

FEMINISM IN HISPANIC COMMUNITIES

*The negative perception that
needs to change...*

Created by:
Ashley
May 2022



SUMMARY

I grew up in a Hispanic household where the men were valued more because of their gender. Having this engraved in my head at such a young age made me believe it was true. For so long I lived with this false narrative, that is until I started to see women involved in the feminist movement, as role models. Women like Selena Quintanilla denied so many of the traditional roles women are asked to play, from the way she spoke her mind to the clothes she chose to wear.

Machismo (strong or aggressive masculine pride) and anti-feminist views are embedded into Hispanic communities. This is an undeniable fact, it is seen in our media, politics, and especially in our own households. It affects the desired roles for each gender, as well as beauty standards. Feminism fights back against these challenges. Yet, we are still told that we are too loud. or crazy. for trying to break away from the traditional views we were taught.

"What will people think?", is something I consistently hear. We have built a culture where we are so afraid of being looked down upon that we refuse to create the chaos that we need to make real change. The only way to overcome these challenges will be through breaking these generational traumas that have been passed down for decades. This starts with a cultural shift, where women are legally seen as equal. There has been major support for the Equal Rights Amendment from the Hispanic community, considering the wage gap is the largest for us, according to the ERA Coalition. Ratifying the ERA will pave a path for us to have equality in a professional setting, but the real work must begin at home. We need both women, and men, to resist the patriarchal norms.

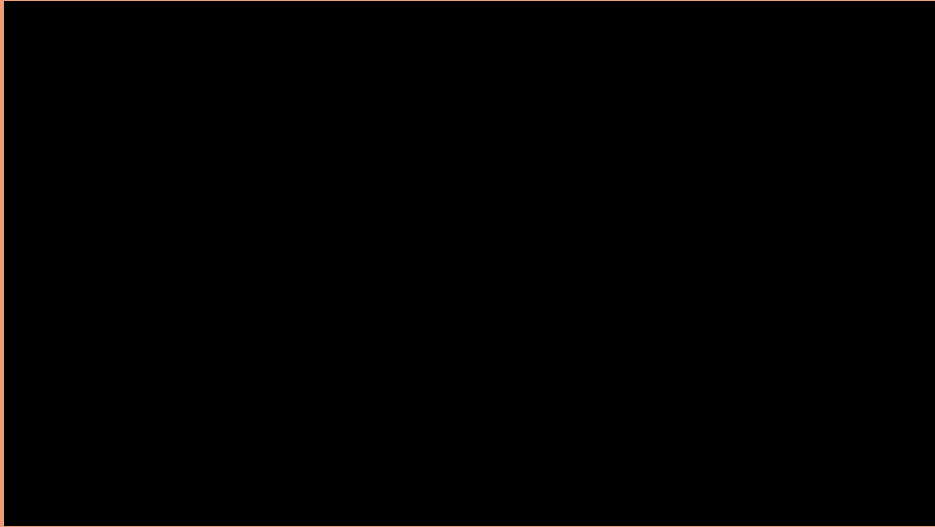
INTERVIEWS

I chose to interview some of the closest women to me because I wanted to have these difficult conversations with them, conversations that would not normally be had. I chose a diverse group of women to interview (age, race, etc.) because the Hispanic community is very diverse.

I asked the women I interviewed how they have been described within their own families because each of these women do not meet "the mold" society tries to push them into. They wrote these descriptive words, or phrases, on a mirror because a lot of people don't realize how impactful the words they say are. These words reflect back onto women every time they look in the mirror.

INTERVIEWS

Silvia Lagunas
Mother



"Worthless"

"Ugly"

"Fat"

"Can't do
anything right"



INTERVIEWS

Madison

16-year-old

Sophomore at Loyola Academy



"Too masc"

"Weight"

"Looks"

"Values"

"Personality"

