

## Podcast Transcript

### **How it feels to be a Chicana feminist in the US coming from a different country.**

Gio: Umm so this is my podcast, I have here Rosario Bibiano she's going to be my interviewer and I have a couple questions for her but before I jump into that. How's your day Rosario?

Rosario: It's been okay the weather is kind of sucky but its good.

Gio: Not a big fan of the rain?

Rosario: The rain yes but not rain with wind.

Gio: Okay, I see, umm did you have any classes today? School? Work?

Rosario: Yeah I had 2 classes in the morning and then just came straight to work.

Gio: Cool, well thank you for taking the time out to let me interview you and get this podcast going.

Rosario: Yeah

Gio: We'll just right into it with the first question umm it is do you consider yourself a Chicana feminist and if so why?

Rosario: Yeah, so, I consider myself a Chicana feminist mostly because when I learned all the different sides and which my life fit in so I'm American. I'm Mexican. I'm a woman. All those bring different identities to me and I feel like saying I'm a Chicana feminist just encompasses all of those different things I identify with.

Gio: Okay and my second question kind of goes into it as well. Where is your family from and are you from the US and if not when did you arrive here.

Rosario: Yeah so my family is from Acapulco, Guerrero. Which is where I was born as well and I was brought to the US when I was 3 years old and I've been here ever since.

Gio: Okay, so do you remember anything from Mexico?

Rosario: I do remember a couple of things. I remember I had my catholic presentacion and there's pictures of me walking down the street in a white dress going to the church as if I was getting married as a 3-year-old.

Gio: Oh wow

Rosario: Yeah

Gio: one of your earliest memories I'm assuming then

Rosario: umm hmm

Gio: That's cool, and what is that like.. How old are you right now?

Rosario: I'm 21.

Gio: So like 18 years that you've lived in the US

Rosario: Yup

Gio: And it's just in Utah that you've lived in or any other state?

Rosario: Utah and Oregon. But in Oregon, I was there for like 2 years but I'm not really... yeah basically Utah

Gio: Umm-hmm cool. My next question is How do you feel being a Chicana in the US and to be more specific in Utah as well.

Rosario: Yeah I think overall in the US it's very powerful when you say "oh I'm a Chicana" cause then when you're with other Chicanas they all know your struggles. They know what you've gone through or they can identify with you in some sort of way. In Utah, it's a little bit harder because we are surrounded by a very dominant religion who really can be very conservative at times. And there are not many individuals who identify as Chicana at least to me. And I grew up on the east side of Utah. It wasn't until middle school that I went down to the west side where I found more individuals that looked like me. So that was a culture shock in itself. But overall it's not a bad thing like I've never had a bad feeling about being Chicana in Utah mostly because I didn't identify that way until I was older but yeah like it was never nothing bad.

Gio: Okay, um so you were explaining a little bit about east and west side. You said... I heard you mentioned you lived in both sides, umm for those that don't know what the east and west side is of Salt Lake Valley can you explain a little bit like what you think what the general idea of living on the east and consider living on the west is?

Rosario: Yeah so the west side is more minority-based communities compared to the east side which is more white individuals and I guess technically the split happens on State Street. I feel like the split doesn't happen till like 7th east in my opinion

Gio: Okay

Rosario: But you can really tell the difference too like I had some individuals in my elementary who we went to high school together and they had never ever touched anything in the west side like "oh you've been there? like where is that? They had no idea what exists passed a certain street

Gio: That's funny I can relate I would agree as well. I myself am from Salt Lake Valley, I say you captured that pretty good. My next question is when did you become a feminist and why? What made you ... I guess get into that idea of becoming a feminist and yeah, why?

Rosario: So I became a feminist from a very young age without even knowing what a .. being a feminist meant. And it mostly came from having an LGBT aunt who identifies as LGBT and my family didn't really accept her at first but my mom did and my mom was always there for her like she was pretty much her mom. Because my grandma pretty much did accept her. And from that moment i realized that like to me it didn't really matter if she wanted to like other women or how she identified as and that was like the first stab since me becoming a feminist and when I started to see a lot for injustices and reading about a lot of injustices that were happening around the world. Especially in high school I never really... I was never one extreme or the other I always wanted to be umm more neutral with like oh no like I can see your point but I also believe this. In college when I took gender and social studies class that's when I really realized "oh I'm a feminist." It's so powerful to identify as a feminist because it just puts it out there that you're there to advocate for women and for other sexes and genders like yeah.

Gio: Cool, umm where you by chance raised by a single mother?

Rosario: I was yeah

Gio: Would you say that she kind of has an impact on that

Rosario: Forsure

Gio: Yeah

Rosario: I mean my whole household was men except for my grandpa yeah.

Gio: Okay, so I can see where you're coming from a little bit make sense. My next question is how has your life been influenced with you being feminist?

Rosario: Like i said I didn't start using that vocabulary as an identifier until college and ever since I'm more willing to express things because I know there's other individuals who will support me and it feels good to like kind of be an advocate for it as well like I mean your signing up for something not only that you believe in but that you know is going to help someone in some sort of way. It also has influenced a lot of like the career choices I've made like I've gotten involved with Women in Business which focuses on feminism in the workplace without being so explicit about it which is super cool and it's something women don't really talk about. And we're doing all these workshops that teach them how to do business because business is for men. Yeah so I think it's very powerful and we had a session what it meant to be feminist in the workplace and how people don't want to identify that way which to me was kind of shocking but.

