
GENDER EQUALITY

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WHAT IS GENDER EQUALITY

- Gender equality is when people of all genders have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities. Everyone is affected by gender inequality - women, men, trans and gender diverse people, children and families. It impacts people of all ages and backgrounds.
- We need gender equality urgently. Gender equality prevents violence against women and girls. It's essential for economic prosperity. Societies that value women and men as equal are safer and healthier. Gender equality is a human right. Everyone benefits from gender equality.



GENDER-EQUAL FAMILIES

- International Day of Families is a good moment to reflect on this question and consider how families might change to become agents of gender equality and female empowerment.
- In international law, the protection of the family is closely linked to the principle of equality and non-discrimination, meaning that all members of a family must enjoy the same liberties and rights regardless of gender or age.
- As social realities change, perceptions of just what non-discrimination looks like have also evolved.
- Today, many countries, including Brazil, Finland and Spain, recognise same-sex partnerships, while others offer legal protections for children born out of wedlock and for single-parent families. That would have been unthinkable just 50 years ago.



HOW TO CREATE GENDER EQUALITY IN FAMILY

- The culture of each family unit is rapidly changing, but the traditional role of women in home and society still remains. The family plays a key factor in setting the standards for what men and women will expect from one another during their lifetime.
- In most cases, before a boy grows up, he learns to have certain expectations from the opposite sex based on how his parents relate with each other. For example, most men assume that women are supposed to raise children and keep the house clean while they're out working.
- Without realizing it, this mentality is passed on from fathers to sons and is carried with them into adulthood. As a result, many women feel like they don't have any real choice in regards to their career and family, and that they're only meant to stay at home.



EFFORTS TO FIGHT INEQUALITY

- In 2010, the European Union opened the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in Vilnius, Lithuania to promote gender equality and to fight sex discrimination. In 2015 the EU published the Gender Action Plan 2016–2020.
- Gender equality is part of the national curriculum in Great Britain and many other European countries. By presidential decree, the Republic of Kazakhstan created a Strategy for Gender Equality 2006–2016 to chart the subsequent decade of gender equality efforts. Personal, Social and Health Education, religious studies and Language acquisition curricula tend to address gender equality issues as a very serious topic for discussion and analysis of its effect in society.
- A large and growing body of research has shown how gender inequality undermines health and development. To overcome gender inequality the United Nations Population Fund states that, "Women's empowerment and gender equality requires strategic interventions at all levels of programming and policy-making. These levels include reproductive health, economic empowerment, educational empowerment and political empowerment.



GIRLS' ACCESS TO EDUCATION

- In many parts of the world, girls' access to education is very restricted. In developing parts of the world women are often denied opportunities for education as girls and women face many obstacles. These include: early and forced marriages; early pregnancy; prejudice based on gender stereotypes at home, at school and in the community; violence on the way to school, or in and around schools; long distances to schools; vulnerability to the HIV epidemic; school fees, which often lead to parents sending only their sons to school; lack of gender sensitive approaches and materials in classrooms. According to OHCHR, there have been multiple attacks on schools worldwide during the period 2009–2014 with "a number of these attacks being specifically directed at girls, parents and teachers advocating for gender equality in education". The United Nations Population Fund says-
- „About two thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women. Lack of an education severely restricts a woman's access to information and opportunities. Conversely, increasing women's and girls' educational attainment benefits both individuals and future generations. Higher levels of women's education are strongly associated with lower infant mortality and lower fertility, as well as better outcomes for their children.”



INFORMING WOMEN OF THEIR RIGHTS

- While in many countries, the problem lies in the lack of adequate legislation, in others the principal problem is not as much the lack of a legal framework, but the fact is that most women do not know their legal rights. This is especially the case as many of the laws dealing with women's rights are of recent date. This lack of knowledge enables to abusers to lead the victims (explicitly or implicitly) to believe that their abuse is within their rights. This may apply to a wide range of abuses, ranging from domestic violence to employment discrimination. The United Nations Development Programme states that, in order to advance gender justice, "Women must know their rights and be able to access legal systems".



EFFECT OF GENDER INEQUALITY ON HEALTH

- Social constructs of gender (that is, cultural ideals of socially acceptable masculinity and femininity) often have a negative effect on health. The World Health Organization cites the example of women not being allowed to travel alone outside the home (to go to the hospital), and women being prevented by cultural norms to ask their husbands to use a condom, in cultures which simultaneously encourage male promiscuity, as social norms that harm women's health. Teenage boys suffering accidents due to social expectations of impressing their peers through risk taking, and men dying at much higher rate from lung cancer due to smoking, in cultures which link smoking to masculinity, are cited by the WHO as examples of gender norms negatively affecting men's health. The World Health Organization has also stated that there is a strong connection between gender socialization and transmission and lack of adequate management of HIV/AIDS.



WHY IS GENDER EQUALITY IMPORTANT?

- Gender equality is about ensuring that women are not treated as inferior beings to men. This means that women should have the same access, rights and opportunities as their male counterparts. It's essential for both sexes because it has many positive ramifications on the individual level, society at large, business world, political scenario and world peace efforts.
- When women are treated as unequal beings, they're limited to low-paying jobs with little responsibility and less control over what happens in their lives. They don't have an opportunity to achieve their potential or make decisions for themselves because someone else got there first and blocked them from the path they wanted to take.
- And when you consider that half of the population consists of women who could be contributing so much more if given the chance, it becomes clear that the whole world suffers from lesser minds.



HOW CAN WE STOP GENDER INEQUALITY?

- The first step towards achieving this goal is to better understand the root of the problem, and what it means for women to be considered equal with men.
- Education is a key factor when it comes to stopping gender inequality. Students should learn about these problems from a young age because this will prevent the problem from becoming a greater issue in the future. By providing better education to women, we can allow them to achieve their potential and increase their chances of being successful in society.
- By learning about this topic and understanding what it means for women to be considered equal with men, we're able to take an important step forward. We should all try our best to combat gender inequality whenever possible because this will create a better future for everyone .

