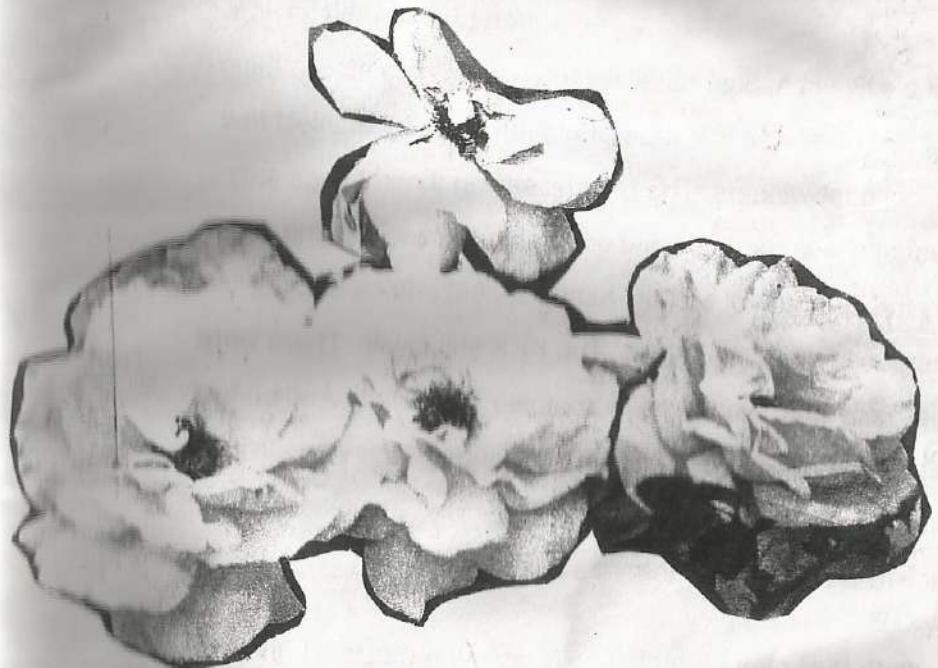


WORDS
AND
IMAGES
BY
ULAYA



♥ THANKS
N° Ei b. G. M.

G.L.O.X.D.
SEVEN INCH ZINE



Trigger Warning: Everything

Racism 101

I often hear people saying

that we live in a 'post-racial society' or that racism is a thing that has dissolved into individual prejudices by a select few radical right-wingers. The mouths saying these things are invariably attached to white bodies and minds. Let me just say this: the rate of racially-fueled violent crimes has not decreased since the 1960s. The KKK still exists. There were neo-nazis marching in my hometown last month. And on top of this, the generations of POC growing up today has to deal with a much more insidious type of racism. Institutionalized racism exists on an enormous scale in America.

Prisons

were built over plantations. White supremacists hung up their pointed hoods and pinned on police badges. The plastic surgery / beauty industries around the world makes billions of dollars off of skin lightening creams, eye enlarging surgeries, hair straighteners, etc. The list could go on for pages. They tell us that we are ugly and stupid then sell us products to change these things. Privileges are built upon power. Do not forget this. Whites have POWER over brown and black people - their voices are inherently valued more, their choices are seen as more valid, their failures seen as minor bumps in the road to success. My mother is unquestioned as American.

My father gets a hyphen and constant questions about where he is *really* from.

Racist action (and all other forms of oppression) can be categorized into two main types: microaggressions and macroaggressions. Most of us are familiar (and blatantly against) macro racist behaviors while microaggressions are often excused, laughed at, or ignored. Example: When a girl called me a SLOPEHEAD and punched me in the mouth my friends reacted with outrage and reactionary violence. When my stepmother gave me a GEISHA print guitar strap because it reminded her of me (I am not Japanese) everyone laughed. And, on the surface, yes - one of these things seems like a bigger deal. But this message of 'all Asians look the same' from my father's wife feeds into a much larger picture that many people do not take time to dissect. So let's look at both large and small scale racist behaviors.



*Microaggressions

- tokenizing

— Just because someone is 'the only ____' you know does not mean they are your only source of information

- appropriating

— Not all cultural symbols or artifacts are meant to be shared

- creating hierarchies of

value / knowledge

— Why are America's systems of education, employment, and social structure the standard by which all other cultural norms are compared for validity?

