

TeachingEnglish lesson

SDG 5: Taking liberties

May 2021

Taking Liberties



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

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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.



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Women's Rights UK

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.

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

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Women's Rights UK - TIMELINE

*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 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***

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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?

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Thanks for attending the lesson