

# Gender, Power & Consent



“Visionary feminism is a wise and loving politics. It is rooted in the love of male and female being, refusing to privilege one over the other. The soul of feminist politics is the commitment to ending patriarchal domination of women and men, girls and boys. Love cannot exist in any relationship that is based on domination and coercion. Males cannot love themselves in patriarchal culture if their very self-definition relies on submission to patriarchal rules. When men embrace feminist thinking and practice, which emphasises the value of mutual growth and self-actualisation in all relationships, their emotional well-being will be enhanced. A genuine feminist politics always brings us from bondage to freedom, from lovelessness to loving.



-bell hooks

**bell hooks** (1952-) is the pen name of Gloria Jean Watkins who is a black American writer, feminist and activist. Her pen name comes from the name of her great-grandmother. In hook's writing she dwells on the intersecting themes of race, capitalism and patriarchy, and how these forms of domination are intertwined in the triple oppression of poor black women. She is critical of brands of feminism that do not take seriously the issues of race and class.



“Comrades, there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women. May my eyes never see and my feet never take me to a society where half the people are held in silence. I hear the roar of women’s silence. I sense the rumble of their storm and feel the fury of their revolt.”



-Thomas Sankara

**Thomas Sankara** (1949-1987) was a Marxist revolutionary and Pan-Africanist who was president of Burkino Faso from 1983-1987. He was 33 years old when he became president of Burkino Faso after a long struggle against French neo-colonialism. He was assassinated in 1987. During his presidency of Burkino Faso, the government limited the powers of tribal chiefs and feudal landlords and carried out large-scale redistribution of land, which increased food self-sufficiency. He also reduced public sector wages and moved against conspicuous consumption by government officials. Education and health provision improved dramatically, along with housing and infrastructure. Women's rights were improved through a range of initiatives including the outlawing of female genital mutilation, forced marriages and polygamy.

