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As a young girl, I never thought my gender would hold me back in anything I did. I was fearless; the only thing I was sure of is that I loved music. As I grew up I became more aware of ridiculous societal expectations, constantly being reminded about the importance of settling down with a nice husband, kids and an SUV big enough to cater for all of my motherly duties. With the rise in social media over the last 10 years, feminism is becoming a widely discussed topic, especially among millennial's, with many people turning to the internet to learn about the issue or to commend / criticize it. People are becoming more aware of the different issues women face across the world and though this discussion has benefitted many women, there is still a long way to go before equality can be reached.

The internet was recently set on fire by the unapologetically fearless artist Madonna, and her Billboard Women Of The Year acceptance speech, in which she addresses her 34 year-long career and the adversities she has faced along the way. Madonna is no stranger to owning her sexuality, a trait that she has frequently been ridiculed for, yet still she carries on, proving to women that their sexuality is not something to be feared, but something to be celebrated. As a millennial in the process of entering the music industry I began to question the different struggles women face in the industry.

I was able to sit down with Carly Wilford, celebrated DJ/ Presenter and talk about her experiences as a women in the industry. Together we spoke about adversities she has faced during her career as a musician. I was shocked by the stories of people doubting her skill based on her gender. If you have listened to Carly's radio show SISTER, you should know that Carly is not one to underestimate, especially when it comes to talent. Carly spoke to me about breaking through societal boundaries between genders and becoming a successful professional in the music industry. She repeatedly stressed the importance of standing up for yourself and other women and not letting people overlook you because of your gender. When I asked what inspired the passion behind her views she said "I'm not just doing this for me, I'm doing this for women". Throughout the conversation, it was clear to me Carly would not let anyone hold her back. "We are in one of the most open and fluid industries in the world – never let anyone hold you back", a quote that has resonated with me since the interview.

I believe that music is an exciting and vibrant industry, with so many different paths and nothing should ever make you doubt what you love – especially your gender. I have constantly doubted myself (especially when I started to embark on my own career) but it is women like Madonna, Carly and countless other successful females in the industry, that inspire me to power through my own self-doubt and be the best I can be.

If you have not watched [Madonna's 'Women of the Year' speech](#), then do – it is amazing.

Also, if you want to learn more about [Carly Wilford](#), then check out SISTER radio on soundcloud.