Gio: So you're saying that for those that don't know you are a business major

Rosario: Oh yes

Gio: And the business world being a little more predominantly white would you say it's a little harder considering yourself being feminism or do you say you still have the same standard and idea of yourself being a feminist. Like are you ... I guess what I'm trying to say is are you still proud to say you're a feminist and not scared to say it entering this kind of major.

Rosario: uhh hmm

Gio: Yeah

Rosario: Yeah no I'm not scared to say it but I think it's mostly because I did grow up white individuals for half my life. I know the other Hispanic women who are in the business school are very afraid to speak up to there white males. I'm not.

Gio: Okay

Rosario: And I don't know if that's the feminist part or just being a woman and just not giving 2 craps about it.

Gio: No I think that's a very bold statement and I respect that. Next question is what are your thoughts about gender, masculinity or sexuality of others.

Rosario: Umm I don't really have any big thoughts on it. I think you can be whatever gender you want, you can identify however you want and masculinity that's the one thing I \*sighs\* again since I'm a business student and I tend to be in a lot of leadership roles. When you're in power as a woman you get called a bitch compared to a man who is in power it's like "Oh he's assertive" I think that's like my big thing with masculinity and women are seen as very delicate and that they can't do much. So when you are in a power position and you are doing a lot "overachiever, what a bitch." you know all these things. So that's my main thought and for that, you just need to have thick skin and kind of realize where their perspectives are coming from like it's really hard to change someone's opinion but if you get something up grasp to them that's all that matters.

Gio: that's good, you said you know you got to kind of see both sides of the pictures of this i feel like that's a really good thing as a person for you to have because being narrow-minded kind of limits you from certain sights or where you can see and where you can't and you have that mindset of like you know you kind of have to do see both pictures but at the end of the day you know you still have your opinion or your bias or whatever was being argued or said but that's good. What's your advice to other women that are Chicana and thinking of becoming feminist but aren't sure? Like you were just telling me you know some Hispanic girls within the business school and are kind of scared to say, what would your advice be to them?

Rosario: I don't think its more of advice I think it's more of empowering them. I mean that through words but I think paving a way for women to feel safe, that they can speak up and that they can do things that men are doing I think that's my main goal as I'm finishing up with my college career. I want to inspire someone to get involved and to not feel bad or that they can't do it because they're not fitting the status quo. Also, I think if your thinking of becoming a feminist and you're Chicana you need to look at where you fit in in each thing. So you're Hispanic or Mexican and American and a woman but do you believe in equal rights for everyone like what specifically do you believe in I think its more of self-identity. I think overall being a feminist and identifying that way is very empowering to me.

Gio: That's good.

Rosario: Some a little bias in that.

Gio: hahaha it's okay I totally get you that was a good response. My next question kind of I kind of asked this already but it might not be the same person but who your idol when it comes to being a feminist? And why?

Rosario: Yeah so one of the main idols is my mom. Of course, cause single mother raising two little girls and she never once made a bad comment about a man but always showed to like empower one another to be surrounded with good individuals. I mean she is my role model overall and also for being a feminist I think I met a lot of girls and peers here in the university some who have done a lot of work. A lot more than I have done as a Chicana or feminist and I just really admire them and others who just the way they express themselves, the way that they say what they mean and what they do I think it's really cool. So there's not one specific person besides my mom and peers.

Gio: Cool cool I understand. I feel that very rare to have an answer like that because most people would particularly just find one person and you're kind of just like you know I feel like everyone has a part in this and that's a good point. My last question is if the world could anything about feminism and they .. which keep in mind act like if they don't know by any means. What would you want to share? Like what it really is.

Rosario: I think one of the first things someone should know is that being a feminist doesn't just mean you stand up for women or doesn't necessarily have to apply to women. Like you can be a man and be a feminist like it doesn't need to be specifically a woman and i think that's really where we lack empathy for men cause as soon as they hear fem it's just like "oh that's for females that's not for men" so, men can be a part of it and we need men allies that's the one thing I would tell the world like it's not just for females.

Gio: Okay cool, so what I feel like a normal traditional power or wait not powerpoint but podcast would have to introduce yourself and I kind of have purposely have this at the end because I feel like if you were to introduce yourself at first and then get asked these questions listeners would probably I mean frank to say some people are quick to judge when you automatically tell them something they are going to think the reason

you answered this because you're doing this but if you could just tell me like an intro of yourself like your name. your major, what year you are, where you come from and if you could if you don't mind saying last words of "and I'm proud to be a feminist"

Rosario: Okay, so I'm Rosario Bibiano, I am studying Marketing and my minor is in multidisciplinary design. I am from Acapulco, Guerrero but consider myself an American cause I've lived here almost my whole life and I am proud to be a feminist.

Gio: Awesome, great well this is a great podcast once again I have here Rosario and my name is Gio and we are closing out, Thank you.