GENDER EQUALITY

A collection of resources compiled by the WorldWise Global Schools Team



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2. GENDER EQUALITY

INTRODUCTION – Why is this a Global Justice Issue?

"Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world." United Nations

Gender equality globally has progressed over the last decades: More girls are going to school, fewer girls are forced into early marriage, more women are serving in parliament and positions of leadership, and laws are being reformed to advance gender equality.

Despite these gains, many challenges remain: discriminatory laws and social norms remain pervasive, women continue to be underrepresented at all levels of political leadership, and 1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 report experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.

The roots of gender inequality are deeply rooted in womens' connection with nature outlined here http://www.windward.org/notes/notes70/walt7002.htm

Links to COVID-19:

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic threaten to reverse this progress. The coronavirus outbreak exacerbates existing inequalities for women and girls across every sphere – from health and the economy, to security and social protection.

Women play a disproportionate role in responding to the virus, including as frontline healthcare workers and carers at home. Women's unpaid care work has increased significantly as a result of school closures and the increased needs of older people. Women are also harder hit by the economic impacts of COVID-19, as they disproportionately work in insecure labour markets. Nearly 60 percent of women work in the informal economy, which puts them at greater risk of falling into poverty.

The pandemic has also led to a steep increase in violence against women and girls. With lockdown measures in place, many women are trapped at home with their abusers, struggling to access services that are suffering from cuts and restrictions. Emerging data shows that, since the outbreak of the pandemic, violence against women and girls – and particularly domestic violence – has intensified.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/

LOOKING AT THE THEME THROUGH THE WWGS SIX-STEP PROGRAMME

STEP 1: IDENTIFY TARGET GROUP

The themes outlined above can be explored in your subject areas or as part of a TY module.

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS

- English
- Business
- Home Economics
- Religious Education
- CSPE
- SPHE

SAMPLE LEARNING INTENTIONS

- Evaluate the impact of gender norms in the household and how this impacts access and control of resources.
- Evaluate the successes of alternative production models such as collectives and sustainable agriculture in effectively incorporating both the care of people and the environment.
- List the factors related to low-paid work that trap women into cycles of poverty and inequality.
- List actions the state can take to check women's rights are respected.
- Identify the inequality between state taxation rates for the poor and big companies.
- Identify the impact of excessive care workload on primarily women and girls from the poorest households, negatively affecting their livelihoods and wellbeing (locally and globally)
- Identify how unequal distribution of care work can lead to violation of rights.

STEP 2: CHOOSE A GLOBAL JUSTICE THEME

Global Goal 5 – Gender equality

Global Goal Indicators:
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation.
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriages and FGM.
5.4 Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work.
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

STEP 3: EXPLORE THE THEME

TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS

Resources

Choose to Challenge, Economist Foundation

Overview: A short video introducing an article on global gender equality. Provides short activities to explore the issue.

Link: https://economistfoundation.org/news/resource/choose-to-challenge/

Gender Equality Module, Plan International

Overview: A good introductory module on Gender. Explores our local to global understanding of stereotypes and gender roles within a human rights framework.
Content: Includes teacher led activities, videos and quizzes
Note: *Wouldn't necessarily show the video **'I'll take it from here'** as it can reaffirm stereotypes of women in 'Africa'. Unless you can spend time to unpack it with students. Suggest this film instead:* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_UjYOfmkn8
This Kahoot is also a good alternative to the one offered:
https://create.kahoot.it/share/gender-inequality/b3f066b8-f7d7-4f81-8a1f-e8d1992a3b78
Link:
https://www.plan.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Post-Primary-Gender-module-Dec-18.pdf

Redistributing care work for gender equality and justice – a training curriculum, Actionaid, Oxfam and IDS

Overview: A training curriculum is intended for women and men to understand and challenge the conventional view of the economy by putting care for people and the environment at the centre. Suitable for senior cycle.
Content: A training curriculum divided into five modules:

1. Care work and the economy
2. The care work context
3. Care work and the human rights based approach
4. Redistribution of unpaid care work for gender equality and justice
5. Ideas for action

