



Gender Equality in Iceland

November 1st 2019

Who is ruling the world?





Gender Equality



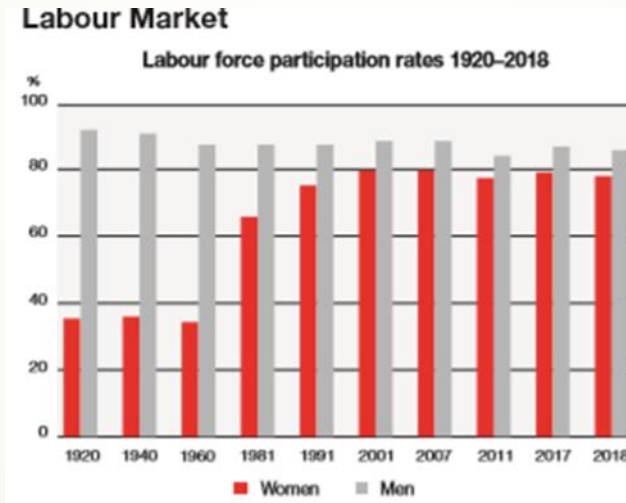
- ▶ Iceland has topped the *World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index* for the last ten years.
- ▶ The main reasons are equal rights and equal opportunities in education, equal access to health care, as well as women's success for the last 37 years in increasing their political power.
- ▶ The weakest side is gender equality in the labour market.
- ▶ Iceland is not yet a Women's Paradise!



Gender Equality

- Actions, lobbying and pressure from the Women's Movements!
- Legislations – Quotas.
- Institutional mechanisms – The Centre for Gender Equality, The Council for Gender Equality, the Complain Committee and the Office of the Prime Minister.
- Negotiations on the labour market, positive duties.
- Affirmative actions
- International obligations

The Labour Market





Laws and Action Plans

- The Constitution – Women and Men are equal in every respect
- The Act on Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities – revised four times. Articles on positive duties on the Labour Market
- The Governments four years Action Plan
- Action Plan on fighting Trafficking in Women
- The Act on Parental Leave
- The Act on Marriage – same rights for all
- Laws to combat violence against women and children
- The Act on Social Security



Women's Actions – a few Stepping Stones

- The Red Stockings appear on the streets in 1970
- The Women's Strike in 1975
- Vigdís Finnbogadóttir elected president in 1980
- The Women's Alliance runs for local governments and parliament from 1982-1995.
- The Women's Strike repeated in 1985, 2005, 2010, 2016 and 2018.
- The Icelandic Feminist Association established in 2003
- 2015 Free the Nipple and Beauty Tips – young women enter the stage.
- 2017 #Meetoo in Iceland

The Red Stockings on May 1st 1970



The Women's Strike on October 24th 1975 – The UN Women's Year



The Women's Strike 2016



The Inauguration of Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, August 1st 1980



The Women's Alliance runs for local elections in 1982



The Women's Alliance protests 1984



Protests in 1988





Gender Equality

- Gender equality is a smart business!
 - It is a question of respecting human rights and creating a more equal, just and fair society!
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