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Zara & Massimo Dutti



Blazer: £300  
Trousers: £190  
Shirt: £185

Massimo Dutti  
Shorts: £69.95  
Blazer: £139



## Power of Suits

Fashion plays a vital role when it comes to feminist activism and movements. This season's feminist trend? Suits with knee-length short suits. The trend combines two of the most iconic feminist moments in fashion, shorts and suits.

The history of Bermuda shorts goes back to the 1900s, where shorts, long or not, were considered controversial, especially for women, due to the expectation that women should wear feminine dresses. Another reason is its length, which was thought to be inappropriate. By the 1910s, shorter styles of shorts started appearing and be deemed as 'usual' as a way to deal with warmer weather. During the 1920s and 30s, fashion began to take a bolder turn, and Bermuda shorts were favored by those who wanted to adopt an island style.

Women's suits were also portrayed through the iconic works of designers like Coco Chanel during the first world war, leading to the avoidance of corsets and favouring tailoring. Women also adopted trousers for everyday activities, specifically sports. After the second world war, women started to wear suits after the change in their domestic roles, allowing them to enter the workforce. From Yves Saint Laurent's 'Le Smoking' women's tuxedo to Giorgio Armani advocating shoulder pads and the oversized jacket, a new form of women's fashion was born. The fresh outlook on suits emerged for this season with the rise of feminism and modest fashion endorsed by artists like Billy Eilish.

So how to style the new women's suit? Fashion expert Anna Katsanis suggests that simplicity is the way to go. "Some people will opt for checks or plaids, which can also work well if paired correctly with simple shoes and accessories. Neon coloured short suits are also great. I would pair it with a simple sandal or a heeled sandal, something very minimal in design. It can also be a knee-high leather boot or strappy sandal with or without a heel," advice Katsanis.

For colours, Katsanis advises in neutrals. "I have seen some people pair them with socks and leather ballet flats ala Ferragamo and Jacquemus for a sportier look. Everyone from high end to low end has made a version of this suit. I love a double-breasted version for the jacket as well," she says. Another styling secret of Katsanis, for a more daring look, is to reply on a simple necklace instead of a shirt underneath the blazer. "The look can also be belted over the jacket with a leather belt. It can also be worn open with a belt over the shorts with a minimal top. Maybe a cool bandeau paired with a high waist short. Textured for the suit, such as leather, can also be great. A pussy willow blouse could also work if the colour is neutral or as close as possible to the suit colour; it works best," claims Katsanis.

"I think the reason why it's so popular because it's such an updated version of the traditional workwear suit. So, it gives women the option without steering too far. Also transitions now into summer and spring with the shorter lengths. I prefer the shorts to be just above knee or knee-length. It can also be worn super short, depending on your comfort level. The short suit can easily transition from daywear to workwear."

For a modest option suitable for women who wear hijab, a pantsuit is still trending for this season as an alternative for knee-length shorts. Fashion blogger Heba Nafea shares her styling tips. "I love to wear it as a formal outfit with heels or street style outfit with a printed t-shirt and sneakers," advice Nafea

ZARA  
Shorts: £17.99  
Blazer: £59.99

