

Morning prayer Gender equality

Please turn to hymn book pg.15. Please stand.

Good morning, I am Kelly Wong from F.5D. Today is the 8th of March, the international women day. The word feminist by definition is the belief that men and women have equal rights and opportunities. Nonetheless, feminism has always been associated with the word "man-hating". Feminism is seen to be aggressive, isolating or even labels for unattractiveness. Women are choosing not to identify themselves as feminists. But actually, a few days ago, the UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson made a remark that feminist is about giving women choice. It's about freedom, it's about liberation, it's about equality. Well, we should be glad that we are raised in a knowledge-based society, that we can receive the same respect as men do. Our parents don't love us less because we are female. Our society doesn't offer us fewer opportunities because we might be giving birth to a child one day. Yet, not everyone in the world is as lucky as we are. At current rate, it won't be until 2086 before all African girls can gain access to secondary school education. The thing we take for granted does not exist in every part on Earth, not everywhere in developed countries, let alone for the developing ones. Can you recall that Donald Trump was revealed of bragging about sexually insulting women in the US president election last year? Those shameful comments about women's bodies, the disrespect of our ambitions and intellect. It's cruel, and it hurts. The disrespectful and violating speech reminds us of stories we've heard from our grandmothers, about the situations back in their days, what the boss could say and do anything he pleased to the women in the office. We all thought that was ancient history, didn't we? All of us are doing what women have always done. We keep our heads above water. Perhaps we think admitting how much these words hurt will make us as women look weak. Perhaps we are afraid to be that vulnerable. Perhaps we kept a custom to swallow these emotions and stay quiet.

Statesman Edmund Burke had said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

You may wonder how our actions matter as we are just ordinary students. But bear in mind that people in the past marched and protested for our rights, the basic right for women to be treated fairly and speak out for ourselves. Do exercise your right and perform in daily basis. Do not stereotype anyone, not women, not men. We all have the right to be sensitive, to be vulnerable sometimes. Men do not have to be aggressive and women do not have to be submissive in order to gain recognition.

My dear schoolmates, starting from today, the 8th march, we take baby steps to help forge for a better working world, a more inclusive, gender equal world.

If not us, who? If not now, when?

Please turn to hymn book pg.15, we will say "love of others" for our morning prayer. We pray that gender equality will be achieved in foreseeable future and that God's love will bring us all together.

In the name...

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In the name...

Please be seated.