



SUOMI
FINLAND



INTERNATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY PRIZE



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PRIZE**

FINLAND LAUNCHES THE INTERNATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY PRIZE

Gender equality is a core value of Finland. It has been essential in shaping and defining the way we have built our nation to achieve the success of today.

To celebrate Finland's 100th anniversary of independence in 2017, the Government of Finland decided to establish the first International Gender Equality Prize. The objective of the prize is to promote gender equality around the world and to support discussions on equality.

The prize will be awarded to a person or organisation working to advance and defend equality. The recipient will identify a cause, an innovative endeavour or action to which the prize money will be granted. In 2017 the amount of the prize is EUR 150,000.

The first recipient of the award will be selected by an independent jury in autumn 2017. The prize will be awarded in cooperation with the City of Tampere.

FINLAND IS A GENDER EQUALITY PIONEER

Finland was the first country to grant full political rights to women in 1906. For more than 100 years women have had active roles in working life and decision-making. Our rise to the top of all financial, social

and ecological ratings is based on equality.

Finland is a world leader in creating an equal society for all. We hope that our experience will act as an example to others.

TODAY WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT:

42% of Members of Parliament are women

Women account for approximately **one-third** of Finland's entrepreneurs, a high share in comparison with other EU countries

49% of all employed in Finland are women

In the Finnish Foreign Service about **45%** of ambassadors are women and over **50%** of the 560 diplomats are women

WE HAVE RECEIVED THESE ACCOLADES:

2nd most gender-equal country in the world (The Global Gender Gap, 2016)

Mother's wellbeing rated 2nd best in the world (Save the Children, 2016)

Best primary education in the world (Global Competitiveness Report, 2016–2017)

Most effective country at utilising human talent (World Economic Forum)

2nd best country in the world to be a girl (Save the Children, Girl's Opportunity Index, 2016)

140 YEARS OF GENDER EQUALITY IN FINLAND

1878 Equal hereditary rights for men and women

1882 Women attain the right to complete a university degree, with special authorisation

1906 Finnish women attain full political rights

1926 First woman minister in Finland – **Miina Sillanpää** appointed as Deputy Minister for Social Affairs

1937 Maternity Grants Act

1943 Statutory school meals introduced

1944 Act on Prenatal and Child Health Clinics

1961 Usage of the contraceptive pill approved

1971 Decriminalisation of homosexual acts

1972 Council for Gender Equality (TANE) established

1973 Act on Children's Daycare comes into effect

1985 Act on Child Home Care Allowance – the terms maternity, paternity and parental leave are confirmed

1987 Act on Equality between Women and Men adopted

1990 Elisabeth Rehn appointed as the first woman Minister of Defence in the world

1990 **Children under the age of 3** obtain the subjective right to municipal day care



2000 Tarja Halonen elected as the first woman President of Finland

2007 For the first time, over 40% of MPs are women; women in the majority in the Government (60%)

2015 Marriage Act amended to be gender-neutral; non-discrimination of gender minorities included in the Equality Act

2017 Finland establishes the International Gender Equality Prize

genderequalityprize.fi
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Photos: Boys / Riitta Supperi, Keksi, Finland Promotion Board
Parliament House and Mrs Miina Sillanpää: Helsinki City Museum



PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
FINLAND