

Women to catch up with men's pay in 200 years

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There is still a long way to go before women achieve economic equality with men. Centuries, in fact. This is according to the recently-released annual Global Gender Gap

Report from the World Economic Forum. It said it would take more than 200 years before women and men worldwide have economic parity. The report found many areas in which women lag far behind today. One huge area is pay. Women around the world currently earn about 20-30 per cent less on average than their male counterparts. A factor contributing to this is the scarcity of women in management positions. The WEF said: "In the workplace, women still encounter significant obstacles in taking on managerial or senior official roles."

The World Economic Forum (WEF) found that the inequalities between the sexes had closed by only a small amount in the past year, since the last report was published. Researchers found that the largest gap between the sexes was in politics. It said: "Only 23 per cent of the political gap - unchanged since last year - has been closed, and no country has yet fully closed political empowerment gaps." Other wide gaps still exist in healthcare and education opportunities. The WEF said: "The equal contribution of women and men in this process of deep economic and societal transformation is critical. More than ever, societies cannot afford to lose out on the skills, ideas and perspectives of half of humanity."

Sources: nbcnews.com / thehill.com / theguardian.com

Writing

Companies and governments should be fined if there is inequality. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

a long way / equality / annual / 200 years / worldwide / lag behind / average / official / forum / amount / published / politics / country / gaps / contribution / lose / humanity

True / False

- a) It could be centuries before women achieve equal pay with men. T / F
- b) The Global Gender-Gap Forum produced a report. T / F
- c) Women earn around 25 per cent less than men worldwide. T / F
- d) There is a lack of women in senior management positions. T / F
- e) Inequalities between the sexes closed by a lot last year. T / F
- f) Researchers found the smallest gender gap to exist in politics. T / F
- g) The report said it was critical that women contribute equally to society. T / F
- h) The report says society can afford to lose out on the skills of humanity. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. achieve | a. equality |
| 2. annual | b. barriers |
| 3. parity | c. opinions |
| 4. lag | d. difference |
| 5. obstacles | e. yearly |
| 6. amount | f. completely |
| 7. gap | g. get |
| 8. fully | h. essential |
| 9. critical | i. number |
| 10. perspectives | j. fall behind |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why is the gender gap closing so slowly?
- c) Do men or women make better politicians?
- d) How angry should women be at the inequality?
- e) In what way would societies be better if equality was achieved?
- f) What would society be like if men were less equal?
- g) What countries do you know of that are unequal?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. There is still a long | a. lose out |
| 2. 200 years before women and men worldwide | b. senior official roles |
| 3. women lag | c. between the sexes |
| 4. encounter significant | d. critical |
| 5. taking on managerial or | e. way to go |
| 6. inequalities | f. far behind |
| 7. Other wide gaps still | g. of humanity |
| 8. societal transformation is | h. obstacles |
| 9. societies cannot afford to | i. have economic parity |
| 10. perspectives of half | j. exist |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why will it take 200 years for women to achieve equality?
- Why do women lag behind men in so many areas?
- What inequality between the sexes exists in your country?
- Should companies be fined for paying women less?
- Are men or women better managers?
- What obstacles do women encounter in the workplace?
- Would you prefer a male or female manager?

Spelling

- achieve economic qityauel with men
- aalnnu Global Gender Gap Report
- economic prytai
- their male unparrtocest
- the irccatsy of women in management
- women still encounter significant seslbcota
- inequalities between the seexs
- since the last report was bepuhsdil
- education tpotiurnoispe
- The equal cnborinttiou of women and men
- societal transformation is aticcilr
- ideas and vpireestcesp

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. a	4. j	5. b
6. i	7. d	8. f	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Pay

You think pay is the most important gender gap to be reduced. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as pressing to reduce. Also, tell the others which is the last of these that need addressing (and why): politics, education or sport.

Role B – Politics

You think politics is the most important gender gap to be reduced. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as pressing to reduce. Also, tell the others which is the last of these that need addressing (and why): pay, education or sport.

Role C – Education

You think education is the most important gender gap to be reduced. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as pressing to reduce. Also, tell the others which is the last of these that need addressing (and why): politics, pay or sport.

Role D – Sport

You think sport is the most important gender gap to be reduced. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as pressing to reduce. Also, tell the others which is the last of these that need addressing (and why): politics, pay or education.

Speaking – Gender Gaps

Rank these with your partner. Put the gender gaps that need addressing most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| • pay | • healthcare |
| • politics | • marriage |
| • education | • property |
| • management | • law |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.