



free society
non-conformity

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DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Rubin points out that, “Whatever differences we have, tolerating others’ opinions is a prerequisite to a functioning and free society.” What might the significant relationships be between being tolerant and being free? Do you agree with Mr. Rubin’s point? Why or why not?
- Later in the video Mr. Rubin states that, “The right, according to the media, is intolerant of everyone... except those darned white, heterosexual, Christian males. There’s only one problem. It’s just not true. Incredibly, the left isn’t even tolerant of the very people they say they’re tolerant of! Here’s the thing: those who only tolerate people they agree with or like . . . aren’t actually tolerant.” Why do you think that mainstream media blatantly lies about the Right- regularly claiming that the Right is intolerant? Considering that the Left is generally only ‘tolerant’ of others whom they perceive to be like-minded, do you think that Leftists genuinely don’t understand the meaning of the term ‘tolerant,’ or do you think that they do, but that they choose to selectively apply ‘tolerance’ to superficial conditions such as race, sexual orientation, etc...? Explain.
- Mr. Rubin goes on to explain that, “I’m pro gay marriage. I’m pro-choice. I’m against the death penalty. Pretty solid liberal cred, right? In fact, I still consider myself a liberal. And yet the left shuns me while the right welcomes me with open arms.” Considering this truth, do you consider the Left to be hypocritical on the issue of tolerance? Why or why not? Why do you think that the Left shuns Mr. Rubin? Do you think that the Left should shun Mr. Rubin? Why or why not?
- To explain why he is shunned by the Left, Mr. Rubin notes that, “The Left, sadly, has become utterly intolerant of anyone with whom they disagree. Why? Because they believe that they know how you should live and how you should think. Any deviation, any non-conformity is dangerous.” What factors do you think have caused the Left to move to such an extreme place on the political spectrum that they are now completely intolerant of anyone with whom they disagree? Why do you think the Left considers non-conformity ‘dangerous?’ Explain. Do you think that such a rigid, conformist ideology is more ‘dangerous’ to a society than an ideology that is non-conformist? Why or why not?
- At the conclusion of the video, Mr. Rubin shares with us that, “...in the last few years of my political evolution, I’ve consistently found conservatives to be tolerant and open-minded... The right, much more than the left, believes in the notion of ‘live and let live.’ And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the true definition of tolerance.” Why do you think that conservatives openly welcome discourse and debate with a card-carrying liberal such as Mr. Rubin? Do you think the fact that conservatives welcome Mr. Rubin proves that conservatives are actually more tolerant than progressives? Why or why not?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Women's March Convention

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the articles "Women's March leaders apologize over Bernie Sanders' speaking role at convention," then answer the questions that follow.

- Why did the leaders of the Women's March have to apologize? Why was there 'hurt and confusion' among some women? What reasoning did critics give on social media? What was the purpose of the original march in January? Who is Stephanie Schriock, and what was her reaction to Sen. Sanders being invited to speak at the convention? What reasoning did the organizers give in defense of their choice to invite Sen. Sanders?
- Why do you think that so many women were upset about Sen. Sanders' invitation to speak at the convention? What do you think the 'wrong message' was, according to Ms. Schriock? Do you think that those women should have been upset at a male being invited to speak? Why or why not? Would you consider those women, who were upset simply at the fact that it was a man speaking, to be intolerant? Why or why not?
- Do you think that some of those women would have been upset if Mr. Rubin had been invited to speak at the convention? Explain.



QUIZ

SO, YOU THINK YOU'RE TOLERANT?

1. Whatever differences we have, tolerating others' opinions is a prerequisite to a _____.
 - a. socialist society
 - b. functioning and free society
 - c. segregated society
 - d. fascist society

2. _____ guarantees us life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
 - a. The Mayflower Compact
 - b. The Magna Carta
 - c. The Declaration of Independence
 - d. The Bill of Rights

3. If you believe we should judge people on the content of their character and not the color of their skin, the left calls you "_____."
 - a. racist
 - b. open-minded
 - c. tolerant
 - d. intolerant

4. The right, these days, actually *welcomes* diversity of thought.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. If you believe that America is a nation of immigrants, but that our country should also protect its borders, the left calls you _____.
 - a. a homophobe
 - b. an Islamophobe
 - c. sexist
 - d. a xenophobe



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/politics/2017/10/15/women-march-organizers-apologize-over-bernie-sanders-speaking-role-national-convention/9rOLi5cN3mCV7nUIVjhNtM/story.html>

Women's March leaders apologize over Bernie Sanders' speaking role at convention



Senator Bernie Sanders. Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

By Vanessa Williams The Washington Post October 15, 2017

Leaders of the Women's March apologized Saturday for the "hurt and confusion" among women who disagreed with the decision to have Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders speak on the opening night of its first national convention.

Critics had protested on social media that Sanders not only had run a negative campaign against Hillary Clinton in last year's Democratic presidential primary, but also that he and his supporters continue to push the Democratic Party away from its base of women and people of color toward the concerns of the white, working class. Many women were simply disappointed that a man was tapped to kickoff a women's convention, scheduled for Oct. 27-29 in Detroit.

"We are sorry we caused hurt and confusion for so many of you this week," read the first in a series of tweets by the Women's March. Another stated: "We acknowledge the announcement about Senator Sanders gave the impression he is occupying a central role at the convention. (He is not.)"

The group's initial announcement on Thursday brought swift and stinging criticism. Feminist activist and author Roxane Gay posted a tweet calling it "absolutely a disgrace."

Stephanie Schriock, president of Emily's List, which works to elect Democratic women who support abortion rights, said choosing Sanders to open the convention "sends the wrong message." She said in a statement that Emily's List had reached out to the organizers of the Women's Convention "to offer our help to strengthen the program."

The original march in January captured the world's attention when hundreds of thousands of people, most of them women, showed up in Washington the day after President Trump's inauguration to protest his election and the issues he ran on, including cracking down on undocumented immigrants and repealing the Affordable Care Act. Millions are estimated to have taken part in spinoff marches in cities around the country and the globe. The march has been credited with boosting civic participation by women, and tens of thousands of women have been inspired to run for Congress and for local and state elected offices.

The Women's Convention, set to take place Oct. 27-29 in Detroit, is the first national gathering since the original event.

Organizers of the convention defended their decision to invite Sanders, who some consider the most influential figure associated with the Democratic Party - even though he is registered as an independent. In a statement, organizers noted that Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., who is popular with some progressives for her crusade to have Trump impeached, is the headliner for the convention. The statement also said that other women, such as Clinton and senators Kamala Harris, D-Calif., and Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., couldn't fit the convention into their schedules.

"We all know how busy women leaders are," the statement reads.

Sanders during last year's campaign described himself as a democratic socialist. As such, he was often criticized for focusing on economic solutions, while downplaying the role of institutional racism and sexism in social inequalities. He became a hero of white progressives, but could not compete with Clinton's support among people of color and women. Sanders also lost favor with women because some of his progressive male followers were accused of harassing women and people of color on social media. Earlier this year, he drew the ire of feminists and abortion rights supporters for backing a mayoral candidate in Omaha who had co-sponsored antiabortion legislation.

But he also had a following among some women on the left who thought Clinton was not progressive enough, or because of her role in supporting programs in the 1990s that hurt communities of color and women, including tough anti-crime laws and a rollback of welfare benefits.

Tamika Mallory, one of the organizers of the Women's March, defended the decision to invite Sanders to speak at the convention, reminding critics that Waters was the keynote speaker for the event.

But even a self-described Sanders supporter didn't think he was the right person to kick off the convention.