

# **Discrimination against women in Catalonia**

Pseudònim: Aloha

Firstly, I would like to thank my mentor for helping me whenever I have needed, taking me out of doubts, and also for guiding me during this research project.

Secondly, I would like to thank Ramon Llorente, Valentí Palat and Víctor Correas for letting me interview them, and give me first hand information about the topic, as their knowledge has helped me to extract better and more thorough conclusions.

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## 1. Introduction

Not many years ago women were treated as an inferior person in society who legally depended on man. It was expected that the female individuals served and looked after their husbands, children and parents. Because of this conception of the existence of women, it is estimated that a person of the female group spent an average of 55 hours a week doing the housework. Rights between women and men were like two opposite poles, males could do whatever they wanted while females were practically their slaves. A woman could not take responsibility of her economy nor have private properties, all her goods were controlled by her husband, who decided for her. Thus, the female gender had no voice, she was forbidden to vote in what was supposedly a democracy, and its opinion or defence of its principles did not matter. As soon as girls were married they lost the little freedom they had, women did not enjoy from the same rights and opportunities as men, what was profound and obvious gender inequality.

## 2. Objectives

The aim of my research project is to find out why nowadays there is still current discrimination against women in Catalonia. That is the same question I ask myself at the time of searching and writing arguments about this topic. Identifying if in Catalonia there is, or not, a culture that promotes the inequality of gender more than others, find out in which contexts we can find discrimination against women, and if this controversial topic is very extensive, are, among others, some of my objectives to complete along this project.

I have decided to develop this matter because I think actual society considers that gender equality has been achieved, and the truth is, in my opinion, that it has not. Of course this issue has improved during the last decades, but it has not been reached yet. A clear example of this is the one which motivated me to talk about this topic: during a class of economy we were debating the inequality of salaries between women and men. While talking about this matter inside the Spanish Armed Forces,

one of my classmates said female gender should not be allowed to use guns or any other kind of weapon.

Therefore, I thought I had to speak up for gender equality and that this research project would be a good way to reflect this hidden reality.

### **3. Methodology**

The methodology will be distinguished between a theoretical part and a practical part.

Firstly, I am going to talk about the Feminist Movement, in this section I will place the reader in the historical context of the first revolution for the claim of gender equality. Continuously, I am going to highlight the most important facts that helped to the development of this vindication and I will also point out the new rights that women achieved as a result of this revolution.

This section will be followed by the reason why discrimination is still current in our daily lives. To develop it, I will highlight the major causes of this inequality, such as the women's roles which had been established by society many years ago.

Once explained the theoretical part, I will proceed with the practice. I am going to state a difference between men and women in the labour, political and the sports world. I will look for the best companies from Catalonia and then discover who is the business owner of each one, in order to see if there is gender equality among this upper jobs. For the political area, I will find out how many women are mayoress, and also the different number of men and women in the Parliament. I will look at the sports section in newspapers to know if there is or not gender inequality, and I am going to search if there is a possible glass ceiling. What I am also going to do in the practical part is a survey to know if society is conscious about this discrimination against women. In addition, I am going to have an interview with Ramon Llorente, the ombudsman of Girona. I am also going to talk with the administrative lawyer of the Exclusive Court of violence against Women, Valentí Palat, and with the judge of

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this same department, Víctor Correas, in order to obtain first hand information about the current situation of women in Catalonia.

Finally, I am going to extract conclusions about the questions and arguments I have developed during the research project. It will be a good way to find out if I have achieved the main goals that I proposed to myself at the beginning, such as finding out why nowadays there is still current discrimination against women in Catalonia.

#### **4. The feminist movement**

Feminism is considered as the political movement with the objective to achieve gender equality. It is not exactly known when and where protest against gender discrimination began, but what is certain, is that they would develop as the Feminist movement. We can confirm that, during the so-called Age of Enlightenment, demonstrations against gender inequality began to have importance due to general discontentment.

Although it is not until mid-nineteenth century that we can talk about a collective movement of female fight that develops in three phases called waves.

The first-wave feminism started with the Enlightenment, the cultural and intellectual movement at the end of the seventeenth century that I already mentioned. This first phase was characterized by the claim of women's rights like being recognized as individuals inside the citizenship or having access to education.

