

# Introduction to Women's Rights

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## THEME

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Women's Rights

## CONTEXT

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The activity plan accompanies the Women's Rights educational cards set created for the Just Now project.

It is advised that the students/participants be given some time to familiarize themselves with the Women's Rights educational cards, preferably using one of the advised activities or approaches suggested in the activity plan "Using the Timeline Method" developed by the JustNow team.

This activity plan could either precede, or follow the application of the timeline method activities, allowing for a more in-depth discussion and group reflection on the topic.

## GOALS

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- Introducing students/participants to the concept of women's rights, its historical context, key figures in women's rights movement;
- Helping learners gain an understanding of contemporary challenges in the domain of women's rights, globally as well as in their own country;
- Fostering active participation in critical reflection and dialogue about the topic of women's rights and gender equality.

## METHODOLOGY

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- Group discussion (using Socratic method)
- Small group work
- Presentations

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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- Learners gain a better understanding of issues relating to women's rights and gender equality
- Learners improve their critical thinking, collaboration, active listening and discussion skills

## MATERIAL & EQUIPMENT NEEDED

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- Access to the internet
- Women's Rights educational cards created in the JustNow project
- Flipchart paper and markers (for small posters for their presentations)

## Overview of activities (process)

**Duration:** 45 minutes

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### **Introduction: Group discussion (15 minutes)**

The educator initiates the workshop or class by mapping what the learners know about the topic and getting them to reflect about it. Below are some of the questions that can be used as a prompt for this initial group discussion:

- What are 'women's rights'?
- When you hear the words 'women's rights', what is the first thing that comes to mind? (free associations)
- What is 'gender equality'? How would you define it?
- Why is gender equality important for society?
- How did the women's rights movement develop historically – what were some of its main goals? What key successes did the movement achieve over time?
- What are some contemporary challenges that women face today in their pursuit of equality?

As the group participates, the educator uses the whiteboard (or flipchart paper) to record key points, insights and responses. The educator also guides the conversation, ensuring that different perspectives are explored and respected in the process.

### **Key Figures in Women's Rights: Small Group Work & Poster Presentation (25 minutes)**

Divide the group into smaller groups (ideally, 4 learners per group), and provide each group with one key figure to prepare a short presentation about. (Note: you can use the women showcased in the Women's Rights educational cards, or you can use additional ones that you would prefer them to focus on. For a list of inspirational women, worldwide, active in advancing gender equality and the position of women in society, see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_women%27s\\_rights\\_activists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_women%27s_rights_activists))

Each group should prepare a poster presentation about their women's rights activist, answering the following questions:

1. Who was (is) she? Provide brief biographical information.
2. What are her notable achievements/what is she known for?
3. How did/does her work contribute to advancing women's rights and gender equality?
4. Provide an inspiring quote by this women's rights activist.

Small groups are meant to use the internet for their research about their respective activists. Each group should have 10 minutes to prepare their poster (note: it is advised that individuals have different research tasks for e.g. one person works on question 1, another on question 2, etc.).

At the end, each group should share their insights and present their posters to the group, explaining how these individuals inspired change. The posters could be placed on the walls, and left there for a while as a gallery exhibit, after workshop/lesson concludes.

### **Conclusion: Takeaways (5 minutes)**

The lesson can conclude with educator asking the learners to each give one-sentence reflection on the class, stating what is something they learned, something that surprised them, or something that gave them food for thought.

The educator should briefly summarize some of the key points from the discussion, emphasizing the ongoing importance of women's rights in today's society and the need for continued advocacy.

## HOMEWORK IDEAS

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One activity that could result in an additional teaching or educational resource could be to assign each learner to research and create one or two educational cards about notable events, key figures, issues or organizations active in the women's rights and gender equality movement in your respective country. That way, the resulting cards would be highly localized, providing an excellent insight into the historical evolution and status of women's rights issues in a specific country.



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