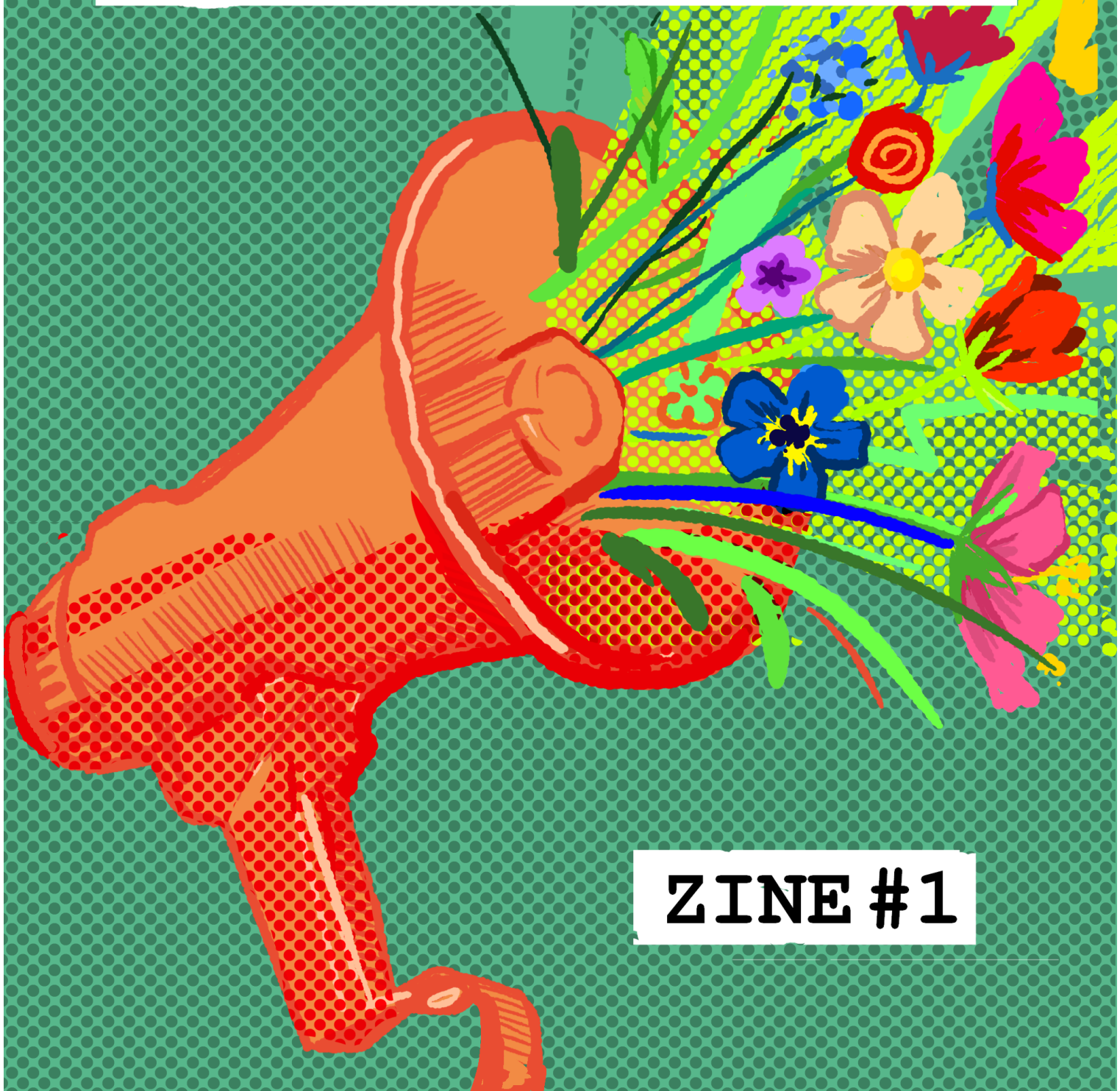


WHEN WE SPEAK

B  **M**



ZINE #1

WHEN WE SPEAK,
WE WANT TO

BE HEARD
OPEN DOORS
GO BEYOND BORDERS
CREATE CHANGE
BE BRAVE
EMPOWER
EDUCATE
RE-IMAGINE



You can make

us blue,

but we still

BLOOM.



