**Some basic background**

**1. Answer the following questions.**

1. Where and when was the First Women’s Day held?

It was held on the 28th of February in the year 1909 in New York.

2. Why was it celebrated?

Women asked for the right to vote.

3. Who was Luise Zietz?

She was a German socialist and politician who proposed the establishment of an annual Women’s Day.

4. What have been the ideas behind celebrating the International Women’s Day? Name several reasons.

- equal rights for women

- right to vote

- right to hold public office

­- against sexual harassment

- equal chances to get a good job

**2. Interview with a member of the family.**

Ask a member of the family (mother, father, grandmother, grandfather sister, aunt, etc.) the following questions. **Take notes of their answers.** You can lead the interview in German. **The answers, however, have to be written in English.**

Who did you interview? I interviewed my mother.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How long did the interview last? About 30 minutes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* What habits or behaviours are deemed as appropriate for men but inappropriate for women?

Men are allowed to be aggressive. A woman behaving in this way is said to be hysteric.

Men who have many girlfriends are deemed to be “real” men. In contrast, women may lose respect if they have a lot of boyfriends.

Men who speak loud and powerful are taken as being assertive, whereas women would be seen as intrusive.

* What jobs are often considered as appropriate for men but inappropriate for women?

There is the prejudice that women aren’t talented in technical jobs. All jobs related to children and education are seen as female jobs. In general leading positions are more often taken by men. But now there is a change.

* In your home, who does the cooking, cleaning and household chores?

I live in an “old fashioned” household. My mother is a housewife and does most of the cooking and cleaning.

* Are there more male or female managers and executives? Why do you think this is?

There are still more male managers and executives than female. This is because women decide to dedicate more time to their children. Moreover, maybe male managers tend to promote men.

* How would the world look like without women?

Maybe there would be more war and hate than with women as women are often more peaceful than men. Of course this applies not to every man or woman.

* Who do you think has life easier, girls or guys? Why?

I think there is no simple answer to this question.

In a way girls have life easier because they can decide to engage either more in family or in their jobs. Men however are expected to be successful in their jobs and they are often not respected by other men for staying at home and caring about their children.

* Are there different expectations for sons and daughters?

My mother has two sons so she can’t compare. But she says she would not have different expectations. She says that it is important for girls to have a good education and to be able to live independently.