- alienation / assumptions of difference

— you cannot look at

someone and know anything about how they identify, where they are from, what languages they speak.

**Macroaggressions*

- erasing / silencing

— No, you don't know more about someone's culture than they do, even if they're a child of diaspora and don't speak the language or know how to

make the food. No, it's not funny or quirky when fictional realities have goblins and elves but no people of color

- segregation

- hateful language

- violence (does not end at

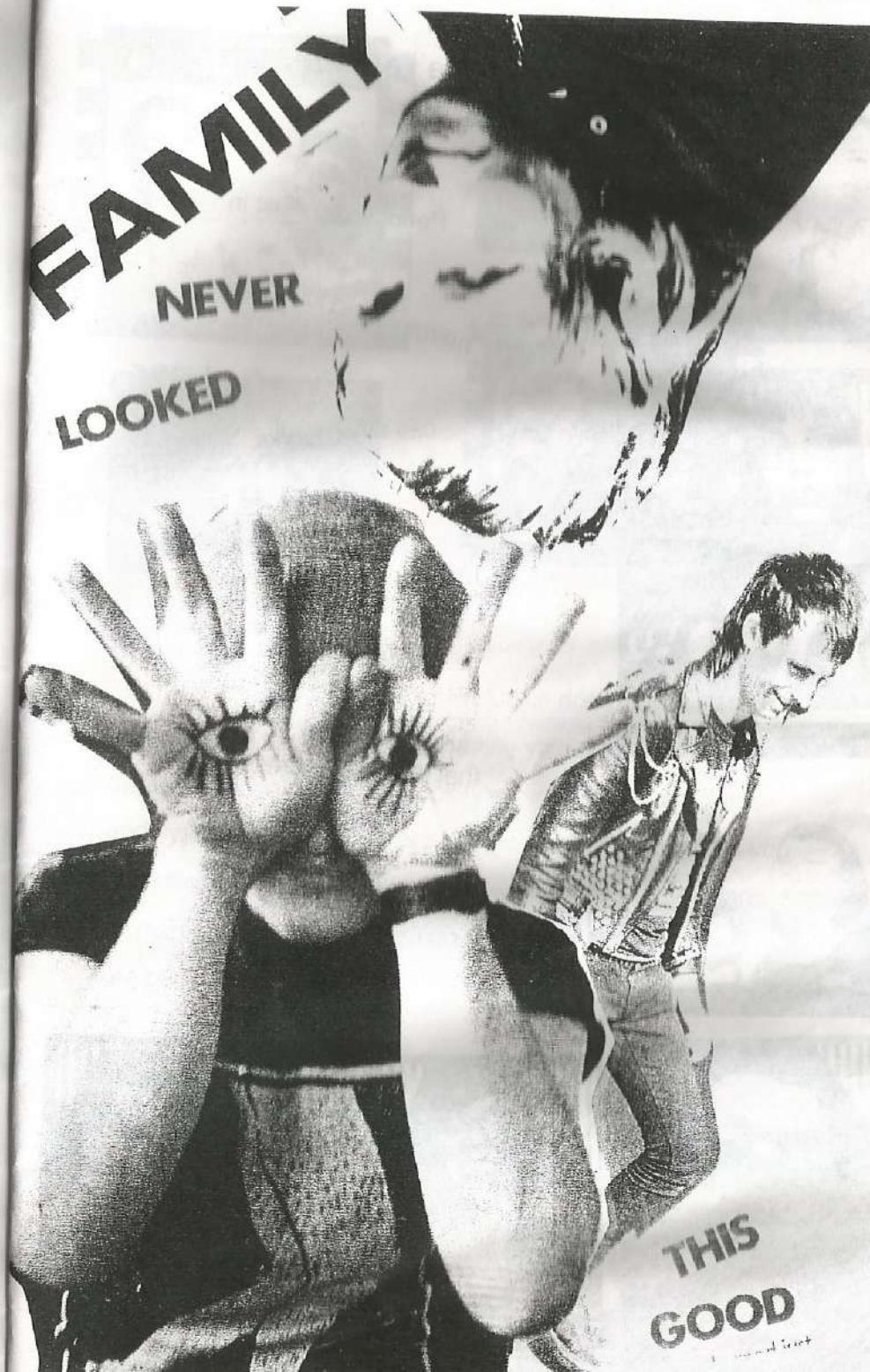
physical aggression)

— No, your rape jokes are not funny and yes, you will get socked in the mouth for making them

— No, you don't get to touch people without asking. Not their tattoos and definitely not their hair.