Note: Not all activities may be relevant for a student group. Feel free to pick out activities that most suit your student group. Module 3 can be very useful for CSPE. Some good solution focus and lessons learned in section 4 with root causes focus on tax, budget and public services in 4.4.
Link:
https://developmenteducation.ie/media/documents/redistributing_care_work_final_0.pdf

Through the Looking Glass, National Woman's Council of Ireland

Overview: Designed as a resource for youth workers and teachers, there are lots of useful activities, tips, infographics and suggestions for actions which can be used in the classroom.
Content: Split into sections:

- What is gender?
- Getting going on Gender
- Taking Action
- Policy and Your Organisation

Note: *Takes a purely local focus so ensure contextualised in the broader discussions about gender globally. Identify the commonality between gender experiences globally. Also slightly more tailored for how inequality affects young women in particular.*
Link:
https://developmenteducation.ie/media/documents/TYF_Through-the-Looking-Glass.pdf

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Link:
https://developmenteducation.ie/media/documents/redistributing_care_work_final_0.pdf

Gender Equality Resource, Concern International

Overview: Provides definitions on the subject of gender, provides a number of activities to explore gender equality locally and globally with students including group work, debate, giant steps etc .

Link:
https://developmenteducation.ie/app/uploads/2018/12/Concern-11.-gender_equality_resource.pdf

How to be a Gender Equality Campaigner, Plan International

Overview: Tips for creating a gender equality campaign

Link: https://plan-international.org/girls-get-equal/how-be-gender-equality-campaigner

Short Video Clips

A global history of women's rights in 3minutes

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_UjYOfmkn8

The facts about gender equality and the sustainable development goals (2:24)

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-oc4GOoWOI

Sustainable Development Goals Explained: Gender Equality (2:45)

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGNsldobnR4

IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS on GENDER EQUALITY

Concern International - schools@concern.net

INFORMATION WEBSITES

Global Fund for Women

Offers: Shares the stories of women and groups who are fighting for gender equality, bringing attention to the critical issues that they face and show how they are creating change.

Link: https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/campaigns/

STEP 4: COLLABORATION AND RAISING AWARENESS

- Plan an awareness raising campaign for **International Women's Day**- March 8th. This could involve a two minute talk/collage/ newspaper article/ video celebrating all of the women activists and the change they have created in the world. The campaign could take place in your school but also in your community.
- Create a **short animation** celebrating women activists. An example of a basic video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usFpfoFYpzU (but do try and give a little more information!). Ask teachers to show this in classes.
- **Run a research and awareness raising project on the issue of how discriminatory policies, laws and economic structures can lead to gender inequalities locally and globally**. Educate and raise awareness of how gender discrimination can affect income inequalities. Move to action: Join or support campaigning or political organisations working to achieve equal opportunities for women.
- **Run a research and awareness raising project on why gender inequalities exist between societies, groups and individuals**. Raise awareness of gender discrimination and how it affects an individual's rights. Move to action: Run a campaign in your school or community for equal rights for everyone and against gender discrimination.
- **Run a research and awareness raising project on** the issue of unpaid care and domestic work for women in Ireland and around the world. Raise awareness of the issue in your school or community. Move to action: Join a union or organisation campaigning for improved recognition and value unpaid care and domestic work.

STEP 5: TAKING MEANINGFUL ACTION

Ideas for School Community Actions

Policy – create a gender equality policy for the school. Link in with key stakeholders (including a sample of students across year groups) in the school to create a policy specifically to ensure gender equality

Ideas for Local and National Community Actions

- **Review the National Women's Council Feminist Manifesto 2020** in the context of what you have learned about gender equality globally and which points are most important for you as young people. **Put together your own Feminist Manifesto.** Contact your local TDs to share this and ask what their commitments are to gender equality in Ireland.

- Write to Helen McEntee, Minister for Justice and Equality and ask her to legislate for an equal pay reform across all sectors. You could also sign-up to https://womenforelection.ie/ and see what events are coming up that you can help with. Email: helen.mcentee@oireachtas.ie

Ideas for European and Global Community Actions

- Join the international online campaign **#generationequality** to speak up against gender stigmatisation and advocate for gender equality globally

Links

Women's Role in the Age of Enlightenment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kp8fFbP5Nb8