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## **FEMINIST SCHOLARS MEET TO DISCUSS CRITICAL WOMEN'S ISSUES**

Diverse feminist scholars will discuss the contentious topic of abortion in the context of female poverty, equality & autonomy, in a virtual symposium on contemporary feminism, titled, An Unsafe Space.

“The time for dialogue on divisive topics from divergent worldviews is now,” states Cecelia Hayes, an organizer of the event, with Feminists Choosing Life of NY. “We are witnessing a pivotal moment in history. Conflict and tensions have erupted into unprecedented protests and violence this past year on a myriad of pressing matters” Hayes continues, “and unless folks with different viewpoints start talking more about the issues tearing people apart, an end to the social unrest we’ve witnessed may not be forthcoming. The U.S. continues to be torn over the topic of abortion, according to [polling data](#), and how female poverty, equality and autonomy relate to abortion are additional hot topics feminists need to grapple with.”

“It’s not just a handful of people who disagree over abortion and family policy in the U.S., it’s millions and millions, says Michele Sterlace, another organizer of the event. Further, says Sterlace, “We are missing crucial opportunities to grow collectively when we fail to engage in conversations with those we disagree with about phenomena that impact women. Problem-solving begins with dialogue. It’s counterproductive for either side of any human conflict to shut down dialogue, and collapse opportunities to expose differences and mutual concerns.” “Root causes of abortion and persistent inequalities between the sexes are subjects all feminists should be addressing, whether pro-choice or pro-life,” adds Hayes.

Women in the U.S. continue to experience higher [poverty rates](#) than men, particularly women of reproductive age. Critical issues, among others, include [the pay equity gap](#) and [affordable child care](#). According to the [Guttmacher Institute](#), women who undergo abortion are “disproportionately poor and low income.”

**The symposium’s panelists include Robin L. West, JSM, Elizabeth Schiltz, JD, Eva Feder Kittay, PhD, and Erika Bachiochi, JD, MA.** People can register to attend the March 27, 2021 event at, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-unsafe-space-a-symposium-on-contemporary-feminism-episode-1-tickets-141876342961?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

*Feminists Choosing Life of New York, Inc. is a state-wide human rights coalition that promotes non-violence. FCLNY is one of over 200 member organizations of the Consistent Life Network, Inc. © March 2018*