

International Women's day and Gender Equality Update

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Last week celebrated International Women's Day and Mother's Day in the UK – it has been a very eventful year for women.

[#MeToo](#), [#TimesUp](#) and [#drawaline](#) campaigns have made a real push to promote equality for women and narrow the gender pay gap. It has been 100 years since some women got the vote in the United Kingdom. Along with this celebration, other steps have been taken this year, including Saudi women being allowed to drive and attend football matches.



Women across the globe celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) in many ways. In Spain, many women went on strike to emphasise just how essential they are in day-to-day – roles. Prominent women in the news were absent from their programmes and mothers were interviewed saying how, "Today, we will let the men do it all."

Also, the publication of the BBC's 'most influential women' list was released – the BBC 100 Women Challenge names 100 inspiring women around the world every year. On March 8th 2018 BBC 100 Women produced the influential stories of many important women.

The Irish government finalised the referendum on whether abortion should be legal, and the British royal family were promoting STEM careers for women. Gender equality really moved forward this year:

In 1st January 2018 in Iceland, it was made illegal to pay women less than men.

There have been big movements against sexual harassment of women across the world.

Last year in New Zealand, the Prime Minister became the second ever to announce they are pregnant whilst serving (Benazir Butto was the first – in Pakistan).



Only 14/200 leaders in government are women – immense progress is being made, however there is still have a very long way to go before women will be completely equal to men.

However, men don't have the benefits of equality either: they get 63% longer sentences than women for the same crime, 80% of all suicides are men and 71% of homeless people are men.

We need to keep raising awareness of these issues; we should encourage women into leadership and STEM careers in order to promote gender equality for everyone.