The Second-wave feminism went from the mid-nineteenth century to the fifties of the twentieth century, once the World War II had ended. During this phase, feminism was left behind by the suffragist, a movement the aim of which was to achieve votes for women. Both movements tried to improve the feminine gender situation, nevertheless they did not share the same goals, while suffragist focused on getting the women's suffrage, the feminist movement fought for gender equality in all areas.

Finally, up to nowadays, the Third-wave feminism has developed as a response to the failures of the previous waves, defending the philosophy that “*women are of many colours, ethnicities, nationalities, religions and cultural backgrounds.*”

Once the World War II ended, many countries had declared the women’s suffrage. Nevertheless, “the denominated false equality” arose because, even though women were now part of the democracy, they had no power and gender inequalities still persisted. Consequently, many women joined the fight against women discrimination. Third-wave feminism started to be characterized by the huge variety of thoughts that caused the Feminist wars, ideological divisions inside the groups which defended this movement, that have persisted up to the present day, like for example, the opposite liberal and radical feminism.

Thus, feminism began as a movement of collective struggle and it has developed up to nowadays in various groups of different ideologies which defend distinct causes.

## **5. The feminist movement in Catalonia**

In Catalonia women got the right to vote in 1931, so the feminist movement was popularized after the suffragist. Its awakening came during the decade of 1970 as a revelation against the lack of freedom and the huge discrimination of gender that was imposed by the Franco dictatorship. As a result of being a late movement, compared with the other Western countries, the Catalan feminism was influenced by protests and ideological books from the outside, so immediately feminist collectives with different ideologies emerged. It was promoted by groups of self-awareness that vindicated the feminine oppression, its members protested that for women everything was a sin and a crime in the dictatorship they were living.

In fact, there was constant discrimination of gender in society, labour world, schools, universities, etc. Woman was considered as a minor subject, she had no rights and was not allowed to divorce, or use contraceptives nor work without her husband’s permission. For instance, Ramon Llorente, the ombudsman of our city, told me that, during his first years as lawyer on the bar association of Girona, he had

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to check if the women hiring documents included the approval of her husband. In addition, if a female was accused of adultery, she could be condemned to prison, what besides abortion, prostitution and others were considered the “specific crimes of woman”.

Despite the mentality of the epoch, which condemned clever women, this was the generation of women with more studies. Universities were key places for the development of the feminist movement, because there many college women were introduced into politics and were given knowledge that could led them to start gaining power.

Although many feminist groups fought for the cause, gender equality has not been achieved yet, and for Catalonia and most of the countries all over the world it is still an objective to reach.

## 6. What helps the development of women discrimination?

Discrimination against women is due to a number of topics that make the female gender persist as the weak one in nowadays society. We can associate this inequality to multiple causes, however, biology is the little spark of the beginning which is then intensified by other issues.

Men and women are not equal in biological aspects, they are physically and psychologically different, and therefore do not behave in the same way. However, discrimination between genders starts with the roles established by society, the acceptable behaviour both for men and women is the major cause.

In fact, the place of women in society was established by Patriarchy, the prehistoric cultural and social organization which started as a division of work according to the competencies of each gender, and finally ended with the control of men over women. This ideology set many inequalities and took the male gender to think:

*"The woman does not really expect a lot from life. She is here as someone's keeper, her husband or her children."*



Patriarchy developed another cause, which is the economic dependence of women on men. In many studies it has been proved that people without strong economy are socially and psychologically weaker. That is what used to happen to women, they had to obey their husbands as they were the only ones who took money at home and could guarantee the subsistence of the whole family. Neither the opinion, nor the health or the needs of the female gender cared, and what is more, they could not rebel.

So with the evolution of Patriarchy, the female was deprived of her independence as a person since childhood. Not many hundred of years ago, most of the girls were not educated, and neither allowed to do sports, whereas boys could do both. Little girls were taught how to cook and do the housework, because they had to be prepared for the supposed objective of their lives: having a large family. Moreover, males had women under their orders, they did not allowed them to have their own wealth or private property, so as to keep their power above them and be guaranteed that no woman was better than a man.

Patriarchy and economical causes led to an educational reason. Feminine gender was expected to marry in their early twenties and then leave the house in order to live with her husband's family. Therefore, parents normally did not invest much money on rising up their daughters, as they thought it was not worth it to take much care of someone who would leave them once married. So parents prioritized boys before girls and did not send their daughters to school and neither prepared them for the labour world.

