

# Women's rights history in Latvia.

Ventspils secondary school № 3  
11th grade students.

# History of Latvia

## German period, 1201–1561

- Bishop Albert of Riga founded Riga in 1201, and gradually it became the largest city in the southern part of the Baltic Sea.
- Livonian Confederation was established in 1207. It consisted of various territories that belonged to the Church and Order.
- In 1561 the Livonian Order ceased to exist.

# History of Latvia

## Russian Empire

- In 1700 the Great Northern War between Sweden and Russia started largely because Peter the Great wanted to secure and enlarge Russian access to the Baltic ports. In 1710 Russians conquered Riga.
- Latvia was part of the Russian Empire more than 200 years.

# History of Latvia

## Modern Latvia

- The Latvian People Council on November 18, 1918 proclaimed the Independence of Republic of Latvia.
- At the same time was made a decision to give women the equal election rights.



It must be said, however, that in the territory of Latvia women first took part in municipal elections in 1905, moreover, women not only voted, but also were elected. Their proportion was relatively small - just over five percent.

In 20th century women elected their own passports, freedom of living, opportunity to receive higher education, the freedom to manage the property, greater rights to divorce and equal pay for men for the same work done.



# Constitutional Assembly of Latvia

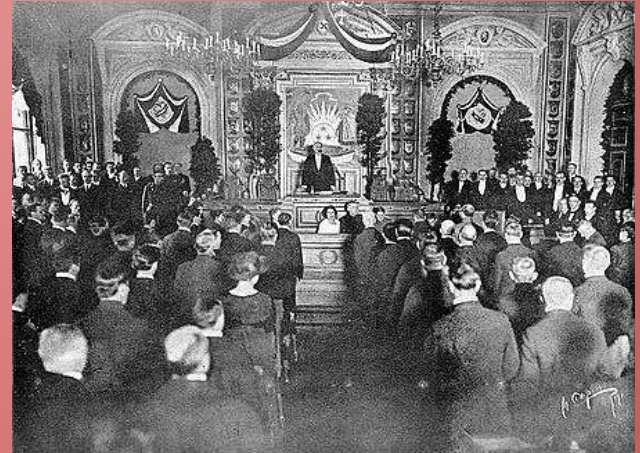
Constitutional Assembly of Latvia was independent Latvia's first elected legislative body.

Its main task was creating the constitution of Latvia - Satversme, which is still in effect to this day.

The speaker of Assembly was Jānis Čakste, who later became the first President of Latvia.

The assembly functioned from May 1, 1920 until November 7, 1922 when the 1st Saeima convened.

From 164 elected members 6 were women.



Klāra Kalniņa (1874-1964) – was a Latvian feminist, suffragette, editor and politician, a long-time member of the Latvian Social Democratic Labour Party (LSDLP).



Valērija Seile (1891-1970) – was a Latvian politician, teacher, historian, librarian and writer.

Apolonija Laurinoviča  
(1886-1967) – was a  
Latvian politician, a deputy  
of the constituent assembly  
in Latvia, a representative of  
Latvian Countrymen Party.



Zelma Cēsniēce-Freidenfelde  
(1892-1929) - was a Latvian doctor  
and politician. She was a deputy of  
the constituent assembly, a member  
of the “National Centre”.





Berta Vesmane (1878 – 1941) – was a public character, a member of the revolutionary events in Latvia, a deputy of the constituent assembly and a member of the Latvian Social Democratic Labour Party (LSDLP).

# Aspazija



- Latvian writer and politician was born on 16 March, in 1865.
- The full name was Johanna Emīlija Lizete Rozenberga, but then – Elza Pliekšāne.
- She wrote her first poems at the age of 14.
- Aspazija fell in love with Rainis (the real name was Jānis Pliekšāns).
- Nowadays, she is known not only as a writer, but also as a feminist and activist of struggle for women's rights.

# Ivande Kaija

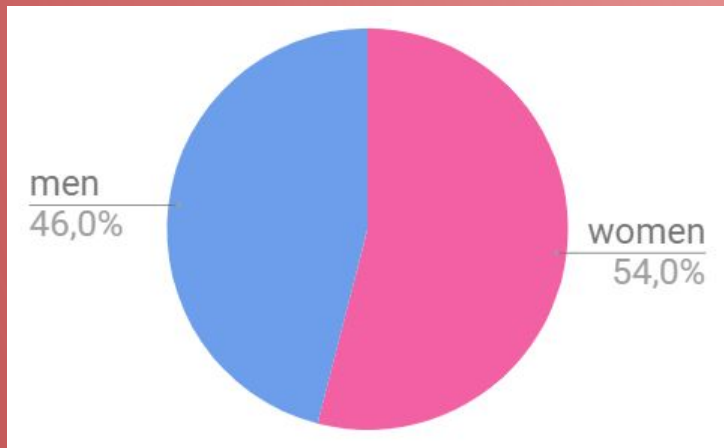
- Was born on 13 October in 1876.
- She participated in the creation of the Latvian Association of Women, and also organized the charity “Golden Fund”, where women donated their family jewelry.
- She continued to write and work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- She wrote about family and love.



# Some facts about women and men in Latvia.

government  
81 19

Men often visit sports events.



Women often visit cultural events.



average age

40

45

lifetime

70

79

higher education

25%

45%

(working men/women)

profession

builder

teacher

doctor

social services

# International women's day.

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 every year. It is a focal point in the movement for women's rights.

International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political.



Thanks for your  
attention!

