

WOMEN

LES FEMMES

the gender gap

le fossé entre hommes et femmes

female ['fi:meɪl]	du sexe féminin
women's status ['steɪtəs] in society	le statut, la position, la place des femmes dans la société
gender imbalance	le déséquilibre entre les sexes
gender inequalities	les inégalités entre les hommes et les femmes
gender war	la guerre entre les sexes
a (male) chauvinist ['ʃəʊvɪnɪst]	un phallocrate, un machiste
machismo	le machisme
misogyny	la misogynie
a misogynist	un misogyne
sexism	le sexisme
sexist prejudices	des préjugés sexistes
feminism	le féminisme
the Women's Movement, the women's rights movement	le mouvement des femmes, le mouvement pour les droits de la femme
to become emancipated	s'émanciper
to empower women	rendre les femmes autonomes

Le Deuxième Sexe (The Second Sex), published in 1949, is a major feminist work in which Simone de Beauvoir argues that women throughout history have been defined as the "other" sex, an aberration from the "normal" male sex. Her notion that "one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman" provides the basis for the distinction between 'sex', a biological characteristic, and 'gender', an aspect of identity which is gradually acquired.

a forced marriage / an arranged marriage	un mariage forcé / arrangé
a sham [ʃæm] marriage, a marriage of convenience	un mariage blanc
a dowry ['daʊəri]	une dot
polygamy	la polygamie
polygamous	polygame
female circumcision, female genital mutilation	l'excision
a battered wife	une femme battue
domestic violence	violence conjugale, familiale
to be disenfranchised	être privé du droit de vote
the right to vote	le droit de vote

Women were allowed to vote in 1893 in New Zealand, in 1917 in Canada and Russia, in 1918 in the UK, in 1920 in the US, in 1944 in France, in 1971 in Switzerland, in 2005 in Kuwait.

to become pregnant	tomber enceinte
women of childbearing age	les femmes en âge d'avoir des enfants
the (contraceptive) pill	la pilule (contraceptive)
to be on the pill	prendre la pilule
to go on maternity leave	partir en congé maternité
parental leave, career break	congé parental
to look after one's children	s'occuper de ses enfants
to bring up, to raise a child	élever un enfant
the upbringing of children, child rearing, parenting	l'éducation des enfants
school-age children	des enfants d'âge scolaire

Ms (pronounced [miz]) is used instead of *Miss* or *Mrs* before the last name of a woman, whatever her marital status (*qu'elle soit mariée ou non*). It is the contraction of *Mistress* and has existed since the 18th century. However it has been widely used since the 1970s only, when many women adopted it as a way of showing that they did not wish to be "owned" by a husband. Some women still prefer to be referred to as *Miss X* or *Mrs Y*, however. 'Ms.' is also the title of a well-known American feminist magazine.

a housewife	une femme au foyer, une ménagère
to do the housework	faire le ménage
to do the cooking / washing / washing-up / shopping	faire la cuisine / la lessive / la vaisselle / les courses
to do the vacuuming / to vacuum ['vækjʊm]	passer l'aspirateur (instead of hoovering)
domestic appliances [ə'plætəntsɪz]	les appareils ménagers
household chores [tʃɔ:ɪz]	les tâches ménagères

A **homemaker** (*femme d'intérieur*) is the word used to refer to a person, usually a woman, who manages a home, especially to make it a pleasant place to live in — it is synonymous with **housewife**. The notion of the **supermom** took shape in the 1970s, when large numbers of women started to work. It refers to a woman who has a full-time job and takes perfect care of her family and according to critics, it is more a myth than a reality. The expression **soccer mom** was coined (*inventée*) in the US during the 1996 presidential campaign to refer to a suburban middle-class housewife who drives her kids to and from soccer (*football*) practice and is therefore a devoted (*dévouée*) mother. Sarah Palin, who was John McCain's running mate in 2008, described herself as a **hockey mom** (a variant of soccer mom) to show she too was a devoted mother even if she was simultaneously pursuing a successful career in politics.

to be faced with a dilemma	être confronté à un dilemme
a nursery, a day-care centre (GB), a child-care center	une crèche, une garderie
a nanny	une nounou, une nourrice
a childminder ['tʃaɪldmaɪndər]	une assistante maternelle, une nourrice

to balance, combine work and family	trouver un équilibre entre travail et famille
to juggle ['dʒʌɡl] a career and a family	jongler pour concilier carrière et famille
to reconcile ['rekənsaɪ]	concilier
family responsibilities	les responsabilités familiales

Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition.

