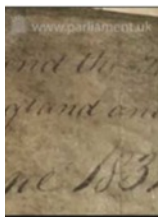


185 years of women's rights and gender equality 1832-2017

Gender Equality 1832 - 1919

1832

The Representation of the People Act 1832 (Great Reform Act) excludes women from the electorate.



1861

The Offences against the Person Act was passed and remains the basis for Northern Ireland's abortion laws.



ANNO VICESIMO QUARTO & VICESIMO QUINTO
VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

C. A. P. C.
An Act to consolidate and amend the Statute Law of England and Ireland relating to Offences against the Person. (5th August 1861.)

1866

Twenty-five Irish women sign the petition asking for votes for women which is presented to the House of Commons in London by John Stuart Mill MP.



MILL'S LOGIC: OR, FRANCHISE FOR FEMALES.

1871

Isabella Tod established the North of Ireland Society for Women's Suffrage in Belfast and linked it to the London Women's Suffrage Society.



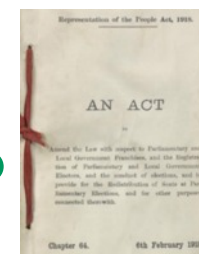
1893

Elizabeth Bell from Newry became the first woman in Ireland to qualify as a doctor.



1918

The Representation of the Peoples Act gave women the right to vote on the proviso that they were over 30 and either they, or their husbands, owned property.



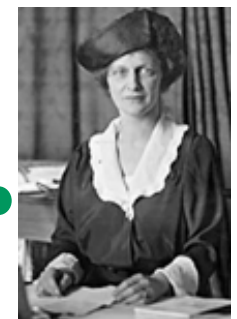
1918

Constance Markievicz becomes the first woman elected to Parliament, but does not take her seat.



1919

Nancy Astor becomes the first female MP to sit in the House of Commons.



185 years of women's rights and gender equality 1832-2017

Gender Equality 1920 - 1969

1920

Georgina Frost was the first woman to hold public office in the UK. She was elected as petty sessions clerk in Co. Clare but was not appointed until 1920 when the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act.

*A VOTER
A PROPER
PERSON*



JOANNE MOONEY EICHLEGER

1921

Julia McMordie (Belfast) and Dehra Chichester (Londonderry), both Unionist, became the first women elected to the Northern Ireland Parliament.



TO-DAY.

5,240,000 MORE
VOTERS.

1928

Representation of the People Act abolishes the age qualification to put men and women on an equal footing. All women over the age of 21 could vote.

1943

On 15 November 1943 the six female recruits entered the RUC Depot at Enniskillen to become the first policewomen in Ireland (An Garda Síochána did not recruit female officers until 1969).



1953

First MP from Northern Ireland elected, Patricia Ford, Lady Fisher.



1963

Peeresses were admitted to the House of Lords.



1967

Radio astronomer Jocelyn Bell was born in 1943. She discovered the first pulsars in 1967.



1969

Bernadette Devlin was the youngest ever female MP. She was 21 at time of her election as Independent Unionist MP for Mid Ulster and took her seat on her twenty-second birthday, 23 April.



185 years of women's rights and gender equality 1832-2017

Gender Equality 1970 - 1999

1970

The Equal Pay Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 (as amended) makes discrimination on grounds of sex unlawful in the area of pay.



1970

Claire Palley became the first female law professor in a UK university when she became a professor of law at Queen's University Belfast.

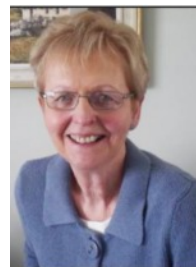


1976

The Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 makes it unlawful to discriminate against anyone on grounds of his or her sex in employment, training and related matters, education, provision of goods, facilities or services and the disposal and management of premises.

1976

The first female Presbyterian minister in Ireland was Dr Ruth Patterson, who was ordained in January 1976. She was the first woman cleric of any denomination to be ordained here.



1979

Margaret Thatcher became the UK's first female Prime Minister.



1990

Mary Robinson becomes Ireland's first woman President.



MARY ROBINSON
A President with a Purpose

1998

The Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 allows women to apply to the court for protective civil orders such as non molestation orders and occupation orders.



1999

The Gender Reassignment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 amended the Sex Discrimination Order to make it unlawful to discriminate on grounds of gender reassignment (sex change) in employment and training.



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1976 No. 1042 (N.I. 15)

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976

185 years of women's rights and gender equality 1832-2017

Gender Equality 1999 - 2017

1999

Inez McCormack becomes the first female President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.



1999

Baroness May Blood becomes the first woman from Northern Ireland ever to be given a life peerage.



2008

New regulations extended protection from discrimination on grounds of gender reassignment to the provision of goods, facilities and services and the disposal and management of premises.

2015

Denise McBride QC and Siobhan Keegan QC became Northern Ireland's first female high court judges



2016

28% of the MLAs elected to Stormont are women, compared to 19% at the last parliament.



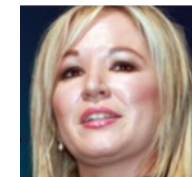
2016

Arlene Foster becomes the first female leader of Northern Ireland.



2017

Three of Northern Ireland's political parties have women leaders.



2017

In March Assembly elections, 30% of MLAs elected to Stormont are women