— No, you should not expect a polite smile when you smack someone's ass

G.L.O.S.S. will not tolerate your bullshit :-)



reverse racism / misandry

People who exist in
marginalized identities

can still be jerks.

This does not mean

that they are oppressing you.



Prejudice does not equate to power. Learn to differentiate. Having your feelings hurt is not the same as being told by society's foundational structures and systems that your life is not as valuable as other's. If you don't like being told to move over two feet so a brown trans woman can see a band then go home and cry about it. We are better off without ya.



performative masculinity, whiteness, and the politics of TAKING UP SPACE

So many of my male friends are sweet, genuine, and loving when we are alone but transform into loud, aggressive, sometimes threatening people when surrounded by other men.

So many of my white friends are critical of their actions, words, and influences when we are alone but 'forget' to be conscious of these things when there are no people of color around to call them out.

If you do not believe that masculinity is toxic, please remember that every single female friend of mine has been sexually assaulted. This is not an exaggeration. I can't think of a single one who has not suffered at the hands of men protecting their ego.

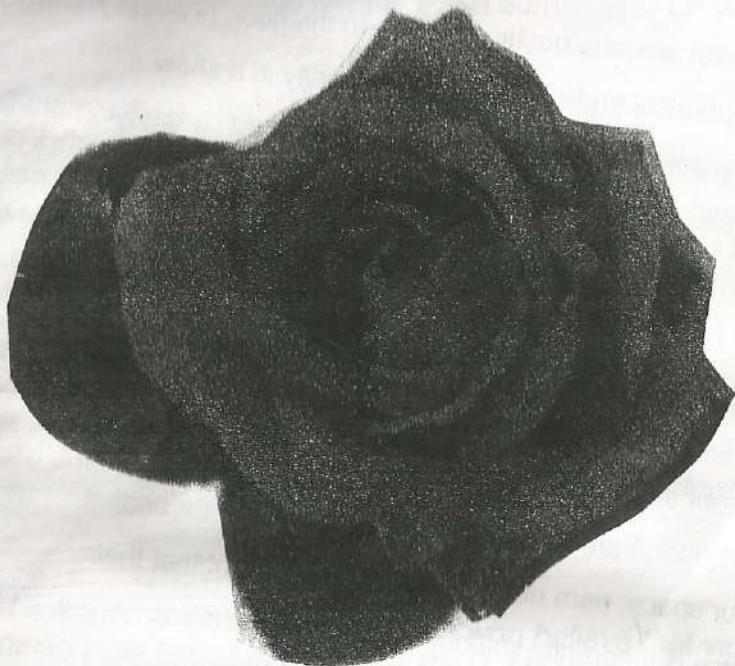
I have encountered so many men who believe that violence is inextricably linked to BEING A REAL MAN. And yet people are punched in the face by men who were bigger, stronger, and more 'credible' than us?



If I see one more white man speaking over women, pushing queers to the floor, or flexing their metaphorical and/or physical masculinity in a show space I am going to fucking scream. I have heard so many men complain about G.L.O.S.S. prioritizing space at our shows for queers, women, disabled folks, and POC because they feel excluded. Welcome to the daily experiences of my life. Taking up space is a privilege that many men never consider. When was the last time you saw a bunch of femme ladies front and center at a show? Women / queers (esp femme queers) are taught that we have to earn our bodies, earn our space, earn our voices. Men are taught that their existence is inherently valuable, that they deserve to be seen and move freely. It is interesting to hear men who swear that they are 'not like other guys' explain how they generally try to treat people well, but they aren't political and will never alter their behavior to be 'politically correct'.

