LESSON THEME: WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

**Overview**

The achievement of the SDGs will be impossible without global gender equality. Conceptually, gender equality runs through all of the Goals but is enshrined in Goal 5. This lesson aims to increase students' awareness of gender inequality in New Zealand. Students will assess the status of New Zealand women in the past and consider how and where gender inequality continues to persist. Personal reflection will also be shared in the classroom to enhance students' awareness of the diverse array of backgrounds that students come from.

**Relevant Goals**

Gender inequality links across all SDGs, but Goal 5: Gender inequality; Goal 10: Reduced inequalities; Goal 17: Peace, Justice and Institutions are particularly relevant.

**Lesson Objectives**

1.Deepen students' knowledge about the evolution of the role of women in society

2.Improve critical thinking by considering whether gender inequality continues to exist in New Zealand

3.Enhance students' personal understanding and awareness of diversity in the classroom

**Key Competencies**

The activities in this lesson relate to at least one of the five Key Competencies that the New Zealand Curriculum aims to foster. The competencies that each activity relates to are indicated by icons beside the title of each lesson.

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| **Key competency** | **Icon** |
| "Thinking" is indicated by: |  |
| "Using language, symbols, and texts" is indicated by: |  |
| "Managing self" is indicated by: |  |
| "Relating to others" is indicated by: |  |
| "Participating and contributing" is indicated by: |  |

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Media analysis of women in New Zealand **145 minutes**

The history of women in New Zealand is characterized by an on-going legacy of women's rights movements, but the equal representation and treatment of women in many domains has still not yet been reached. By learning about how the status of women has evolved over time, students will enhance their understanding of why equality between genders and social groups is important.

Links to a variety of resources which portray women in New Zealand are provided below. As a class, watch and read some of the resources. Then, using examples from the resources, discuss how the role of women in the past differed from the present. Ask the class:

* How have expectations about women's work evolved over time?
* How has the participation of women in politics evolved over time?
* What challenges remain towards the equal treatment of women in New Zealand society?

Next, in pairs have students create a timeline on a piece of paper. Using the resources they have explored, can they make an approximate timeline of key moments in the history of women's rights? Extend the timeline into the future, and have students add when they would like to see current issues resolved or eliminated (such as equal pay or equal representation on company boards, etc).

Recommended: The National Library's collection on Women in Aotearoa, "Nothing Venture, Nothing Gain", and "Women in the House" are particularly insightful resources.

Resources:

* <https://teara.govt.nz/en/womens-movement/page-1>
* <https://teara.govt.nz/en/womens-movement/page-6>
* National Library's collection on Women in Aotearoa: <https://natlib.govt.nz/schools/topics/58c70d388d2a4e137fQQ2ce3/women-in-aotearoa>
* Women in work through the 20th century (1993): <https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/standing-in-the-sunshine-work-1993>
* Women in the House documentary (2018): <https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/women-in-the-house-2018?collection=pioneering-women>
* Women suffrage movement re-enactment (2012): <https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/votes-for-women-what-really-happened-2012?collection=pioneering-women>
* Nothing Venture, Nothing Gain - inquiry into women in politics (1974): <https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/inquiry-nothing-venture-nothing-gain-1974?collection=pioneering-women>
* Women in comedy: <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/funny-as-the-story-of-new-zealand-comedy/episodes/s1-e1>
* Female representation in the NZ film industry: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/film/98694781/women-miss-out-on-new-zealand-screens-top-jobs>