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## Maisie Williams Offers Brilliant Reason To Stop Calling People 'Feminists'

Why has no one thought of this before?

04/06/2016 11:35 am ET

3.6 K     

 **Alanna Vagianos**  
Women's Editor, The Huffington Post 



ALBERT L. ORTEGA VIA GETTY IMAGES

Maisie Williams is just as badass in real life as her fictional "Game Of Thrones" character Arya Stark.

Maisie Williams proposed a rather genius idea about the feminist label.

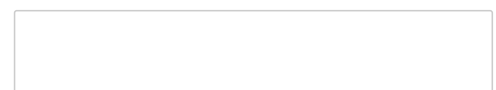
In an [interview for Entertainment Weekly](#) published Tuesday, the "Game Of Thrones" star discussed the HBO show's upcoming season 6 premiere and the [feminist issues the series brings up](#).

Williams told EW that in one of her first-ever interviews for "GoT" she was asked if her character Arya Stark is a feminist. "I didn't even know what a feminist was," Williams said. "And then someone explained it to me. And I remember thinking, 'Isn't that just like everyone?' And then I realized everyone is not a feminist, unfortunately."



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The 18-year-old actress also offered a brilliant reason to discard the “feminist” label altogether:

I also feel like we should stop calling feminists ‘feminists’ and just start calling people who *aren’t* feminist ‘sexist’ — and then everyone else is just a human. You are either a normal person or a sexist. People get a label when they’re bad.

Williams said that “GoT” — which is known for [its brutal rape scenes](#) and [excessive violence against women](#) — brings to light many feminist subjects that she’s often intimidated to speak about.

“I’m going to say this in this interview, but I wouldn’t say it with anyone else: I sometimes really worry about speaking up about feminist subjects out of fear of being bashed by women on social media. And there’s something not right there,” Williams told EW. “Yeah, sometimes it’s men too. But there are women who are just nasty. I’m trying to do the best I can. I got a voice. I believe in equality and I know I have more power than the average person to reach people. And I just get petrified in case people are rude.”

Don’t worry, Maisie. You and your feminist commentary are top-notch.

Head over to [Entertainment Weekly](#) to read the rest of the interview

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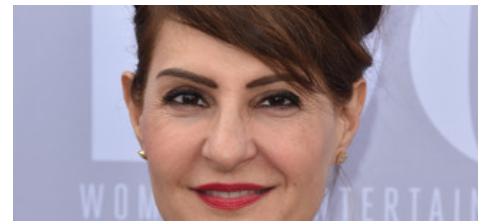
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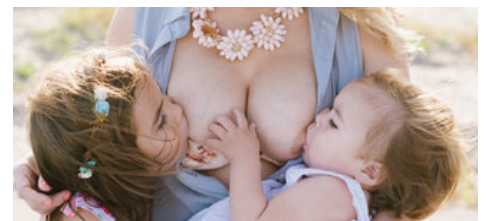
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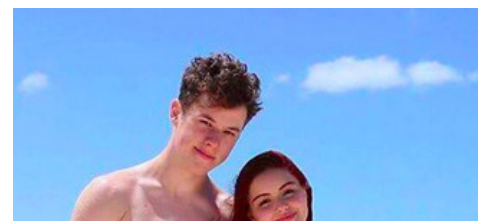
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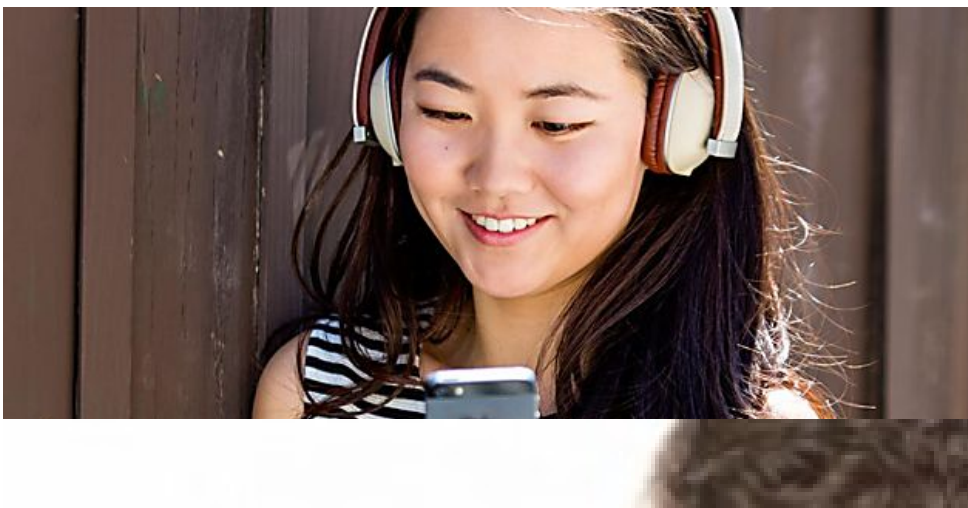
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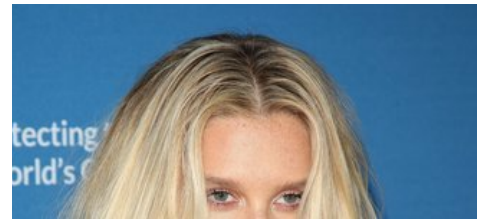
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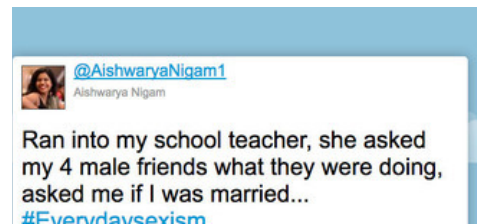
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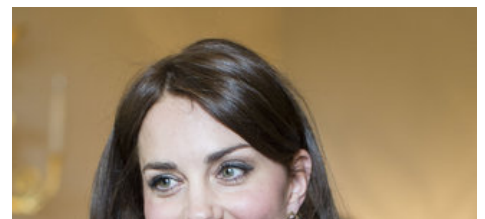
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**Angelique Nolan** · Washington, District of Columbia

