

What is a 'Good' Feminist to do about the Role of Families in the Feminization of Poverty?

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The overwhelming evidence that the break-down of the family is a primary factor in income inequality is difficult to advance in the current social climate. Activism addressing racial inequality and challenging the legitimacy of the traditional family leaves little room for discussing the break-down of the family. The Black Lives Matters movement pays little attention to the breakdown of the family as a factor in the complex of factors relevant to police behavior in Black communities. Those whose main focus is undermining the legitimacy of the traditional family have little interest in drawing attention to the adverse economic consequences of their agenda. This paper will explore strategic and rhetorical suggestions for introducing questions about family structure into the larger issue of the feminization of poverty in ways that will not close down debate.