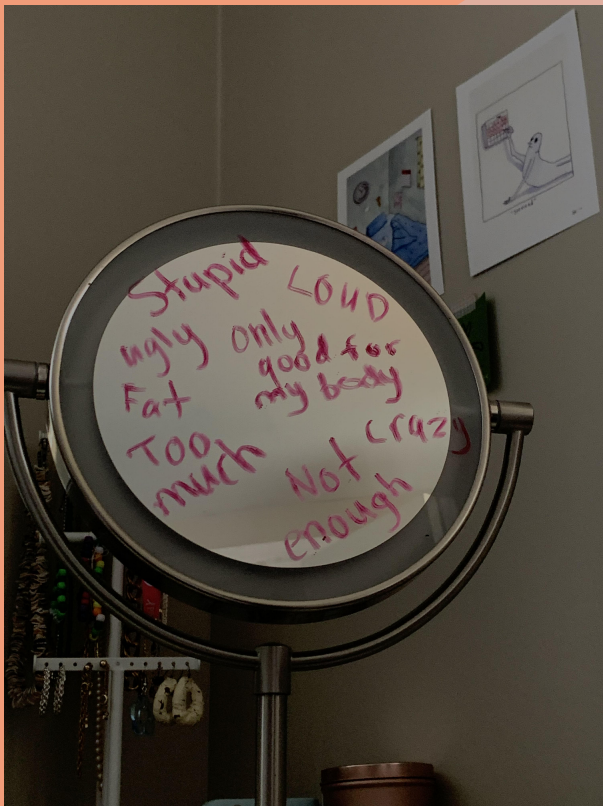
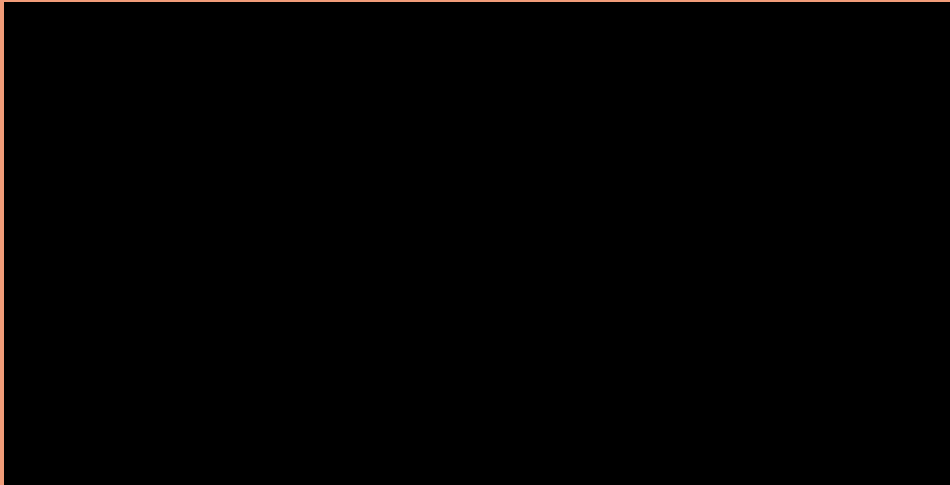
"Style"

INTERVIEWS

Kelly

17-year-old

Junior at Prosser Career Academy



"Stupid"

"Fat"

"Ugly"

"Loud"

"Not enough"

"Only good for
my body"

LEARN MORE

It is vital that we continue our education on this topic because it affects the daily lives of a large part of our population. Beyond that, we need to continue to raise much-needed awareness to how poorly Hispanic women are treated.

I have provided reliable links below:

<https://www.eracoalition.org/>

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/my-hispanic-and-latinx-heroes>

<https://www.equalpaytoday.org/latina-equal-pay-day-2022>

This project was made in collaboration with Global Girl Media-Chicago, The Fund for Women's Equality, and the ERA Coalition.

SOURCES

Alice Evans. "Why Is Feminist Activism Thriving in Latin America?" Alice Evans, Alice Evans, 1 Jan. 2021,

<https://www.draliceevans.com/post/why-is-feminist-activism-thriving-in-latin-america>

"Latina Feminism(s)." Equality Archive, 25 Feb. 2022,

<https://equalityarchive.com/issues/latina-feminism/>

[Lullaby for the Burning Ear: How ... - Dominican Scholar.](#)

<https://scholar.dominican.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1062&context=senior-theses>

The Power of Words: Feminism in Latin American Literature - La Salle University.

<https://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1024&context=undergraduateresearch>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



My name is Ashley and I am a sophomore at George Westinghouse College Prep. I am first generation, with both of my parents coming from Mexico. I believe there must be a global change in how we view women and what role we play in society. I hope that one day we will be able to achieve true equality but until that day I will be joining the millions of women who are fighting for equal rights.