

This activity contributes to the following badges:



Community Impact Staged Activity Badge



Cub Global Issues Activity Badge



Scout World Challenge Award



Scout Global Issues Activity Badge



Explorer Global Issues Activity Badge

Make sure a code of behaviour is in place for the meeting, ensuring the behaviour of young people.

Cubs | Scouts | Explorers

Exploring equality

International Women's Day, 8 March Help young people to discuss gender discrimination around the world

Time: 20–30 minutes

Equipment

- Downloadable statements (printed out)
- 'True' and 'false' signs
- Blue tack or sticky tape

Instructions

1 Go to scouts.org.uk/genderstereotypes to download the statements and the 'true' and 'false' signs.

2 Discuss with your young people about how gender equality has improved but still has a way to go. Some countries have different rules for men and women. This might be for religious or cultural reasons, or to maintain power over them. Explain how they can make the world better by challenging assumptions and treating everyone with respect.

3 Designate one end of your meeting place as the 'true' end and one as 'false' and stick up the relevant signs. One at a time, read out the statements about gender and ask the young people to think about whether they are true or false, and walk to the corresponding end of the room. If they are uncertain or don't know, they can stay in the middle of the room.

4 Discuss each of the statements respectfully with the young people, ask



them to share why they thought it was true/not true, and explore if they agree with it and why. They wouldn't want to be held back in life because of other people's stereotypes and should be able to reach their full potential, whatever their gender. Be prepared for some challenging questions; it's OK not to know all the answers. Young people could take them away to do further research and bring back their findings the following week.

Take it further

To demonstrate how some people are unfairly given more rights than others, the right to participate in a round of a game could be taken away from a few young people. For example, ask everyone whose

name starts with 'A' to sit down for one round. Explain to the young people about #5 of the UN's Global Goals, Gender Equality. Let them know that Emma Watson (Hermione in Harry Potter) is a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador. Learn more at scouts.org.uk/emmawatson and find out what Scouts is doing at scouts.org.uk/heforshe.

Global Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals, known as Global Goals, are aims that people and governments are striving for to make the world a better place. The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) has committed to them, and they are reflected in the global elements of our programme. Learn more: globalgoals.org.

How much do you know about gender discrimination around the world?



The UK has one of the smallest gender pay gaps in Europe.

FALSE. In the UK, it is estimated that men are paid nearly 10% more (April 2018, The Guardian). Estonia, Czech Republic and Germany have bigger pay gaps, but Italy and Romania have the smallest gap (Financial Times).



More men than women are world leaders or in national government.

TRUE. The percentage of women in government is rising, but at the current rate it could take 40 years to reach equal representation (UN Women).



In Russia, men are not allowed to work as train drivers.

FALSE. It's women who are not allowed. There is a ban on them doing a range of jobs, including train driver, firefighter and diver (Big Think).



All new parents can take paid time off to look after their newborn children.

FALSE. In some countries, like Sweden or the UK, both parents can take paid leave, but in others, such as the US, neither parent is entitled to it (The Guardian).



Girls with higher levels of education are less likely to marry young.

TRUE. If all girls had primary-level education there would be 14% fewer child marriages (UNESCO).



The UK is the second most equal country in the world.

FALSE. It's 20th! We're beaten by countries like Iceland (top), Norway and Slovenia (Global Gender Gap Index).



Women are allowed to drive cars in all countries of the world.

TRUE. But it was only made legal in Saudi Arabia in June 2018.



In Pakistan, only men are allowed to vote.

FALSE. It is legal for women to vote, but there are some areas of the country where women are barred from voting, or where it can be very difficult, due to social attitudes (BBC).