



# The Equaliser News

We are shocked and saddened by the war in Ukraine. If you would like to know how you can help, [here](#) is a good summary. However, we decided to send out our newsletter again this month, some of you might need a break and want to read news on gender equality. In this newsletter, you can read more about Women in Power to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th. The Equaliser Foundation also invites everyone to its 2022 Women's Day Conference. The theme of this year's conference is Women's Leadership.

Recent and upcoming International World Days:

- March 1st: Zero Discrimination Day
- March 8th: International Women's Day
- March 20th: International Day of Happiness
- March 22nd: World Water Day
- March 24th: International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights, Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
- March 26th: Earth Hour

## International outlook on gender equality issues and developments

- [Colombia has decriminalised abortion](#) in the first 24 weeks of pregnancy, adding to a recent string of legal victories for reproductive rights in Latin America. The decision follows a series of rulings in Mexico and Argentina that have reduced barriers to abortion.
- The [first person in the UK has been sentenced to prison for domestic violence after being sprayed with SmartWater](#) - a forensic liquid which shows up under ultraviolet light. The technology is being tested by police forces to protect the safety of women.
- An interesting article regarding [where Olympic Games stand in terms of gender equality](#) highlights that at the last Winter Olympics in Beijing, 45 percent of women participated, compared to 48 percent at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo.
- According to the survey of GenderInSITE, [the representation of women in science and research is very low due to gender stereotypes](#). The aim of the survey is to raise awareness and to contribute to change in the representation of women in academia.
- [In Australia men are twice as highly paid as women](#). However, the gender wage gap has narrowed slightly, down 0.5 per cent since 2019-20, to 22.8 per cent. One reason is that only 21 percent of CEOs are women.
- There has been a historical constitutional change in Jordan: [The country declares non-discrimination and equality before the law for men and women](#). The official goal is to achieve complete gender equality by 2030.
- [The founder of Above & Education explains the importance of gender-neutral education for pupils](#). She explains that awareness raising in early years can help pupils to be more successful leaders in the future.
- [Marina del Pilar Avila has become the first woman governor of Baja California in Mexico](#). With her participation, the number of women politicians at the Congress became 50 percent.

- [The Dutch government has appointed a new commissioner to solve sexual violence-related issues and sexually inappropriate behaviour.](#) This initiative from the government can be a new path to decrease #MeToo-related cases.
- [China's birth rate fell for the fifth consecutive year to a new record low in 2021,](#) despite government efforts to encourage couples to have more children in the face of a looming demographic crisis.
- [The defence ministry of Ukraine has passed a legislation that obliges women to be part of the military.](#) The new legislation affects millions of women between 18 and 60. If the affected deny joining, they will face a high amount of fine.

## Gender equality in focus: Hungary

- Our colleague Burtejin Zorigt spoke to Vera Mérő on Klubrádió about gender equality in the workplace. You can listen to the conversation [here](#).
- [The Population Research Institute of KSH launched the Cohort '18 Hungarian Birth Cohort Survey](#) in 2017. The long-term, follow-up study provides an assessment of the situation of children growing up in Hungary and the factors influencing this.
- [A Hungarian man in Kemece \(Hungarian town\) abused and blinded his partner permanently.](#) This brutal incident could have been prevented if Hungary had ratified the Istanbul Convention. The Istanbul Convention would give tools to the victim, the police and the society.
- [No one has to be hit to be a victim of violence in a relationship.](#) It is enough to be emotionally and verbally bullied, abused and humiliated. This is the subject of an unusual Valentine's Day short film by the Ökumenikus Segélyszervezet.
- The sex camera industry exploits workers financially and psychologically. You can listen to the podcast about this [here](#).
- A female police officer argued that she was raped by her own colleagues. However, [the case was recently closed for lack of criminality](#).
- [It took more than two years for the prosecution to bring charges against Bernadett Orosz's brutal abuser.](#) The case of Bernadett Orosz shows the most serious shortcomings of the Hungarian victim protection system.
- [Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation has conducted research regarding sexual assault of men and boys in Hungary.](#) The research highlights that the sexual exploitation of men and boys is still counted as taboo and even the professionals can misread sexual violence against men because of gender stereotypes.
- [BME University has established its own Gender Equality Plan](#) for 2022-2025. The main goal of this plan is to increase the number of women engineers and nature scientists. The official agenda is to introduce gender equality into private, public and decision-making fields.

### Programs

- What is at stake? What do the parties offer women voters in 2022? A roundtable discussion is organised by the CEU Bibó Free University on Thursday March 3rd, 2022, 5-7 pm. Read more about the event [here](#).
- The NEM! - Nők Egymásért Mozgalom is organising a [Women's Day mini-festival](#) to discover together what Hungarian women need instead of flowers, as part of their ongoing #legyenlátható campaign.
- This year, [Várkert Bazaar will again be presenting several open-air exhibitions at its venues, the first of which will be the jubilee work of Ágnes Nagy Nemes.](#) The work of the poet, who was born 100 years ago, will be on display on the south panorama terrace until April 8th.

## Women in Power

The need for more representation of women in politics is undeniable. Women's leadership and decision-making positions are the true indicators of democracy. In 2021, a slight increase emerged in women's political representation. For example, [more women became the Head of State and Government in 2021 compared to 2020](#). However, the numbers are far from ideal.

