

UN SDG 5  
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5>



This programme is funded by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Irish Aid is the Government's overseas development programme which supports partners working in some of the world's poorest countries. Irish Aid also supports global citizenship education in Ireland to encourage learning and public engagement with global issues. The content of this communication represents the views of the author only and does not necessarily represent or reflect DFA policy.



## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



### Targets and Indicators

[https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5#targets\\_and\\_indicators](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5#targets_and_indicators)

#### TARGET 5.1



END DISCRIMINATION  
AGAINST WOMEN AND  
GIRLS

#### TARGET 5.2



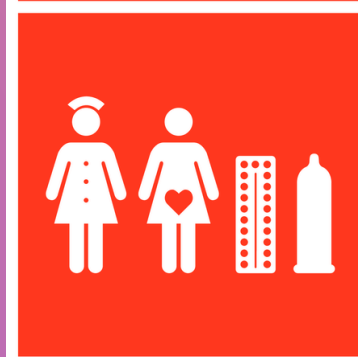
END ALL VIOLENCE  
AGAINST AND  
EXPLOITATION OF  
WOMEN AND GIRLS

#### TARGET 5.5



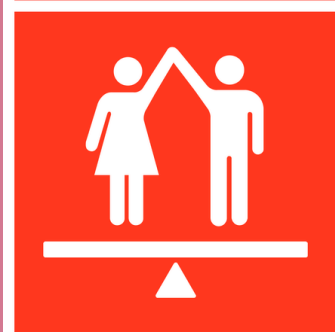
ENSURE FULL  
PARTICIPATION IN  
LEADERSHIP AND  
DECISION-MAKING

#### TARGET 5.6



UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO  
REPRODUCTIVE  
HEALTH AND RIGHTS

#### TARGET 5.C



ADOPT AND  
STRENGTHEN POLICIES  
AND ENFORCEABLE  
LEGISLATION FOR  
GENDER EQUALITY

#### TARGET 5.3



ELIMINATE FORCED  
MARRIAGES AND  
GENITAL MUTILATION

#### TARGET 5.4



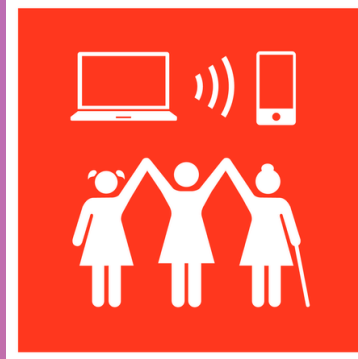
VALUE UNPAID CARE  
AND PROMOTE SHARED  
DOMESTIC  
RESPONSIBILITIES

#### TARGET 5.A



EQUAL RIGHTS TO  
ECONOMIC RESOURCES,  
PROPERTY OWNERSHIP  
AND FINANCIAL  
SERVICES

#### TARGET 5.B



PROMOTE  
EMPOWERMENT OF  
WOMEN THROUGH  
TECHNOLOGY





## What does Gender Equality mean?

Why gender equality? Gender inequality is globally the most common form of inequality and remains a major obstacle to the eradication of poverty.  
(Concern Worldwide, 2025)

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” and that “everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, ... birth or other status.”  
(UN, 2025)

Supporting gender equality is central to Ireland’s development partnerships. We take a twin track approach to progressing gender equality. Mainstreaming gender equality is a part of all our work across our interventions and foreign policy.  
(Irish Aid, 2025)

What is the gender equality in Ireland?  
Most room for improvement. Gender inequalities in Ireland are pronounced in the domain of work (76.4 points), in which the country ranks 12th. Since 2020, Ireland's score has stagnated (– 0.1 points), resulting in a drop of six places in the ranking for this domain, due to slower progress than in other EU countries

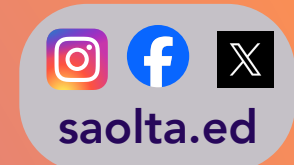
(EIGE, 2023)

Gender equality in education is about much more than parity in access. Education spaces are central to communities and have the potential to teach critical thinking and challenge gender norms to create future generations where gender inequalities are eliminated.