Do they not see that

this is their masculinity speaking? Do they not see that it is a privilege to not have to care? I wish I could just NOT CARE about homophobia, but fists keep finding my face whenever I hold a girl's hand in public. I wish I could just NOT CARE about misogyny, but men keep telling me that I exist to serve them. I wish I could just NOT CARE about racism, but it follows me around like a starving animal on the hunt.



you are not APOLITICAL

you're just an asshole

So much love, thanks, admiration, and support to my dark skinned brown and black bubs who do so much work with so little recognition. white supremacy is nothing compared to the power i see in y'all. XO.

power from the state
from your father
from your skin
can only get you so far

NOT YOUR MODEL MINORITY

NOT YOUR GAY BFF

NOT YOUR TOKEN EXCUSE

NOT YOUR
BABY GIRL

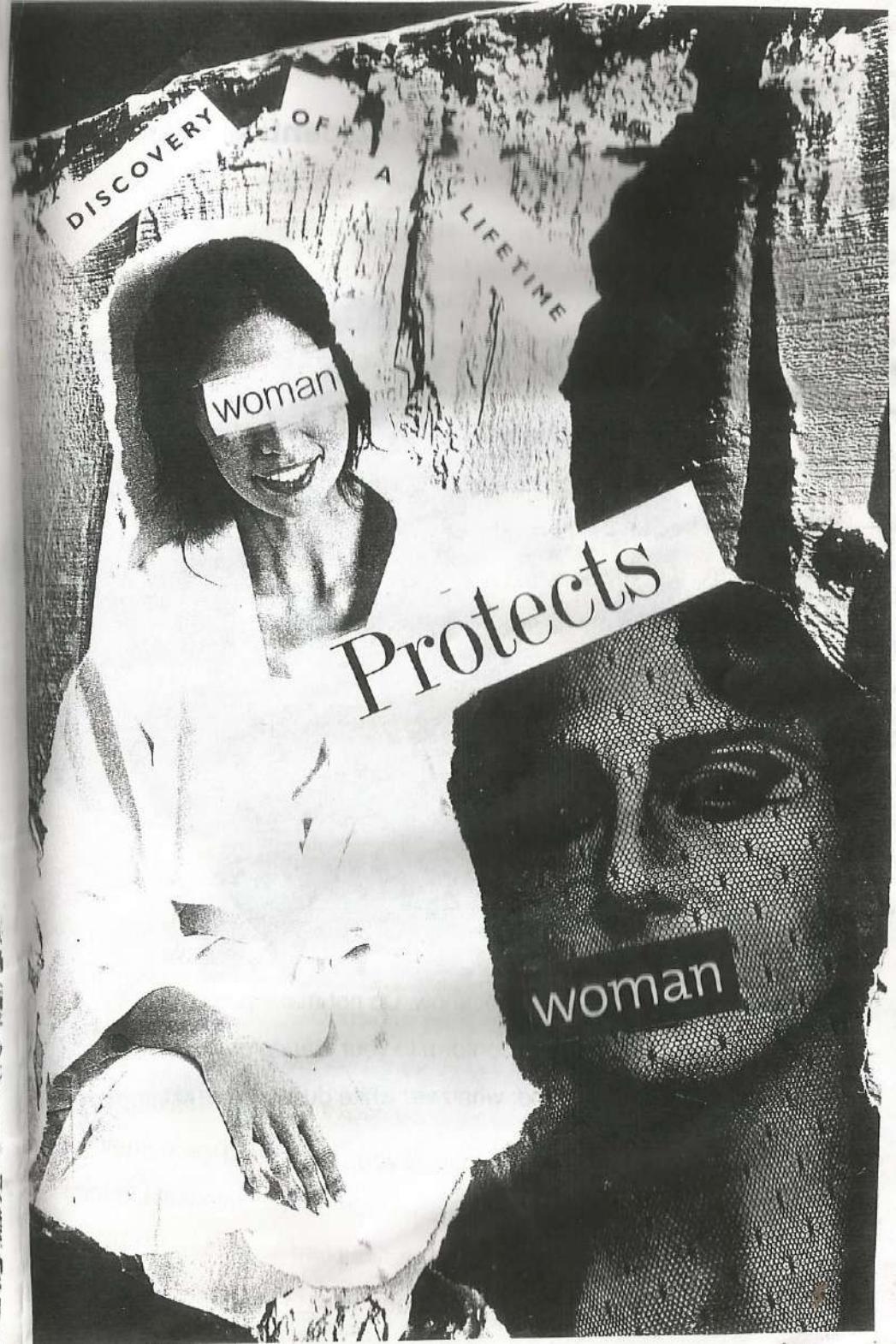
DO NOT

FUCK

WITH

US

NOT
SORRY



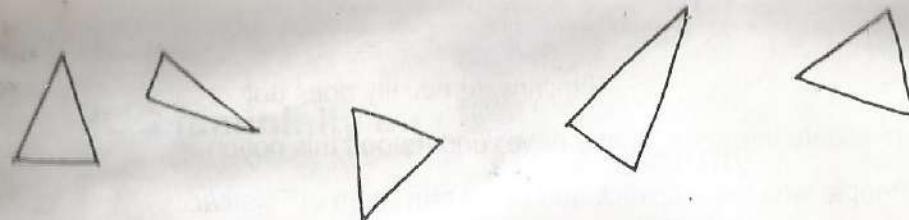
POC femininity and femme identity

Standards of femininity and beauty pushed upon women / queers of color are based on a Eurocentric vision of perfection. When I was small I asked my mother if there was a way to make my eyes bigger, my skin lighter, and my hair bouncy, big, blonde. My mother laughed and bought me peroxide. My mother is white. She never told me that my body did not need changing. She was always supportive of my decisions to change my physical features to look like hers. The first boy I kissed told me I would be prettier if my eyes were bright like the sky, not dark like mud. I don't care if you are watching