

# Milestones for Gender Equality

When did the Nordic countries introduce reforms for gender equality?

- 1845** Equal inheritance rights for women and men introduced in **Iceland**
- 1856** The organised women's movement takes shape in **Sweden**
- 1873** **Swedish** women gain the right to take academic degrees
- 1906** Universal and equal suffrage introduced in **Finland** and **Åland**.
- 1924** **Denmark** appoints first female minister
- 1939** Working women cannot be dismissed on grounds of pregnancy, childbirth, or parental leave in **Sweden**
- 1959** Possibility of individual taxation introduced in **Norway**
- 1961** Birth control pills authorised in **Finland** and **Åland**.
- 1970** **Finland** and **Åland** introduce the right to abortion.
- 1974** **Sweden** grants parents the right to share the parental leave upon the birth of a child
- 1980** World's first democratically elected female president in **Iceland**
- 1989** All professions open to women in **Sweden** – including in the military
- 2014** **Denmark** and **Sweden** ratifies Council of Europe Convention (Istanbul Convention) on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence
- 2015** **Norway** adopts gender-neutral military conscription
- 2018** Consent-based criminalization of rape introduced in **Sweden** and **Iceland**
- 2024** The Nordic Ministers for Gender Equality adopt the Pushing for Progress declaration and vow to defend advancements already made, to never go back, and to keep pushing forward for progress.



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Nordic Council  
of Ministers

Timeline from the publication  
Fifty Years of Nordic cooperation  
on gender equality