(GPE, 2023)







## Ireland's UN SDGs - Gender Equality

### Key Findings

The Gender Pay Gap (GPG) in Ireland for 2022 was 9.6% i.e the average man earned 9.6% more than the average woman.

Just under two in six (31%) of working women work part-time, compared with just under one in six (14%) of men.

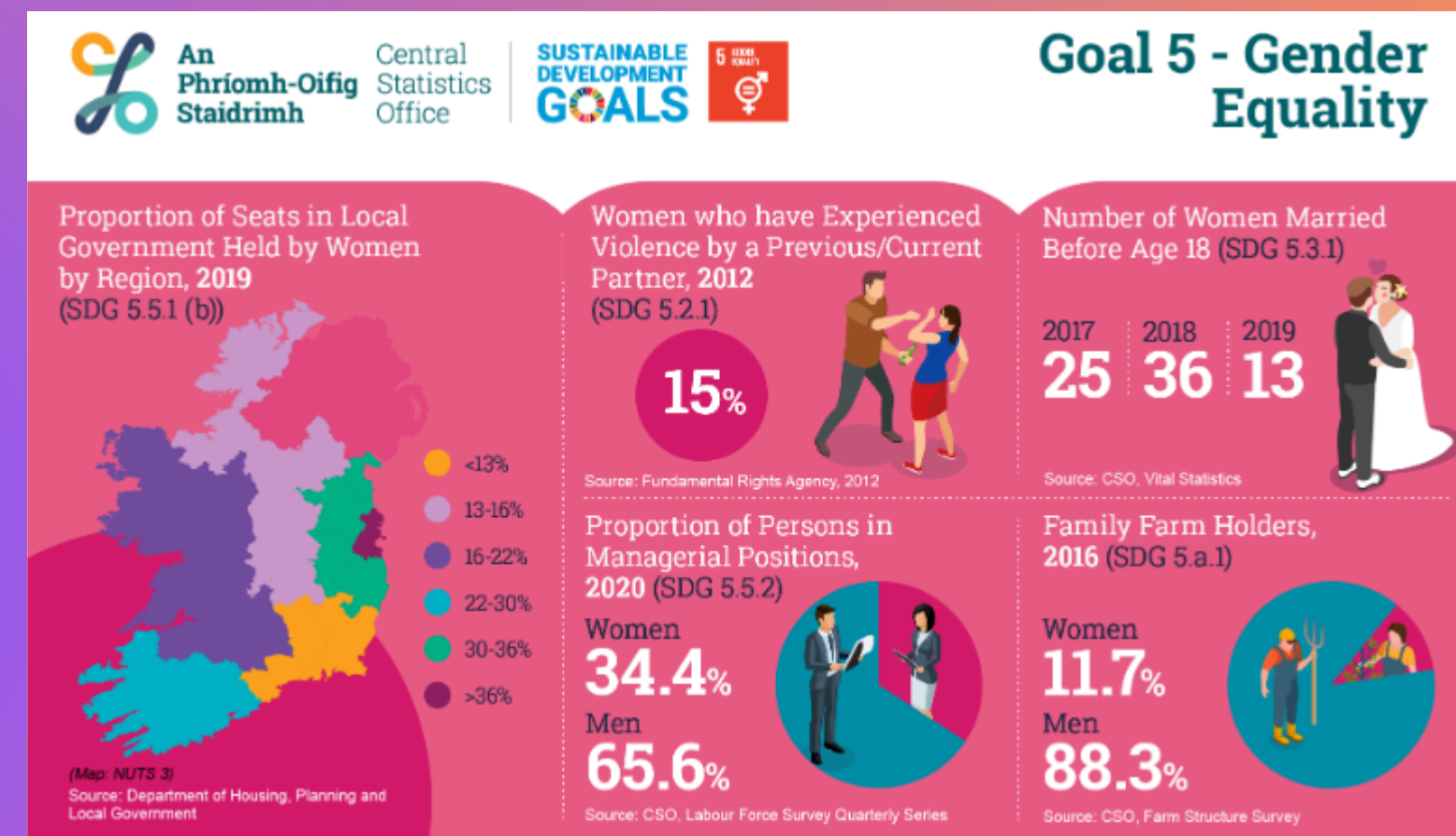
While women account for just under two in four of all employments (49%), only one in four (25%) of employments in the top 1% of earnings are held by women.

