

WOMEN'S STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY: HISTORY AND PRESENT

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Abstract

These theses reveal the main stages of women's struggle for equal rights and the problems they face today.

Keywords: women, equality, rights, equal rights, struggle.

Анотація

Публікація розкриває основні етапи боротьби жінок за рівність прав і проблеми, з якими вони сьогодні стикаються.

Ключові слова: жінки, рівність, права, рівноправ'я, боротьба.

Women have been fighting for equal rights since ancient times, and this has always been important for the development of society. From the past to the present, people who support equality at work, in government, and in life have faced challenges and successes. The history of the women's movement shows how women have stood up to prejudice and injustice, and by continuing to fight, they have made great progress. In today's society, the fight for women's rights remains important for gender equality, but it also provokes intense debate. This process is ongoing, affecting everything in our lives and contributing to a more just society [1].

Initially, women demanded at least work, not political rights or privileges. In 1789, women petitioned to have the crafts of sewing, spinning, weaving, and embroidery assigned to them. They wanted to work, not to displace or make men inferior. However, under the influence of Rousseau, the revolutionaries rejected women's right to gainful employment and social involvement, limiting their social contribution.

One of the founders of the women's rights movement is Mary Wollstonecraft. She describes the system of education for women in her book *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792). Mary Wollstonecraft proved that modern upbringing shapes "women's weaknesses". Another founder of the movement is the French writer Olympia de Gouges, who was a member of the Social Club and supported equal rights for women and men. Her demand for women's education led to the coeducation of girls and boys.

After the king rejected a petition to allow women to work, in October 1789, more than 8000 women protested, marching to Versailles to demand bread. However, the 1791 Constitution classified women as "passive" citizens, denying them political rights. In response, Olympia de Gouges for the first time proclaimed the equality of women and men before the law, creating the Declaration of the Rights of Women and Citizens.

The 18th century was the time of the first attempts to fight for equality, and in the 19th century came the "first wave of feminism" aimed at women's suffrage. The leaders of this movement were Harriet Taylor, Margaret Fuller, and Lucretia Mott [2].

John Stuart Mill advocated the notion of "full equality" between men and women, and society should evaluate people based on skills, not gender. He considered the superiority of men to be artificial and advocated for women's rights, recognizing them as a separate independent social group, but acknowledged the difficulties of combining work and family. In 1867, John Mill petitioned the government for women's suffrage, paving the way for a new movement. His ideas also became the basis for the suffragette movement.

In the 19th century, the first women's political organizations appeared, and suffragism became their main idea. A conference in Seneca Falls in 1848 adopted the Declaration of Sentiments, demanding gender equality and women's suffrage.

By the 20th century, women's movements had developed into strong associations that used marches, appeals, and public speeches to drive changes in laws. They were eventually joined by socialists, among whom

Clara Zetkin stood out. In 1910, she proposed to celebrate International Women's Day every year to show the struggle for women's rights.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution granted women the right to vote by the US Congress. English women received the right to vote partially in 1918 and fully in 1928. New Zealand was the first country to allow women to vote (1893). At the beginning of the 20th century, Finland and Norway joined the list. Women's political equality was recognized after the First World War in Germany, Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Turkey, Uruguay, and Thailand. France granted women the right to vote only after World War II in 1946, and Switzerland in the 1970s. In the 21st century, the problem of equality remains relevant for many Muslim countries [3].

Conclusion

Women's struggle for equality is a long and difficult journey filled with difficulties, courage, and steadfastness. For centuries, women have fought for the right to education, work, the right to vote in society, and voting rights, overcoming discrimination and social prejudice.

From the first petitions for the opportunity to work to gaining the right to vote and establishing women's political organizations, this path has been difficult, but women have made significant achievements. The women's movement has made great strides thanks to the courage and perseverance of prominent figures such as Mary Wollstonecraft, Olympia de Gouges, Clara Zetkin, and many others.

The world has changed and entered the new century more civilized, people have become more humane, thanks to their hard work. But, unfortunately, this struggle continues to this day, reminding us of the need for justice, equality and respect for every person, regardless of gender.

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