

## Format Discussion Night (2017/2018 Update)

### Want to organize a discussion night? We'll help you!

In this document, you'll find a description of what we expect from you and what we will provide.

In summary we expect you to:

- Pick a theme
- Select 3 sources for preparation
- Write a description of the event
- Facilitate the discussion

We will:

- Arrange the venue
- Take care of communication
- Create a Facebook event, share the event on our website and page
- Take care of supplies, like paper and pens
- Help you with facilitating the discussion

For more details, please read on below.

### Practical Information

**When:** every 3 weeks, alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays

**Where:** different locations: ATRIA, MAMA CASH, TROPEN THEATER (possible until December 2017)

**Time:** 7.30pm-10pm

**Format:** The discussion nights can take the simple, classic form of discussion of a specific theme, or one of the two new forms: Workshop and Lecture.

**Admittance and admittance costs:** Everyone is welcome as long as abiding to [the code of conduct](#). Organizers will make the code explicit at the beginning of each meeting (namely by handing it out) to protect the right to safe space.

An admittance cost (variable) will be introduced in meetings that involve the invitation of lecturers/ artists/ trainers or anyone in a professional capacity. These funds will be distributed between those individuals and eventually not for profit organizations that are related to the subject at hands or in someway can benefit from this help, including the Feminist Club itself.

**Food/drinks:** Tea and coffee available (free), and you are welcome to BYO.

Every three weeks there is a discussion night. 1-2 persons usually prepare these nights with the assistance of two of the facilitators. Please read these guidelines first and contact one of them after, to present your idea.

The facilitators: will be in charge of finding members who can organize on a content level (picking a topic and sources), communication with the host location, creating a Facebook event, creating an

Eventbrite event, uploading the information on our website, sharing this information with the host location, making sure all materials are at the venue. At least one of the facilitators will be present at the actual evening.

## **The (classic) Discussion Night – Preparation**

It is **very important** that people commit to deadlines and are easily reachable for communication during the preparation. Ideally the Facebook event should be created 3 weeks in advance and all the info + sources available two weeks before the date. It is also important to articulate with the location venue for inclusion of the information in their newsletters.

### **Theme**

A theme is picked at a previous meeting (or can be decided online or among the organizers). For a list of previous topics, see the next page.

### **Sources**

The persons who prepare the meeting select **3 sources** that are in line with the theme. These sources ideally are of different forms, like texts, videos, etc. For examples of previous sources, see the next page.

### **Facebook event**

A Facebook event is made on the Feminist Club Amsterdam page. This event has a short description of the theme, links to the sources, and practical information about when and where the event will be held. People are expected to read/watch **at least one** of the sources. For an overview of previous events and examples of these descriptions, check out [this page](#).

For the Workshop/Lecture Discussion Night the same guidelines as above (concerning theme, sources and facebook event) apply – excepting sources when these do not apply or are irrelevant for the attendee's preparation of the subject at hands. The difference is that there is someone [either the organizer(s) or someone invited by the organizer(s)] who either speaks about a certain theme, in a more lecture-like format, or conducts a workshop (this can also be a more collaborative effort to build something together – ex. Banners for a protest – not necessarily a class like workshop).

## **The (classic) Discussion Night - Execution**

The people who prepare the discussion night lead the introduction and discussion.

### **Introduction**

Everyone makes a nametag with their name and gender pron-noun.

If we are in a small group, we may start with a round of short introduction. Everyone says their name, their gender pro-noun. We usually add a short question to get to know each other, like: 'who is your feminist role-model?', or 'what inspired you to become a feminist?'

We also discuss the 'finger-rule'. During discussions people will want to respond to each other, so they will raise their hand. The first person raises one finger, the next one two, etc. This is to make sure that everyone can contribute.

The code of conduct is discussed/ circulated.

### **Discussion**

This can take place in many forms. When the group is big, we often divide in smaller groups. We use

different forms of discussion. We have used post-its, posters, paper, etc. many times in the past. It is wise to bring some discussion statements and to think of ways to start a discussion. If you need any help with this, you can contact the facilitators via e-mail ([thefeministclub@autistici.org](mailto:thefeministclub@autistici.org)).

## **The Workshop/Lecture Discussion Night – Execution**

The people who prepare the workshop/lecture night lead the introduction and discussion.

### **Introduction**

Everyone makes a nametag with their name and gender pron-noun.

We start with a round of short introduction. Everyone says their name, their preferred pro-noun. We usually add a short question to get to know each other, like: 'who is your feminist role-model?', or 'what inspired you to become a feminist?'

We also discuss the 'finger-rule'. During discussions people will want to respond to each other, so they will raise their hand. The first person raises one finger, the next one two, etc. This is to make sure that everyone can contribute.

The code of conduct is discussed/ circulated.

### **Lecture**

The speaker delivers the lecture and there is time for questions/ discussion afterwards.

### **Workshop**

The execution of the workshop will vary according to the content of it and will be defined by the person leading it.

### **Previous themes**

- Simone de Beauvoir
- Intersectionality
- Deconstructing gender
- Media representation
- Activism
- Feminism and veganism
- Feminism and humour
- Non-monogamous relationships
- Feminism and sex work
- Feminism and mental health
- Feminism and abortion
- Feminism and labour
- Safe space or closed space?
- Feminism and men: Contradiction/collaboration?
- Queer feminism and European/American art
- Feminism and sexuality
- Feminism and motherhood/ parenthood