Ireland ranks 5th for men and 15th for women for average life expectancy across Europe.

In 2021, Ireland ranked 9th in Europe on the Gender Equality Index, down two places from 7th in 2020.

As of 2021, less than one in four (22%) of Government ministers were women, while almost two in four (46%) of the members of state boards were women.

(cso.ie, 2020)

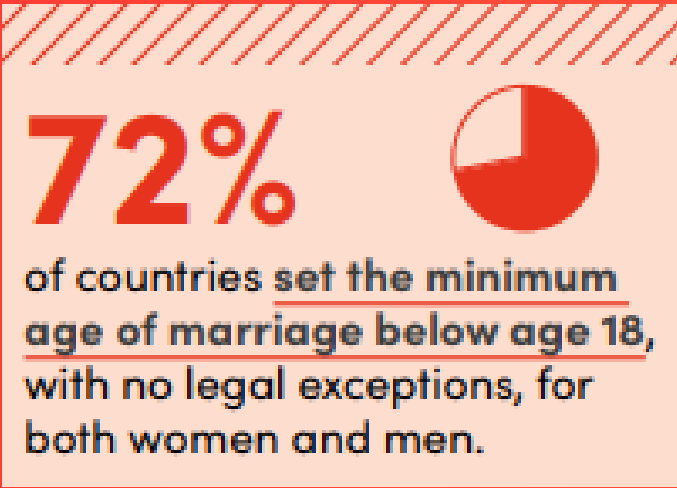
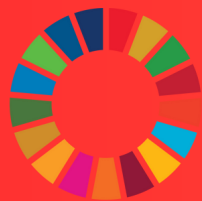


(cso.ie, 2024)



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## Global Statistics SDG5



(UNDESA, 2024).

Backlash against the universal right to sexual and reproductive health and rights restrains progress towards gender equality and bodily autonomy.



Countries and areas only have **76%** of laws and regulations required to guarantee full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Only **56%** of women aged 15–49 who are married or in-union can make decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, with significant disparities across countries and regions.

Globally, **over 230 million** girls and women worldwide have undergone female genital mutilation, including **21.7% in sub-Saharan Africa** and **73.6% in Northern Africa**. This represents a 15% increase, or **30 million more** girls and women over the last 8 years.



The lack of legal frameworks and limited land rights for women undermine gender equality.



Women account for **less than 40%** of owners or rights-bearers for agricultural land in 32 out of 49 countries with data from 2011–2022.

Alarming, **nearly half of 68 countries** with available data on women's land ownership and control (SDG 5.a.2) from 2019 to 2022 lack sufficient legal protections.

(UNWomen, 2024)





## Gender Equality: National Policy and Strategies

Gender equality is promoted and advanced in Ireland under a whole-of-government policy framework provided by the National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020 (NSWG), which has been extended for a further year to end 2021.

The Strategy reflects the priorities of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, following the National Plan for Women 2002 and the National Women's Strategy 2007-2016, is the latest policy framework adopted to support Ireland's implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

In the 2020 Programme for Government, "Our Shared Future", the government has committed to developing and implementing a new Strategy for Women and Girls.

(DCEDIY, 2024)

## Government appointments for Children, Disability and Equality 2025

Minister for Children, Disability and  
Equality

**Norma Foley**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/biography/089e0-norma-foley/>

Minister of State with responsibility  
for Disability

**Hildegarde Naughton**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/biography/24042-hildegarde-naughton/>

## ARTICLE 40: Constitution of Ireland Equality before the law

All citizens shall be held equal before the law (Article 40.1 of the Constitution). This means that the State cannot unjustly, unreasonably or arbitrarily discriminate between citizens.