Hatebreed or an acoustic pop-punk show, if you make fun of someone for wearing a dress or heels or makeup you are enforcing centuries of oppressive domination over femme's autonomy over their own bodies. It took me 10 years before I was brave enough to wear a skirt to a punk show. Do not make punk a place that pressures POC to conform to your standards of 'acceptable aesthetics' (read: whatever white dudes in bands are wearing this year).

Similarly, femininity does not invalidate interests. I have never understood this notion. People who wear lipstick and heels can listen to Totalitar. People who wear Totalitar shirts do not necessarily know anything about punk.



Consider: punk fashion's historical basis lies in the subversion of expected physical presentation. So, if the expectation for women in contemporary punk is to dress in black jeans, black jacket, minimal makeup, isn't it subversive (and therefore, VERY PUNK) to wear what makes them feel good regardless of hegemonic views of what is 'cool'?



There is not a correct way to express your identity.
Androgyny by Eurocentric standards is impossible to achieve for so many kinds of people.

Genderqueer, trans, and non binary people can 'pass' as cisgender and this does not invalidate their experiences & identities.

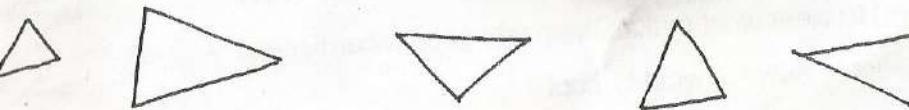
Femme identity does not equate to identifying as female.

Beauty is not a measure of worth.
Access to nice things is not a measure of worth.
Ability to 'pass' is not a measure of worth.

Choosing to look cute does not mean I condone BINARIES or OPPOSITIONAL POSITIONALITY

