




Women's rights are the fundamental human rights that were enshrined by the United Nations for every human being on the planet nearly 70 years ago. These rights include the right to live free from violence, slavery, and discrimination; to be educated; to own property; to vote; and to earn a fair and equal wage.

Today, in some parts of the world, women enjoy these rights to the full but in other parts many women still do not have these basic human rights.

Here are some issues challenging women today.

<p><b>-1-</b> POVERTY, HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS</p>	<p><b>-2-</b> THE CONTINUING GENDER WAGE GAP</p>	<p><b>-3-</b> VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN</p>	<p><b>-4-</b> NO ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR GIRLS</p>  <p>© Simon Davis/DFID</p> <p>'Education is education. We should learn everything and then choose which path to follow.' Malala Yousafzai</p>
<p><b>-5-</b> INADEQUATE MATERNAL AND INFANT CARE</p>	<p><b>-6-</b> TRAFFICKING AND SEX SLAVERY</p>		
<p><b>-7-</b> UNDERREPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICAL LIFE</p>	<p><b>-8-</b> DISCRIMINATION AT WORK</p>		



1. One item from the list is the theme of the International Women's Day campaign for 2018. Which is it? Click this [link](#) to find the answer.
2. This year [Carrie Gracie](#), the editor of the BBC in China resigned because she was being paid less than her male colleagues doing the same job. Does this happen to women in your country? Do you know of any working women who are paid less than their male colleagues? What do you think?
3. In groups, discuss each issue in the boxes above and decide which you think is the most important and why? (Be prepared to present and defend your choice to the rest of the class.)
4. Once your group has selected the issue you think is the most important, brainstorm and write a list of some possible solutions. Remember to make them specific and practical!
5. Present your selected issue and possible solutions to the whole class. Prepare a visual presentation in a Powerpoint®, [Prezi](#) or digital poster such as [Padlet](#) to illustrate your ideas.
6. After the presentations, the class can vote to decide which of these issues should be tackled first to improve the lives and human rights of women.
7. '*Gender equality is not only an issue for women and girls.*' (Justin Trudeau). Discuss this statement.

### Sources:

Human Rights Watch [www.hrw.org/topic/womens-rights](http://www.hrw.org/topic/womens-rights)

The Shiver Report [shriverreport.org/top-18-issues-challenging-women-today/](http://shriverreport.org/top-18-issues-challenging-women-today/)

Global Fund for Women [www.globalfundforwomen.org/womens-human-rights/#.Wo6thq7iZ3c](http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/womens-human-rights/#.Wo6thq7iZ3c)