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CYES: Praxis

Guiding Theory of Social Change

The Power of Listening for Change

The systems in place today structurally place women as inferior to men. Through my own life as a woman, I have seen the many ways the system puts me down and forces me into certain places. When looking at feminism within an all-girls school, I feel that in order for the structures to change, it is crucial that feminism is intersectional. For my theory of change to happen, I believe that one of the first steps is acknowledgment. By acknowledging the lived experiences of many different women, we can see the differences between us and acknowledge our experiences. The next step in my theory of change is to connect and dismantle. I feel that connecting to one another by relating and telling stories, we can move towards change. Through sharing our experiences and truly listening to one another, it is possible to see the ways that the system affects us similarly or differently. Through this process, there is lots of room for difference and our mission can be aligned to dismantle the system in all aspects.

Another step in my theory of change is that education can lead to action. By educating the girls at the all-girls school (my Praxis site), the girls can see their lived experiences represented within education. By holding space for conversations, the girls can see the ways that their experiences are validated and important. This first step allows girls to truly see their voices as important to all and important to all spaces. I think that a key step in feminism is empowering women to see themselves outside of the system. This imaginative and creative step pushes women and girls to see a system where inequity does not exist; where our gender does not determine the way we are treated. Below I have made a graphic that shows the way feminism can

be present within schools. This is my direct theory of social change. I believe at this moment that the steps to dismantling the patriarchy start with education in schools and empowering girls to dismantle the system.