Feminism is the movement to free women from the oppression of the patriarchy. That's the real definition. If you're not fighting that fight, you're not a feminist. Is everyone fighting that fight? Clearly not, look at our world. So no hon, everyone that isn't a feminist isn't a sexist. There are plenty of people that don't hold sexist views but aren't doing shit to fight the patriarchy either. Those people are not feminist.

Like · Reply · 10 · 11 hrs



**Monica Silva**

I agree with you.

Like · Reply · 10 hrs



**John Bell** · Catonsville High School

yes but shes saying that should be our normal way of thinking, not just labeled a feminist way of thinking.

Like · Reply · 1 · 7 hrs



**Jonathan Henry** · Oakland, California

John Bell It should, but it's not. Misogyny generally benefits most men, at least on a surface level (more money, no taxes on certain medical necessities, etc), so they have little reason to fight against it. And a level playing field won't benefit men, so there's no incentive to fight for one (other than a love of justice).

Like · Reply · 1 · 7 hrs

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**Rick Martin**

Someone "explained" what feminism is. Hmmmm, wonder which version they gave her. The "feel good" textbook one, or the real one that has the bad rep.

Like · Reply · 6 · 11 hrs



**Monica Silva**

Funny that you think you can decide which one is "the real" version of Feminism when your opinion about Feminism is irrelevant.

Like · Reply · 11 · 10 hrs



**Rick Martin**

Monica Silva Your comment just answered my question.

Like · Reply · 1 · 6 hrs



**Wendy Hou** · Works at Epic Systems

Feminists are like Christians, or Republicans, or artists, or any group. They exist on a spectrum. Some of them will be rude or snotty or mean; many of them will be kind. Parts of Tumblr are the Westboro Baptists of feminists, but I don't go to my neighbor and say "real Christians have a bad rep". I don't say sarcastically, "you gave your kid the feel-good version of Christianity". And like Christians, it's not up to you or me to tell someone else whether they are "really" a feminist.

Like · Reply · 3 · 5 hrs

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**Robin Thomas**

Dont watch GOT-- extremely violent and I do not find rape entertaining . People watch this crap like its all normal and as it is or was [ eventhough we are talking fictional verse] but I dont want to fill my time with this for any reason. And it is definately sexist dreck. I dont see it as having any real redeeming value as a show or pop culture. The feminist view Im interested in is DO NOT BRING HARM TO FEMALEs just becasue you have power over them and can.

Like · Reply · 1 · 3 hrs



**Monica Silva**

She has a lot to learn but at least now she knows what is feminism.

Like · Reply · 1 · 10 hrs · Edited



**Monica Silva**

Malcolm Gat You should educate yourself if you want to discuss Feminism. There are more than 3 types of Feminism. There are many Feminisms because Feminism is a huge movement and different women have different priorities, but the common goal is the same.

Like · Reply · 3 · 6 hrs · Edited



**Jonathan Henry** · Oakland, California

Monica Silva I hate to admit, but Malcom is kinda right on this one (ugh). "White feminist" doesn't mean "feminist who is white" but "feminist who is white and ignores the issue of race or is actively racist". Intersectional feminism takes many different forms of oppression into account. Of course, Malcolm isn't interested in uplifting you, but I am, which is why I wanted to make sure you understood the differences.

Like · Reply · 2 · 8 hrs



**Rick Martin**

Nope, she's been duped.

Like · Reply · 1 · 6 hrs

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**Marios Moukakos** · STEF TEI Halkidas

Feminism is code word for Feminazism. And NO!!! Feminism is NOT about gender equality but about female supremacy.

Like · Reply · 5 hrs



**Colin Bisson** · Hillsboro, Oregon

Ha!

Oh. You're serious?



Like · Reply · 5 · 4 hrs

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