

Taking Liberties

Task 1: Discussion

Look at the list of rights below. Which THREE are the most important for you? Why?

Being able to give your opinion openly

Being able to choose someone to marry

Being able to choose if and when you get married

Being able to choose and practice your religion

Being able to vote in an election

Being able to go out where you want to

Being free from violence and discrimination

Being able to buy a house

Having access to doctors / nurses

Being able to earn an equal salary as another person doing the same job

Being able to choose your career

Compare your answers in pairs /small groups. Then discuss these questions

- Do you think everyone has these rights? Why (not)?
- Why might some people have these rights and other people not have them? Talk about possible reasons.

Women's Rights in the UK

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The London Society for Women's Suffrage is formed to campaign for women's right to vote

..... ✂

It becomes illegal for bars / pubs not to serve women

..... ✂

The Sex Discrimination Act is promoted by women's rights groups and becomes law, making it illegal to discriminate against women.

..... ✂

Women are allowed to buy property in the same way as men

..... ✂

Same sex couples can get married

..... ✂

The National Health Service (NHS) is created and gives everyone free access to healthcare for the first time.

..... ✂

The first woman newsreader, Barbara Mandell, is on British TV

..... ✂

Women are allowed to keep their property and earnings when they marry

..... ✂

Marjorie Scardino becomes the first woman CEO of a major company, Pearson

..... ✂

Women gain the right to vote

..... ✂

The University of London becomes the first university to award degrees to women.

..... ✂

Men and women can share time off work after having a child

Task 2: Discussion

Discuss these questions in pairs / small groups:

- What do you think or imagine is difficult about being male in today's society? What do you think or imagine is difficult about being female in today's society? Why?
- Do you think there are inequalities in the way boys and girls, or men and women are treated where you live? Can you give some examples?
- Globally, women earn 77% of what men earn. In the UK, only 7% of CEOs of the 100 biggest companies are women. Why do you think this is?
- What needs to change to make sure that men and women enjoy equal rights?
- Emma Watson, (actor and UN Goodwill ambassador) has said "the more I have spoken about feminism the more I have realised that fighting for women's rights has too often become synonymous with man-hating". What does she mean by this, and do you agree?
- "Women's Rights are Human Rights" – why do you think people say this?

Women's Rights in the UK Timeline – answers with dates

The London Society for Women's Suffrage is formed to campaign for women's right to vote 1867
Women are allowed to keep their property and earnings when they marry 1870
The University of London becomes the first university to award degrees to women. 1880
Women are allowed to buy property in the same way as men. 1926
Women gain the right to vote 1928
The National Health Service (NHS) is created and gives everyone free access to healthcare for the first time. 1948
The first woman newsreader, Barbara Mandell, is on British TV 1955
The Sex Discrimination Act is promoted by women's rights groups and becomes law, making it illegal to discriminate against women. 1975
It becomes illegal for bars / pubs not to serve women 1982
Marjorie Scardino becomes the first woman CEO of a major company, Pearson 1997
Same sex couples can get married 2013
Men and women can share time off work after having a child 2015

