

The South-Asian Woman's List of Good Resolutions

By Shauna Singh Baldwin and Bisakha Sen

- I resolve not to apologize for existing.
- I resolve not to apologize to men (unless I have really done something wrong).
- I will make a distinction between myself and my family.
- I do not need to be married to be happy or dutiful.
- I do not need children to be happy or dutiful.
- I do not need a son to be happy or dutiful.
- I will not avoid discussions about money.
- I will not criticize other women, so as to blame the victim of sexual harassment or sexual assault. "She was wearing tight-tight jeans," "She is too mod."
- I will support other women. Each one, teach one to be economically and emotionally self-sufficient.
- I resolve not to betray my daughter into the arms of the patriarchy "for her own good."
- I will evacuate any toxic environment that threatens my mental or physical safety.
- I will take responsibility for my decisions and ask no one for pity.
- I will not value a man based solely/primarily on his capacity as provider.
- I will not cringe when stating that I make more than my husband.
- I will not cringe at the thought of being the primary breadwinner of the family.
- I will not sneer at men who are more sentimental than I am.
- I will not push my son towards a stereotypical career any more than I do my daughter.
- I will not die if my daughter chooses a mate who's in a "feminine" profession.
- I will understand the pain of a man trapped in an unhappy career because he is compelled to be the sole provider for his family.
- I WILL criticize the woman who cribs because her husband is not maintaining her in the style she would like to be maintained.
- I will never use phrases like "Isn't he supposed to be a man" or "He isn't taking it like a man," or make comments about who wears the pants in the family.
- I will accept that a man can be sexually harassed by a woman.