault, but neglecting her own friends issues in the process, often with dire consequences.</p>
<p>The Color Purple (also a book) – Available to stream on HBO Max (1986 version), or cinemas (2023 version)</p>	<p>A black Southern woman struggles, but finds her identity after suffering abuse from her father, husband and others over four decades. The 1986 version was directed by Steven Spielberg and had stellar performances by Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah Winfrey. The 2023 version, produced by Winfrey and Spielberg, is in cinemas now and has an incredibly impressive cast as well. Filled with tragedy and joy, this movie can serve as both an educating and healing experience, and can't be recommended enough.</p>

Podcasts

<p>I Weigh with Jameela Jamil – Ep. 3/dec/2021: Natalie Wynn (ContraPoints)</p>	<p>Youtuber, political commentator, and "ex-philosopher" Natalie Wynn (aka ContraPoints) joins Jameela this week to discuss the experience of going through big life discoveries/ changes publicly, speaking out when having lots of visibility online, the similarities between fatphobia and transphobia, "cringe-culture" and why it is so powerful, and more.</p>
<p>Feminist Book Club: The Podcast</p>	<p>For all the bookies out there – a podcast and a book club in one. Sounds heavenly? It really is. The podcast not only promotes feminist literature, which let's be honest, is both cool and very much needed, but also presents feminist authors and writers. Host Renee M. Powers carries conversations with an incredible feminist writing and reading circle. Together, they explore diversity, female visibility in literature and plan your 'to-read list' for you. Doesn't get much better than that.</p>
<p>Stuff Mom Never Told You</p>	<p>Through an intersectional feminist perspective, hosts Anney and Samantha dive into science, history, and culture to make sense of the everyday and unpack the stories that brought us to where we are today. This podcast aims to better understand the challenges facing women and marginalized folks all over the world and highlights the tools we can use to tackle them head on.</p>
<p>Hindsight: Looking Back at 100 Years of Women's Suffrage</p>	<p>Historian and host Dr. Robin Henry examines the history of women's suffrage, political involvement, and social activism in the United States from the middle of the 19th century through today. A blend of historical context and conversations with scholars, politicians, and activists, Hindsight aims to educate, entertain, have us all gain a better understanding of women's diverse voices and roles in U.S. history.</p>
<p>Encyclopedia Womanica</p>	<p>Thinking back to our history classes growing up, we had one question: Where the ladies at? Enter, Womanica. In just 5 minutes a day, learn about different incredible women from throughout history. On Wonder Media Network's award-winning podcast, we're telling the stories of women you may or may not know — but definitely should.</p>
<p>Love, Sex and Situationships</p>	<p>Created and hosted by two Amsterdam-based students, Love, Sex And Situationships can be described as an informal chat between two friends – and the occasional guests – with the goal of destigmatising and breaking taboos on matters ranging from dating apps, to being single, to casual sex. In short, the hosts Maya Devincenzi and Phoebe Spence, discuss all things related to love, sex and everything in-between.</p>

