



EDGE – EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, GENDER, EDUCATION

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Topic: Historical Background

Women in Politics

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- There is an amazing number of historical documents which certify the affirmation of an extensive emancipation movement of the Romanian women, starting in the middle of 19th century, at the same time with political and social orientations which were like in the developed Western countries.
- At the beginning of the First World War, the first important step to the unification of political feminist movement was made by setting up The Union of the Romanian Women from Austria-Hungary (Brasov, 1913). To this Union, over 100 organizations of women from all over Romania would join, in the next decades.

- The National Council of Romanian Women (constituted in 1921, in Bucharest) had the most important role in the coordination of these activities. It was affiliated to the International Council of Women.
- By its actions, the National Council of Romanian Women contributed to the acquirement of some important civil and political rights for women (the right to vote and eligibility in local councils, in 1928, then in parliament, in 1938).
- The efforts of feminist movements were not in vain. Just like in the well-developed countries, in Romania, step by step, women made their presence felt in the social life, in economy and politics.
- Starting with this period, more and more Romanian women have remained in history.

Outstanding personalities

Eugenia de Reuss-Ianculescu

(1865 - 1938), writer and journalist, is the promoter of important actions meant to train women from Romania for the international movement of the first decade of the 20th century to obtain the right to vote for women.

In 1911 she creates *Women's Rights Society*. The magazine attracts around it people of culture and political leaders, supporters of the acquirement of women's equal rights with men. It contributes to Parliament's decision in women participating in the local council elections.



Sofia Chrisoscoleu, (1839-1861), endowed with a special intelligence and a prominent talent of a journalist, was very young when she started the movement for the unification of the Romanian Principalities.

Sofia asked women to enter the country's renewal movement, the only possible way to emancipate them.

She was involved in creating a modern rural and urban education network.

From her modest resources she opened a girls' school and a boarding school in Fălticeni.



- After 1989, when Romania moved from the totalitarian communist regime to the democratic political regime, women's involvement in political life has increased, they are serving as mayor, secretary of state, minister, parliamentary or Euro-parliamentary and even prime minister.
- Now, in Romania, women have the same rights as men, they are involved, accepted and respected in activities that were once only for men (army, police, aviation, transport).
- The only supersonic pilot woman in Romania, 28 years old –

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