



October 2020

Gender equality is one of the European Union's core values and it has committed to 'gender mainstreaming', meaning that, in principle, all EU policies must take both women's and men's perspectives into consideration. However, much more work needs to be done to achieve gender equality, as this year's reviews of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action have shown. The United Nations is now warning that the Covid-19 pandemic could reverse global gains in gender equality, just when the international community was set to provide new impetus in this area. The EU, which launched an ambitious new five-year gender equality strategy in March, faces similar risks. Internally, the key challenge for the EU and its Member States will be to retain or develop the capacity to address persistent gender inequalities and potential gendered impacts of new challenges, such as climate change and digitalisation, while also ensuring a gender-sensitive approach to the Covid-19 recovery that avoids exacerbating inequalities.

[The Beijing Platform for Action – 25 year review and future priorities \(and Infographic\)](#)

Briefing by Rosamund Shreeves, February 2020

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is considered the most comprehensive global policy framework for the rights of women. Its concrete measures and measurable outcomes across a range of issues affecting women and girls are regularly monitored and give an indication of progress towards gender equality, both globally and in the EU.

[Towards a more resilient Europe post-coronavirus: Capabilities and gaps in the EU's capacity to address structural risks: Promoting gender equality](#)

Study, European Parliamentary Research Service with the Directorates-General for Internal Policies (IPOL) and External Policies (EXPO), October 2020

The pandemic has hit at a pivotal moment, when the EU has committed to refocus on combating gender inequalities. Emerging evidence shows that lockdowns have led to an increase in violence against women, a widening of the gender divide in unpaid care work and potentially long-term impacts on women's paid work and incomes. These are all areas where the EU and the Member States have, or could further develop, their capacities and when consistent application of gender mainstreaming tools could make a real difference to outcomes.

[Gender mainstreaming in the EU: State of play](#)

'At a glance' note by Rosamund Shreeves, January 2019

When the European Union endorsed 'gender mainstreaming' as its official policy approach to gender equality, it was seen as a potentially revolutionary means of accelerating progress towards equality. Two decades on, concerns remain about fragmented implementation across policy areas and institutions at EU and national levels.

[Women in politics in the EU: State of play](#)

Briefing by Rosamund Shreeves and Martina Prpic, with Eulalia Claros, March 2019

The EU has committed to achieving gender balance in political representation. Since EU policies can influence the lives of women and men in different ways, it is important that both sexes have equal representation in posts that can make a difference.

FOLLOW EPRS



<http://epthinktank.eu>



@EP_thinktank



european parliamentary research service



EPINFOGRAPHICS/EPRS



european parliamentary research service

Women in parliaments

Infographic by Martina Prpic, Giulio Sabbati and Samy Chahri, February 2020

This infographic shows the proportion of women in parliaments around the world, compares representation of women in national parliaments and the European Parliament (EP) and shows the proportion of women in the EP by political group. It also gives an overview of female Members in the EP by Member State and the gender quotas applicable to the 2019 elections.

Women in regional and local government: still a long way to achieve parity

Briefing by Vasileios Margaras, March 2020

Local and regional government ought to constitute an advantageous sphere for women: a space where they can easily participate in decision-making without having to sacrifice their multiple family, social and career roles. Nevertheless, data show that it is not always easy for women to participate in these structures.

Teaching: A woman's world

Infographic by Ivana Katsarova and Samy Chahri, March 2020

In all EU countries, men dominate certain professions, such as engineering and technology. In contrast, a number of jobs are still considered to be for 'women only'. Teaching is marked by a sharp and growing gender gap. In 2017, 72 % of the nearly 6 million people working as school teachers in the EU were women.

Gender equality in the EU's digital and media sectors

Infographic by Giulio Sabbati, Martina Prpic and Rosamund Shreeves, March 2018

The digital revolution is also a social process, and one which is not gender neutral. It can be a way for women to access new opportunities or it can reinforce existing gender inequalities. Media monitoring shows that there has been progress, but women continue to be under-represented as producers of media content and under- and misrepresented in media coverage.

Women in film: Still fighting the celluloid ceiling

Infographic by Ivana Katsarova and Samy Chahri, February 2020

Like the media, cinema has an important influence on societal norms, values and attitudes. Yet gender stereotypes still shape the way that women are represented, as illustrated in their depiction on screen. Increasing the presence of women in key positions in the film industry could help to ensure that on-screen stories are more reflective of women's lives and perspectives.

Violence against women in the EU: State of play

Briefing by Rosamund Shreeves and Martina Prpic, November 2019 (update forthcoming in November 2020)

Violence against women is a violation of human rights and a form of gender-based discrimination. It takes many forms and has a major impact on victims and the society. Estimates of the scale of the problem are alarming. The EU is tackling the issue in various ways, but has no specific legislation. Parliament's efforts have focused on strengthening EU policy in the area.

eprs@europarl.europa.eu | www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank (Internet) |

www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu (Intranet)

You can access this Topical Digest online at the website below,
or by scanning the QR code:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/TD_Gender_equality_2020_final.pdf



FOLLOW EPRS



<http://epthinktank.eu>



@EP_thinktank



europaian parliamentary research service



EPINFOGRAPHICS/EPRS



europaian parliamentary research service