You cannot be treated as inferior or superior to any other person in society simply because of your human attributes or your ethnic, racial, social or religious background.

However, when the State is making laws, it may consider differences of capacity and of social function between individuals in society.

(Citizens information.ie, 2025)

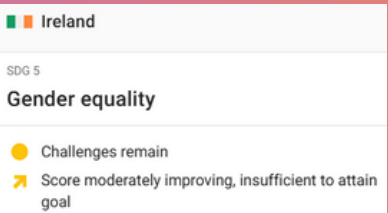


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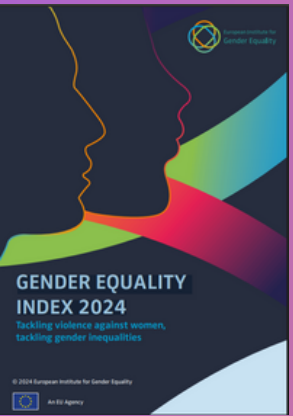
(ESDR, 2025)



SDG5 – Gender Equality

Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods (% of females aged 15 to 49)	88.5	2024	↑
Ratio of female-to-male mean years of education received (%)	103.7	2022	↑
Ratio of female-to-male labor force participation rate (%)	85.0	2023	↑
Seats held by women in national parliament (%)	23.1	2024	→
Gender wage gap (% of male median wage)	2.0	2022	↑

- Indicators
- Gender employment gap
  - Unadjusted gender pay gap
  - Population inactive due to caring responsibilities
  - Seats held by women in national parliaments
  - Positions held by women in senior management positions
  - Proportion of ICT specialists that are women



SDG 5 – Gender Equality

Decent Services and Infrastructure	
Connections, Community & Participation	Support high-quality community childcare, particularly in disadvantaged areas.
Just Taxation	
Income & Wealth	Introduce a Universal State Social Welfare Pension.
Good Governance	
Safety & Security	Following our ratification of the Istanbul Convention, Ireland is obligated to have 515 family places for victims of Domestic Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Ireland is falling far short of this target. Government must meet its commitment to provide further refuge spaces for victims of DSGBV.



(SJI, 2025)



THE WORLD IS NOT ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY BY 2030

Gender Equality Index 2024:  
Introducing the latest Gender Equality Index  
thematic focus: a vital reminder to end violence against women



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## Development Education.ie

### 48 Resources for SDG 5



(Womens history association, 2025).



(Harvey & Safier, 2021).

# SDG 5 Embedding GCE in ACE



## Resources

### Gender Equality Index

(EIGE, 2023).



(UN Women, 2024).

Women's Aid at 50: New research shows young men moving to the right in attitudes towards women and manhood, while violence and abuse is a 'fact of life' for too many women.  
(Women's Aid, 2024)

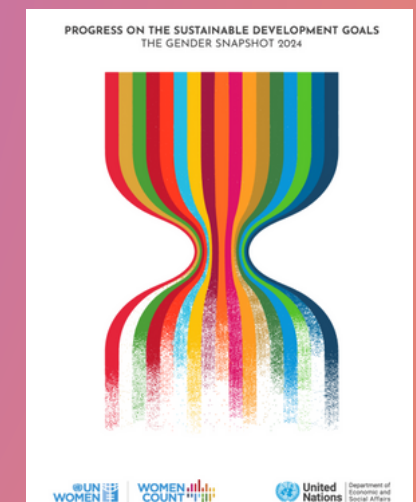
## SDG Knowledge Hub

### Goal 5 – Gender Equality SDG Knowledge Hub

(IISD, 2025)



(FES, 2021).



(UNWomen, 2024)



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European Union (2024) Sustainable development in the European Union Monitoring Report on progress towards the sdgs in an EU context: 2024 edition. 8th edn. Luxembourg: Publications Office.

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Linehan, H. (2025) Why are there still so few women in Irish politics?, Spotify. Available at: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/53BjlhFkJQzdJlbNxl17j?si=mlpajEqXQcu5WfNza6wUyw> (Accessed: 21 February 2025).



## SDG 5

# Bonus Material

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