

## Chapter 8

1. Read this chapter carefully then work out the dates during which the following events relating to women took place. The events are not listed in chronological order.
  - (a) The year in which the ILO Convention on homeworkers laid out worldwide standards for the treatment of women employed in this capacity.
  - (b) The UN Decade for women during which three international conferences took place.
  - (c) The date when Kate Millet published *Sexual Politics*, thereby helping to boost Radical Feminism.
  - (d) The years during which the Suffragette Movement came to the fore.
  - (e) The date of the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.
  - (f) The year in which the Self Employed Women's Association was established in India.
  - (g) The years in which Second Wave Feminism emerged.
  - (h) The date when CEDAW was first set up by the UN General Assembly (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women).
  - (i) The years when a certain degree of animosity and difference of opinion came to the fore between feminists in the advanced countries and those caught up in political struggles in the Global South.
2. Read pages 155-158 and then work out the answers to the following questions. Write a short sentence or two for each.
  - (a) Why is it mainly women who end up working as part of global supply chains in industries such as garment making, electronics and certain kinds of agriculture such as flower cultivation and picking? (NB: This is not just about low wages).
  - (b) Why is homework nearly everywhere predominantly carried out by women and why does this leave people particularly exposed to extremes forms of economic exploitation?

- (c) What different kinds of 'caring' occupations do women from the Global South mostly perform when they migrate to the advanced countries?
  - (d) What tends to undermine the possibility of gender solidarity emerging between women from the Global South who are employed in domestic/family situations in the West and their female employers?
  - (e) What additional kinds of dangers are women workers employed by the factories in the Global South exposed to in addition to low wages, long hours of work, unpaid overtime and health risks?
3. Read pages 148-154 of your textbook then decide whether the following statements are true or false.
- (a) Those associated with the rise of Second Wave Feminist thought were protesting because by the 1960s it had become clear that women's demands for equal educational, political and civil rights with men had still not been implemented in the advanced countries.
  - (b) Second Wave Feminists clearly distinguished between the biological and sexual differences of males and females (linked to anatomical and genetic factors) and those acquired or learned identities that originated in the varying cultural expectations and social treatment meted out to boys and girls in most societies.
  - (c) The gender hierarchies found in virtually all societies, whereby women's roles are designated as less deserving of reward and status, are entirely due to the reality that men's roles are more difficult to perform and carry greater significance.
  - (d) Marxist feminists argued that the main reason why women continued to be oppressed under capitalism was that (1) capital needed to escape from contributing to the costs of child rearing by offloading this onto women and (2) capital gained clear advantages (a flexible and cheap labour supply) from using women's domestic responsibilities as an excuse for pushing them into part time, temporary employment as and when required.
  - (e) Despite the huge surge of female employment into the paid labour force across much of the world since the 1970s, female workers continue to experience substantial disadvantages compared to men including taking on the main burden of child care.

4. Read pages 159-162 of your textbook then answer 'yes' or 'no' to these questions.
- (a) Can women's ability to engage in actions aimed at improving their situation be constrained by poverty, a low educational level and their domestic obligations?
  - (b) In the 1980s and later did women from both the North and the South join together in united protest over abortion rights and the media's sexualisation of women?
  - (c) By the early 1990s were the various women's struggles taking place worldwide becoming more and more homogeneous in tactics and aims?
  - (d) Despite disagreements between feminists regarding the effectiveness of the 1948 UN Declaration of Human Rights in protecting women, was it the case that the UN did provide a useful common platform from and through which women everywhere could network, share concerns and promote ideas?
  - (e) In recent years has the worldwide feminist agenda widened to include issues such as sex tourism, all forms of violence against women irrespective of its origins or forms, and the difficult work situation faced by those employed in southern manufacturing companies?
5. Read pages 163-164 of your textbook then fill the missing gaps in the sentences below. (These may not repeat the text in the book exactly).
- (a) In nearly all countries there is a cultural presumption that \_\_\_\_\_ activity and \_\_\_\_\_ are the only acceptable and standard forms of sexual behaviour.
  - (b) The idea that sex is biologically defined while gender is socially constructed have become somewhat confused by the increasing incidence of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (c) Despite the shared experiences of prejudice and intolerance that gay and lesbian people encounter to varying degrees more or less everywhere it is a mistake to assume that there is such a phenomena as '\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_' united by common experience.
  - (d) Some writers argue that notwithstanding the continuing strength of local/national movements and the divisions that exist among gay and lesbian groups something approximating to an '\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_--\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_' is emerging.