



THE #METOO MOVEMENT AND THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL #5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

POSSIBLE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What impacts has the #MeToo movement had on different areas of women's rights like pay equality and education?
- What are the cultural roles/expectations assigned to girls and women that prevent them from accessing that same things as men?
- What are the barriers to women achieving full equality?
- What is the impact of increased gender equality on a country? In a community?

BACKGROUND

What is the difference between sex and gender? A person's biology, in most cases, determines their sex as either female or male. In contrast, gender is a social construct. Societies develop and maintain specific characteristics that define what it means to be a man or a woman. Although gender expectations vary by culture and change over time, they shape behaviors (gender norms), relationships within and between the sexes, family, and community (gender relations) as well as the roles men and women should assume in society (gender roles). It is also important to remember that gender is not confined to a binary identity of male and female.

These gender expectations create inequality because girls/women are assigned roles that prevent them from participating in and benefitting from cultural activities, institutions, and networks that promote self-determination and financial independence. Throughout the world, women lack access to one or more of the following: education, occupations, fair wages, and healthcare. Furthermore, because they often lack representation in government women face obstacles in changing or enforcing the laws that would reduce inequality.

The United Nations has stated that gender equality is a basic human right. In 2015 the United Nations created a set of 17 Sustainable Development goals for the entire world to work on achieving before 2030. Goal #5 on this list is to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls."

In addition to supporting gender equality for obvious ethical and moral reasons, the UN also supports equality because it directly correlates to economic stability. Individual countries are more stable when women are educated, have access to services and professional opportunities, and hold positions of power. Thus, equality creates a positive cycle where the whole country benefits.

Without the basic rights of safety and respect, it will be difficult for global communities to make progress in other areas of women's rights. So, this case study explores the continuing fight for women's rights through the case of the #MeToo movement that was founded in 2006 and grew exponentially and went global in 2017. The movement was founded in the United States by Tarana Burke to create a community of support and healing for young women of color who are survivors of sexual violence. It has evolved into a global hashtag movement that has brought awareness to the stories of people, especially women, who have experienced sexual violence. The hashtag was used almost 2 million times in 85 countries in less than 2 weeks when it grew in 2017.

The hashtag “Me Too” is now used by people all over the world to share their stories. The hashtag has also been translated in other languages, #YoTambién (“Me Too” in Spanish) being one of the most used. Some of these stories were bravely told by women who experienced violence from prominent people in Hollywood, celebrities, and politicians such as Harvey Weinstein, Louis C K, Al Franken, Bill Cosby, Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose, Aziz Ansari, Garrison Keillor, and Roy Moore. Many of these men were forced to resign from their jobs and positions, or had allegations against them brought back into the spotlight by the movement.

This movement has sparked conversations all over the world about the sexual harassment and violence women experience and has brought many mixed reactions from all people of all genders. The movement has also elevated the broader fight for women’s rights in a new and major way. The movement has casted a new lens on issues like the pay gap for women, education for women, and representation of women in politics and leadership positions. Many have critiqued the #MeToo movement for its lack of diversity and intersectionality in its fight, which this case study will also explore.

RESOURCES

Personal Stories

- [Me Too is a movement, not a moment \(TEDWomen\)](#)
- [Tarana Burke, Creator of The #MeToo Campaign, On Joining The Movement \(Bric TV\)](#)
- [The #MeToo stories you haven't heard: Meet the women speaking out in Nigeria \(CNN\)](#)
- [What's Missing from #MeToo and #TimesUp: One Indigenous Woman's Perspective \(Medium\)](#)

Art and Images

- [* Quiet No More - The Anthem of A March: "Quiet" by Milck \(Society of Sound\)](#)

- [* It Happened to Me Too \(Art Against Assault\)](#)

Articles

- [* 10 Powerful Women on How #MeToo Has Changed the Fight for Equal Pay \(TIME\)](#)
- [Women's marches organizers hope to keep building momentum \(Newsela\)](#)
- [MeToo Around the World \(The Washington Post\)](#)
- [Coverage: “#MeToo, Now What?” \(UN Women\)](#)
- [* In #MeToo era, women are campaigning with personal stories of sexual abuse and harassment \(NBC\)](#)
- [* International Women's Day 2022: History, marches and celebrations \(BBC\)](#)
- [We can't wait 267 years to achieve equal economic participation for men and women \(UNIDO\)](#)
- [21 Facts You Never Knew About International Gender Inequality \(Makers\)](#)
- [Women's Rights and National Security: A View From Latin America \(American Security Project\)](#)
- [Gender Equality: Facts or Alternative Facts \(Huffington Post\)](#)
- [7 Appalling facts that prove we need gender equality now \(Global Citizen\)](#)
- [#NotAllWomen: Intersectionality and the #MeToo movement \(UTS\)](#)

Data & Maps

- [#MeToo hashtag network visualization \(Medium\)](#)
- [Poll: Majority says #MeToo movement has helped address gender inequality \(NBC News\)](#)
- [Me Too Rising: A Visualization of the Data \(Google Trends\)](#)
- [Interactive Gender Equality Guide by Country \(BBC\)](#)
- [Women and Girls' Education Facts and Figures \(UNESCO\)](#)
- [Are we there yet?: Why intersectional-based statistics are crucial to achieve effective equality \(Young Feminist Europe\)](#)

Videos

- [The growing digital engagement around gender equality \(Google\)](#)
- [From #MeToo to #TimesUp: How undocumented women fit in the Women's Movement \(Chicago Tribune\)](#)
- [The Surprising Neuroscience of Gender Equality \(TEDx\)](#)
- [Panel of Men on the #MeToo Movement \(CBS\)](#)
- [#METOO, NOW WHAT? - Masculinity in Crisis? \(PBS\)](#)
- [Tarana Burke's mixed reaction to Me Too's popularity: “White people have never prioritized our pain” \(Salon\)](#)

Websites

- [* Me Too.](#)