You can't look at my clothes and know anything about my life

FEMME VISIBILITY IN QUEER SPACES IS UNDervalued



Seeing beauty in myself despite all the industries built upon my defeat

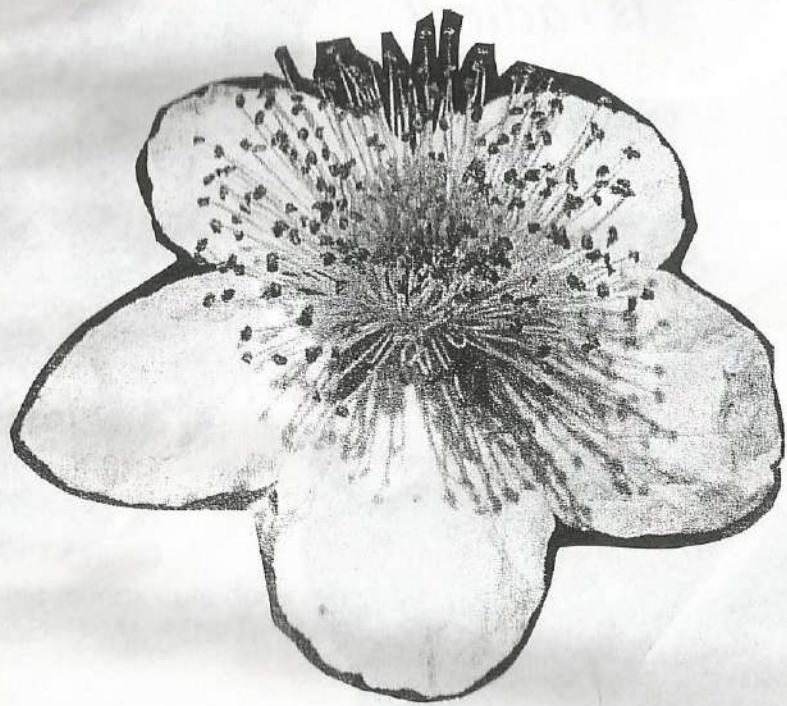
is radical



'i am not ugly' should not be a revolutionary thought

To be transparent I feel that I need to include something about my own experiences and privileges. I am a light skinned person of color 2nd generation Korean/pinay. I am able bodied but have

a chronic pain disorder. I have a fucked-up brain but function relatively 'normally' with medication. I am queer. I am femme. I am college educated. I am a cis-woman. I experience violence often at the hands of many types of people (okay nearly always white men) but I acknowledge that my body and abilities protect me from many scary things.



POWER
DYNAMICS
INFORM
ALL ACTIONS

OUTCAST IDENTITIES -

power dynamics and positionality

Intersectionality is everything.

Privileges do not exist in a vacuum. Someone can hold male privilege & able-bodied privilege while simultaneously being marginalized because of their race, sexuality, class, etc. I have found that people who want to play Oppression Olympics (read: 'yes, you are treated badly because you're brown but I grew up poor and that is worse!') always hold a lot of privileges in parts of their lives not being

discussed. Everyone who goes to punk shows has felt like an outcast in some way or another. It is important to recognize this sameness without erasing the differences in our histories and identities. I do not want to hear another straight white boy tell me that he understands my feelings of isolation in show spaces as a femme queer differently-abled* brown woman because he wasn't cool in high school.

- you have to learn to
acknowledge the ways you hurt, erase, and exclude others.
Do not get hung up on the ways that others hurt &

marginalize you -

The subjective nature of

experience and reality cannot be ignored when discussing the so-called universal truths about the nature of oppression. Not all people of color experience hardship because of their skin color and some white men have incredibly difficult lives. Many factors play into this- such as their relative position to other intersecting aspects of identity and privilege. My point is that no single oppression is worse than another and comparative dialogue is, in my opinion, harmful and pointless. I do not think that being queer is 'worse' than being poor. Separation of disenfranchised identities is a tool of white supremacy, patriarchy, and capitalism. Solidarity between marginalized identities is what punk is all about. We have to work to use our privileges to make show spaces safe and supportive for all kinds of people. No, we are not the same, but we have a fundamental understanding that ties us all together and we must work to accept and grow and thrive as a culture of outcasts. We are here, in too-small basements and the stockrooms of bars, because we did not fit into the mold of our parents' expectations, our schools' standards, our communities' intention, so we created places where we are safe and free to be our uncompromising true selves. Punk is there for us when nothing else is. And punk needs to be safe when nowhere else is.

* I say differently abled here

because medication allows me to 'pass' and interact with the world in a way that is not available to all people.

how to combat oppression in PUNK

It is important to take the analysis of racism and other oppressions out of academia and into the real world.

Here are the 5 rules I try to live by in order to not be a piece of shit.

1. Acknowledge your privileges.

2. Use your privileges. — Men, use your voice to create spaces for other people to talk. Rich folks, offer yourself as a resource to someone who may need help. *Beware of assuming that you are needed and beware of developing a savior complex (!)*

3. Call your community out. — If someone is being problematic, tell them so. It does not need to be an argument. If someone refuses to admit that they are insensitive or unsafe, they are bad news.

4. Allow yourself to be called out.

5. Commit to working on yourself every day.

— Think about the small, everyday ways that power dynamics influence your language, behavior, and relationships.

Vulnerability and soft hearts are as radical as combative language and hard stances

do not make yourself small for anyone.

i choose to love as an act of resistance
- we will not be divided by men's intentions

all men benefit from misogyny. all white people benefit from white supremacy.

our identities are not opposites

we protect our selves

Violence is always a valid option.
Self preservation is a necessity, not a privilege.

All men feel like a threat to me.



We gotta have each other's backs.

We gotta stick together.