

# I thought we were beyond this?

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Created 26/09/2009 - 11:53am

Submitted by stmok on Saturday 26th of September 2009 11:53:26 AM

This all pretty much started when someone (Mark Shuttleworth) made a remark, and it offended some women in the open source community.

...Seriously, I don't care if you're male, female, black, white, orange, purple, religious, atheist, rich, poor, etc. (I'm a Chinese male in Australia, by the way.)

What I do care is that if you make a contribution to FOSS; make it a genuine one to the community.

The thing that concerns me is that women have yet to understand that in a male dominated area, you must prove your worth. That's how you get respect from men. (Its how men earn respect of other men.)...And its how you'll stop the sexist remarks, comments, or jokes.

You don't get any respect from using the victim tone, or try to introduce laws/rules in order to control behaviour. (So that no one gets offended to anything)...They may obey the rules you've put up; but they won't respect you. In fact, they'll resent it...And you'll never feel like you fit in. (Gee, doesn't this sound familiar?)

Life does have an occassional a-hole, prick, bully, etc. Think of it as a test of character and development. If someone annoys/offends you, ignore them. If they attack, you defend yourself.

Have women not learned from films like *GI Jane* (Demi Moore), *Aliens* (Sigourney Weaver and Jenette Goldstein), etc? You have to prove that you can do things as well as men can. Heck, if you want a real life examples: Hiliary Clinton, Condoleezza Rice, Carly Fiorina (former HP CEO).

The simple fact is: Respect must be earned, and it must be based on merit of hard work. You can't get by with victim mentality or sheltering behind rules in some artificially created utopia.

If an all-women's open source project built an application that meets most people's needs; it would certainly earn respect from everyone...As it tells people, these chicks have the kick butt confidence of not caring of what people say; because they know what is more important in the long term scheme of things. => FOSS for everyone.

This is where I believe feminism fails in today's world. There's no realisation that respect must be earned with good old fashion hard work. Its about being pro-active. Right now, its reactive responses like "Boycott Ubuntu". (I personally don't give a damn about Ubuntu, as I've moved to Arch Linux!)

LOL...I can't wait until Microsoft picks up on this, and uses it in their propaganda machine. => Tech News: Open Source is SEXIST! We at Microsoft welcome women! See?! \*insert picture of all their female employees\*

Side note:

What I suggested above applies to any minority group. While I won't face sexism, I did face racism. I quashed it by

proving my worth. From that, I got respect.

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