

Malika Sarabhai (Danseuse, Television Actress, Theatre Artist, Social Activist)

Prof. Prakashraj Kumavat

Head, Kalol Institute of Management, Kalol, North Gujarat (India)



One to never shy away from expressing herself and giving her opinions loud and unambiguous, Malika Sarabhai has always been at the forefront to fight injustice and advocate gender equality. She tells us why feminism is nothing but humanism and absolutely relevant.

“Feminism is the demand for being treated as human beings first and foremost. Of getting the rights, choices, opportunities and freedom that every human being in today’s world must have. And millions of women across the world do not have this. Religion, culture or caste work systematically to turn women into the possession of men, of their families, of their caste or tribal

group. They are treated as bodies on which to settle scores, scores of perceived dishonour to men, of anger, of revenge. And they are perceived as not having the freedom or right to decide their own course in life. Till the last woman is not free of this oppressive patriarchal mindset, feminism is needed”

Malika Sarabhai has consistently and persistently used art as a medium to propagate and further the cause of gender equality, break stereotypes and canonical thought process. She says, “Arts are a very persuasive language to transform thinking and attitudes and break through morbid prejudice.”

With the metoo and timesup movement, we have seen more and more women coming out and speaking up on suppression, harassment and exploitation they encountered. There is a show of female strength and courage like never before and Mallika finds both pride and power in this cohesive demonstration of female courage.

“Systems and men will take a long time and a long grind to change, but we need to take things into our own hands, and raise our voices in protest at the smallest infringement”

Addressing the pertinent issue of crimes and violence against women she says,

“Crimes against women are rising exponentially, with more and more openness about it and less and less legal punishments. When an elected MP asks for the head of an actress with a bounty attached, why is he not instantly put behind bars? We need a set of judges who are sensitized to women issues, fast track courts for these crimes, and a committed government to bring culprits to book no matter how powerful they are. It’s really time for patriarchy to relook and remove its laws and legalities that are bigoted and biased towards women; it’s time to echo out loud enough is enough.”