



**SUOMI
FINLAND**



INTERNATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY PRIZE

FINLAND PROMOTES GENDER EQUALITY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY PRIZE

CHANCELLOR MERKEL FIRST-EVER RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD

Gender equality is a core value in Finland. It has been essential in shaping and defining the way we have built our nation to achieve the success we enjoy today. To celebrate Finland's 100 years of independence in 2017, the Government of Finland launched the International Gender Equality Prize. The objective of the prize is to promote gender equality around the world and to support discussion on equality.

The first-ever recipient of the prize, announced by Prime Minister Juha Sipilä on 14 December 2017, is Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany. As stated in the reasoning for the award, Angela Merkel's life work has made her one of the world's most influential people and an example to many women and girls. By breaking through the glass ceiling, Chancellor Merkel has shown that women can rise to the top ranks of society.



The prize amounted to EUR 150,000 in 2017, and the recipient is asked to assign the prize to a cause, an innovative endeavour or an action that strengthens the position of girls and women. Chancellor Merkel chose to allocate it to the NGO “Femmes et Enfants Victimes

de Violence Familiale” in Niger. The mission of the NGO, created in 1998, is to oppose all forms of domestic violence.

The prize is awarded biennially in cooperation with the City of Tampere, based on the recommendation of an independent jury.



In 2019 the prize amounted to EUR 300,000. The prize was given to a global women's rights organization Equality Now. The jury found that they do very significant and high-impact work on gender equality and are pushing the gender equality agenda forwards in a visible, systematic and ambitious

way. Equality Now advocates changes in laws and policies, helps to shift gender norms and has an impact both locally and internationally. They also attempt to engage both women and men in their work, and make concerted efforts to mobilize young people to support a new generation of young leaders.

FINLAND: 140 YEARS AT THE FOREFRONT OF GENDER EQUALITY

1878 Equal hereditary rights
for men and women

1882 Women attain the right
to complete a university
degree, with special authorisation

1906 Finnish women attain
full political rights

1926 First woman minister in
Finland — **Miina Sillanpää**
appointed as Deputy Minister
for Social Affairs

1937 Maternity Grants Act

1943 Statutory school meals introduced

1944 Act on Prenatal and Child
Health Clinics

1961 Usage of the contraceptive pill
approved

1971 Decriminalisation of homosexual acts

1972 Council for Gender Equality (TANE)
established

1973 Act on Children's Daycare comes
into effect

1985 Act on Child Home Care Allowance
— the terms maternity, paternity
and parental leave are confirmed

1987 Act on Equality between Women
and Men adopted

1990 Elisabeth Rehn appointed as
the first woman Minister of Defence
in the world

1990 **Children under the age of 3** obtain
the subjective right to municipal
day care



2000 Tarja Halonen elected as the first
woman President of Finland

2007 For the first time, over 40% of MPs
are women; women in the majority
in the Government (60%)

2015 Marriage Act amended to be
gender-neutral; non-discrimination
of gender minorities included
in the Equality Act

2017 Finland establishes the
International Gender Equality Prize

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Photos: Boys / Riitta Supperi, Keksi, Finland Promotion Board
Parliament House and Mrs Miina Sillanpää: Helsinki City Museum



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