

INTERNATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY PRIZE

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Finland has a long history of advocating and promoting gender equality both at home and around the world. In 1906, Finnish women became the first in the world to receive full political rights. Equal succession rights were introduced even earlier in 1878, and women have been entitled to complete university degrees since 1882. Throughout Finland's independence, women have served as leaders in all key positions, including President of the Republic and Prime Minister.

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Discussions about equality are always topical, especially today, even in Europe and other western countries. Equality brings opportunities to all societies around the world. This is why, to commemorate its 100 years of independence, Finland established the International Gender Equality Prize to keep discussions about equality alive and to improve the position of women and girls globally.

The decision to establish the prize was taken by the Finnish Government. It was awarded for the first time in autumn 2017 and after that it will be awarded every other year. The prize is awarded based on the recommendation of an independent prize jury.

RECIPIENT OF THE PRIZE

The recipient of the prize is a person or an organisation who has promoted gender equality in an internationally recognised way. There are no restrictions on the nationality of the recipient. The prize is a monetary award but it is not granted for the personal benefit of the recipient. Instead, the recipient identifies a cause or project that is aimed at strengthening the position of women and that will be the beneficiary of the prize amount. Anyone is welcome to propose a candidate to the prize jury for consideration. Details of the nomination process will be published at <u>https://genderequalityprize.fi/en/.</u>