WHEN YOU
ARE
FEELING



touch

BLUE



By Aishah Siddiqua



OUR LAST CHANCE

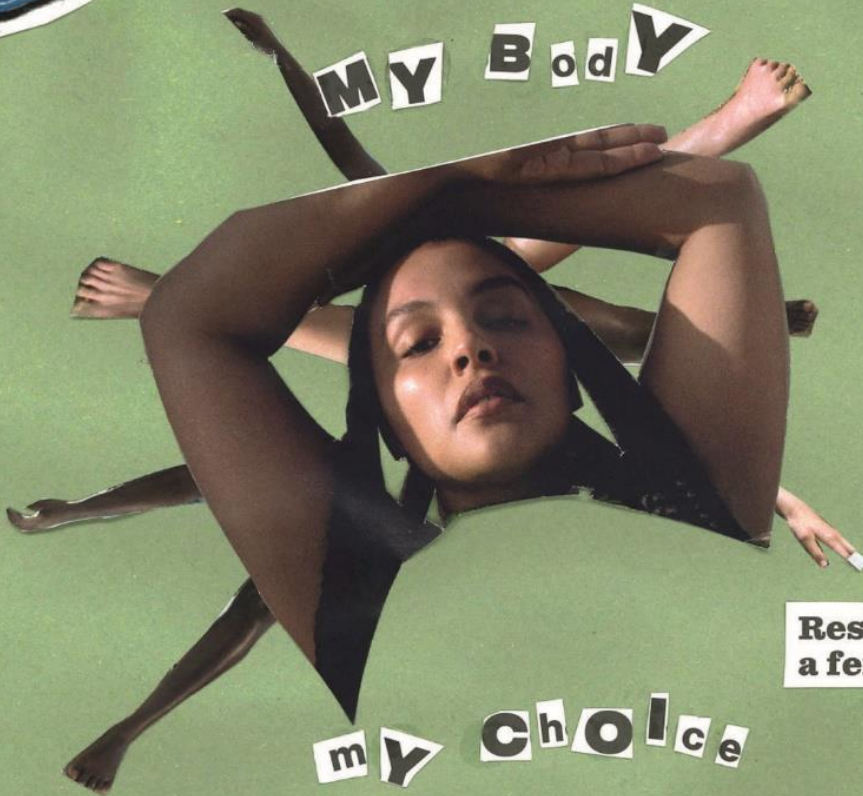
OUR ONLY RESPONSIBILITY

WHO CARES

WE'RE GONNA DIE ANYWAYS



MY BODY



Resistance through a feminist lens

my choice

They make us believe,
we are alone,
so we don't fight,
for things we don't know,
across the sea,
you will see,
we are both alike,
as well as unique,



The words aren't offensive, we are.

Because of who I am, I go by many names.

I have been called a retard, a spaz, a freak, carpet muncher, dyke and much more. In later years in my life, I found myself surrounded with people more sheltered than I, who lacked the experience I have.

They took great offence to my bluntness in how I described myself.

My experiences.

Everything I'd become desensitized to was shocking to them.

I wasn't supposed to be open about it.

why would I speak about something so vulgar?

It's an ugly truth. So people didn't want to have to hear it. Or see it.

They don't understand it nor do they want to.

I had no choice in the matter.

No choice in how I was born,

No choice in who I grew surrounded with.

No choice in how I was treated.

A family member once said to me:

"You're autistic. And in the end, when nobody loves you or wants to be friends with you, you'll know that's why."

To say that's ok?

New terms keep being created to try bury the "bad" terms.

The offensive ones used improperly.

The medical terms used as insults amongst children in schools.

The language keeps being refreshed in a futile attempt to strip insult from the labels.

To make the labels less degrading.

Why should those labels be offensive?

Who I am is not something I'm ashamed of.

Nor should I be.

Changing the language has done nothing to change the stigma. For as long as care and understanding is lacking.

It persists to lie underneath. Why is this? To them,

the words aren't offensive, we are.



MANIFESTO!

We listen to each other when we speak.

We all want to be challenged.

In our space we can reach new radical heights as a collective.

Do not dismiss other people's experiences. You haven't lived through them.

We are a non-judgemental space where people can be open & comfortable to share their experiences and feelings.

GROWTH!

TOGETHER!

DISCUSS



WE HAVE SPARKEN

Not assuming things about others, Non-judgemental space.

BE PRESENT!

Be thoughtful

LISTEN

Create + Maintain
a BRAVE
Space
for all!

Not imposing values
/ideals on others.
With or without
a basis of knowledge-

DON'T LEAVE
ANYBODY OUT!

