

Are we raising sexist sons and men?



Discussion questions

1. What are some challenges that are unique to being a man? What are some that are unique to being a woman?
2. Do you think sexism can disappear from our society?
3. How widespread is sexism today? Do you think it's increasing or decreasing?
4. Does raising kids to fit their gender roles contribute to sexism?
5. If men make more than women, is it because of their gender? Or is based on who does the better job?

Statistics—True or false? (answers of the next page)

1. Women in the UK are 1/3 more likely to go onto university.
2. For every female character in film, there are an equal number of male characters.
3. Women are 47% more likely to suffer severe injuries in car crashes because safety features are designed for men.
4. 28 trillion US dollars could be generated if the gender pay gap was closed.
5. Only fifteen percent of women will experience street harassment in the next 12 months.
6. Women and men face an equal threat of violence.
7. 150 countries have at least one law that treats men and women differently.

Useful vocabulary

1. Gender roles– (noun) the role or behaviour learned by a person as appropriate to their gender, determined by the prevailing cultural norms.
2. Gender pay gap-(noun) the difference in pay between men and women.
3. Sexism– (noun) prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination, typically against women, on the basis of sex.
4. Feminism– (noun) the advocacy of women's rights on the basis of the equality of the sexes.
5. Patriarchy - (noun) a system of society or government in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it.
6. Discriminate– (verb) make an unjust or distinction in the treatment of people, especially on the grounds of race, sex, or age.
7. Advocate - (verb) to publicly support or recommend.
8. Society – (noun) the aggregate of people living together in a more or less ordered community.

Reading – Equality for men and women.

On August 3rd, 1832, the first petition **advocating** for women's suffrage in the United Kingdom passed through parliament. It failed miserably, but got the conversation of what women could or should be doing. This small step for **feminism** brought on a national divide, eventually coming back three years later to be implemented into law. Today, many say we've taken a step backwards in terms of women's equality and rights. But is this true?

Some signs point to yes. Many economies worldwide don't view women as people. In a financial context, they are accounted for three fourths of a person. Why these international economies behave this way is unknown, beside pervasive **sexism**. These are not third world countries either, where wages are sparse for everyone. **Society** in general have formed strict **gender roles** that punishes women from stepping out of their homely duties. Before World War II, women were expected to only take care of the home. But, while the men served, women went to work in

factories to support their families. Many of these women did not leave, but neither did the **gender pay gap**.

Some say the **patriarchy** is well and truly dead in the wake of feminism. On paper, in the western world at least, women have the same rights as men. However, many say that the execution of these protections leave much to be desired.

Answers

1. True 2. False. There's 2 men and a quarter for every woman. 3. True 4. True. 5. False, it's 40% 6. False, women face an increased risk of being harmed, especially by a man they know. 7. True