Timothy Leary, American writer, psychologist, futurist (1920-1996)

to be financially dependent on sb	être dépendant financièrement de qn
to earn a living, to make a living	gagner sa vie
to support one's family	subvenir aux besoins de sa famille
to feed one's children	nourrir ses enfants
to be the breadwinner	être celui qui fait vivre la famille
she is the family wage earner	c'est elle qui fait vivre sa famille
to bring home the bacon	faire bouillir la marmite

Even in this egalitarian age, there are very few careers where men and women are equally represented. The law says that almost all jobs are open to everyone. But even though women make up (*représentent*) nearly half the British workforce nowadays, most of them work in one of just five sectors: caring (*aide à la personne*), catering (*restauration*), cashiering (*emplois de caissière*), cleaning or clerical work (*travail de bureau*).

Nice Work, BBC, 5 July, 2005

female labour ['leɪbər]	la main d'œuvre féminine
female employment	l'emploi des femmes
women make up x% of the workforce	les femmes représentent x% de la main d'œuvre
to have a career	faire carrière
to be a working woman	être une femme qui travaille
a career woman	une femme qui fait carrière
to work part time	travailler à temps partiel OU à mi-temps
to work full time	travailler à plein temps

In the US, the **Equal Pay Act** (1963) made it illegal to pay men and women different wage rates for jobs that require (*nécessitent*) equal skill and responsibility and are performed under similar working conditions. Similar acts were passed in Great Britain in 1970 and in France in 1972.

equal ['i:kwəl] pay	l'égalité des salaires
the gender pay gap, the gender wage gap	le différentiel de salaire entre les sexes

According to the 2008 Employment Outlook from the OECD, women are paid 17% less than men on average (*en moyenne*). Anti-discrimination laws and greater access to higher education for women have helped narrow (*réduire*) the employment and wage gaps in recent decades.

The Economist, July 10th, 2008

to appoint sb to a post
to compete with men
a responsible job
a top job
a menial job
to have a successful career
barriers to female advancement

nommer qn à un poste
être en concurrence avec les hommes
un poste à responsabilités
un poste de haut niveau
un emploi subalterne
réussir sa carrière
les obstacles à la promotion des femmes

The phrase **glass ceiling** ['si:lɪŋ] (sometimes literally translated as *plafond de verre*) refers to the invisible discrimination that prevents women – but also minorities – from rising to positions of power and responsibility. This discrimination is invisible because it is not explicit. Another, longer, translation might be: *limite invisible à la promotion de certaines catégories de salariés*.

a male preserve [pɪr'zɜ:v]
to discriminate against sb
to be discriminated against
harassment
sexual harassment

une chasse gardée pour les hommes
introduire une discrimination contre qn
être victime de discrimination
le harcèlement
le harcèlement sexuel

More and more mothers work outside the home. In 1975, about 1/3 of American mothers with young children held jobs. That ratio has risen to 2/3 at the beginning of the 21st century.

parity
under-represented
to introduce quotas ['kwəʊtəz]
the introduction of quotas
affirmative action
equal opportunity
egalitarian
egalitarianism
to achieve equality with men

la parité
sous-représenté
instaurer des quotas
l'instauration de quotas
la discrimination positive
l'égalité des chances
égalitaire
l'égalitarisme
atteindre l'égalité avec les hommes

Gender is nowadays used in several ways. One is common in feminist writing, where the term has a technical meaning. "One is not born a woman, one becomes one," argued Simone de Beauvoir: in other words, one chooses one's gender. In such a context it would be absurd to use the word **sex**; the term must be **gender**. But, in using it thus, try to explain what you mean by it. Even feminists do not agree on a definition. The primary use of **gender**, though, is in grammar, where it is applied to words, not people. If someone is female, that is her **sex**, not her **gender**. (The gender of *Mädchen*, the German word for girl, is neuter, as is *Weib*, a wife or woman.) So do not use **gender** as a synonym for **sex**. **Gender studies** probably means **feminism**.

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