In light of International Women's Day and the upcoming Hungarian general elections, I find it very important to remember all of those powerful women in politics who have achieved shifts for providing more representation and opportunities for other women. These remarkable women have set an example for future generations to follow their path and step into politics. As a glimmer of hope and a tiny inspiration, here are the most powerful women in international politics:

Angela Merkel became the first woman chancellor of Germany in 2005. After several successful elections, in 2021 she decided to leave the political podium. As the head of the Christian Democratic Party, Angela Merkel was questioned several times regarding her views about feminism. [She did not declare herself as a feminist only at the end of her governance](#). However, Angela Merkel had achieved more regarding equality than all previous chancellors altogether. In 2015, both parents could share or split 36 months of paid leave after birth or adoption until the age of eight. This policy resulted positively in the parental leave of men, which increased from 3 percent in 2009 to 36 percent in 2015. By 2018 the percentage of women who were paid labor engagement had risen to 12 percent. Angela Merkel has not only fought for gender equality on the national level, but she also raised discussions regarding unequal wages at the European level. In one of her last interviews, Merkel admitted her devotion to feminism: ["Essentially, it's about the fact that men and women are equal, in the sense of participation in society and in life in general. And in that sense, I can say: 'Yes, I'm a feminist.'" After the Merkel era, we see numerous women politicians such as the Foreign Minister from the Green Party, Annalena Bearbock, or Ines Haertel, who became the first Eastern German woman to have a seat at the Federal Constitutional Court in 2020. These women will likely continue to inspire other women.](#)

Continuing the list of successful women at the local level, one of the greatest gender-related achievements in Hungary was done by Slachta Margit. [Slachta Margit was the first woman representative in the Hungarian parliament](#). Her political affiliations were concerning social and political rights. Under her political career, women had the right to vote under the condition of national language knowledge and literacy. Slachta Margit devoted her political career to women's rights. From this deliberation she established the Christian Woman Camp (Keresztény Női Tábor). Her main program concentrated on emancipation rights. During the Second World War and the aftermath of other political conflicts she could not maintain the existence of the party. She emigrated to Austria and to the United States later on.

[Ada Colau is the current Mayor of Barcelona](#). She is the first woman Mayor of the city. The Mayor highlighted the local and international importance of gender equality. Since she became Mayor in 2015, her political views have concentrated on gender- and LGBTI-related challenges. Colau states that: ["We need to bring feminist policies to all spheres of government, from the budget to urban planning, to cultural policies to achieve parity in programming"](#). Colau states that it is very important to reflect on invisible work and gender-based violence [with special regard that under the COVID-19](#)

[Pandemic, gender-based violence and invisible work have doubled.](#)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the second member of the US Supreme Court. Before her judgeship, she was a civil rights litigator in the 1970s where she won many cases regarding gender discrimination. [In her cases, the most important strategy was the implementation of gender discrimination instead of sex discrimination.](#) In her strategies, she attempted to pressure the all-male Supreme Court about gender stereotypes throughout men-related discriminatory factors. These cases later became precedents to other cases that changed the wave of gender equality positively. She achieved the creation of several gender equality-related laws. For example, she forced the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, which does not allow employers to discriminate against their employees because of their reproductive and gender rights. In 1996, state schools segregated women from co-ed school systems. In the case of United States v. Virginia, the court allowed women to join the same school program as men did. Ginsburg also fought for the social security rights of men and jury seats for women counterparts. In 2009, she added in USA Today that: [“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception”.](#)

All the four successful women, in accordance with their own abilities, created a massive change in national and international politics. But these names are not the only ones that can be mentioned here. There are many successful women in the world whose stories have not been told yet and there are many changes that should be made towards gender equality. But it is just the beginning, and it will continue. I want to wish with these closing remarks an empowering and inspirational happy International Women's Day to all our readers.

If you liked the article, here are some book and film recommendations on the subject: [The Chancellor](#) by Kati Marton, [Femocracy](#), [Slachta Margit beszédei a Magyar parlamentben](#), [Ada for Mayor](#), [My Own Words](#) by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, [On the Basis of Sex](#).

## Upcoming activities and events by Equaliser Foundation

On Friday, March 4th, from 8.30 a.m., the next event in the [HR Group's series of professional events will take place](#). The first half of the meeting will be introduced by a presentation by Dr. Julia Füredi (Sparq). Combining decades of HR and entrepreneurial experience, she will now join us as an organisational psychologist.

On March 8th, 2022, the Equality Foundation will celebrate International Women's Day by giving women real value #insteadofflowers: the theme of our 2022 Women's Day Conference is Women's Leadership. Why are there still so few women leaders? What can we do to get more women in leadership? How can we promote female leadership? Because in a peaceful, happy, prosperous society, all groups are represented in leadership. You can register [here](#) and read more about the event on our [social media](#).

### Introducing the lead article's contributor

Dóra Tóth is a 3rd-year student of IBS where she is studying Business in Diplomacy. She wrote her theses regarding the international and European legal framework of equality and non-discrimination law. She is the leader of the Equaliser Newsletter Project and President of the



Equaliser Club. She works for the International Diplomatic Student Association (IDSA) as a podcast coordinator. She previously worked as a student journalist where she wrote political, societal, and psychological articles. She has a deep interest in international relations, gender equality, politics, and law. She would like to continue her studies in the international legal field. She believes that equal rights should be provided to every human being regardless of their gender.

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