In addition, Patriarchy and other gender inequality causes created social and labour prejudices on women, which have run from one generation to another making traditional ideas persist in modern society. These were as a result of the perfect housewife model that was almost worldwide popularized, and strictly followed in most of the Western countries until a few decades ago. So women were treated as a stereotype, and they were supposed to like playing with dolls, be good at cooking, not having opinion in politics, as it was male matter, and other oppressive issues like

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being good-looking. Not many years ago, women had no freedom to act as they wanted to or to even make her own decisions, even there are many countries in which currently woman is still subjected to man. Furthermore, in 1953, *The Good Wife Guide* by Pilar Primo de Rivera was published in Spain. It had the intention to teach women how to please their husbands. In the book we can find much advice that in fact stimulate the discrimination against women and the domination of men:

- Rest five minutes before he arrives at home so that he will find you fresh and beautiful.
- Be sweet and interesting to improve his boring day at work, and remind to talk with a soft and pleasant voice.
- Let him talk before you, his topics are more interesting than yours.
- Make him feel like he is in paradise, keep in mind your happiness is his reward for his effort.

In nowadays society, gender equality has improved, however, discrimination against women still persists and it is due to the sticky and imperceptible tradition thoughts that have place in our minds. We have to consider that a few decades ago Patriarchy was still present in the citizenship, and that society needs a large process to forget about the differences of the past and move on to a common equality. But stereotypical thoughts like women do not drive well, women take forever to do anything, or women are not good at numbers, make the modern society go back in time.

## **7. Contexts in which we can find discrimination against women**

In nowadays society we can still find gender discrimination in many contexts due to the persistence of prejudices on women like:

- The aim in life of women is to have children and a big family
- Women are more sensitive, so they can not think as objectively and clearly as men

- Women are not good at maths or at any scientific or political subject
- Women think above all about the money
- Women are slower than men and can not either carry heavy weights

So this traditional and conservative thoughts create discrimination against the female gender in many different contexts of what is supposed to be a modern society. For instance, we can find gender inequalities at the work place, especially in private companies, because many business owners think that women are not as efficient as men, and moreover that they are an obstacle to the smooth running of the company. As if they demand the maternity, and leave the business for a short period of time, the company has to hire another person to take the vacant workplace while paying the pregnant employee. Therefore, as the statistics done in Catalonia, in 2014, by the Institute of Study and of the Transformation of Quotidian (iQ) show, men are more employed than women, and what is more, there is a gender pay gap: males are paid around 25% more than females.

In addition, after doing a search on the thirty best companies of Catalonia, and looking for the director of each one, I have discovered that none of them is run by a woman. But that is not everything, in politics we can also find discrimination. According to the latest datums given by the interior ministry, there are around 172 mayoresses from the 947 municipalities that form Catalonia. Besides, after analysing the members of the Catalan Parliament, I have seen that there is also a huge difference between the number of men and women. Out of 157, 64 are women and 93 men. So how are we supposed to live in a society without discrimination against women, if there is not even gender equality on the Parliament?

Another field which is influenced by prejudices and traditional thoughts is the sport's one. There are as many good male athletes as female, however, men are the only ones who can live from it:

*"As women we have to do more with less."* (Elisenda Pinedo, bronze medal in handball at the Olympic Games from London in 2012)

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In the London 2012 Olympic Games, Spain obtained seventeen medals, twelve of which were won by women. What seemed as the beginning of a big change in gender inequality in sports ended with just one week of a few articles in the media. This showed the country that women sports are not as well considered as the male ones and that there is still a large way to go to leave behind discrimination against women. This fact happened again in the Olympic Games that were celebrated this year in Rio, Spanish women won nine medals while men eight.

One of the main reasons of inequality of gender in sports is found in the media, after reading the sports section of different newspapers I could verify that women do not even appear, maybe there is one or two articles but they are so short that do not seem relevant. Moreover, there is a glass ceiling for those women who play in a sport which is seen, by society, more suitable for men. Even though, the ones considered for the feminine gender are also paid lower. Stereotypes take also a big part of our decisions when choosing a sport, as normally men do not want to do what is done by women and backwards.

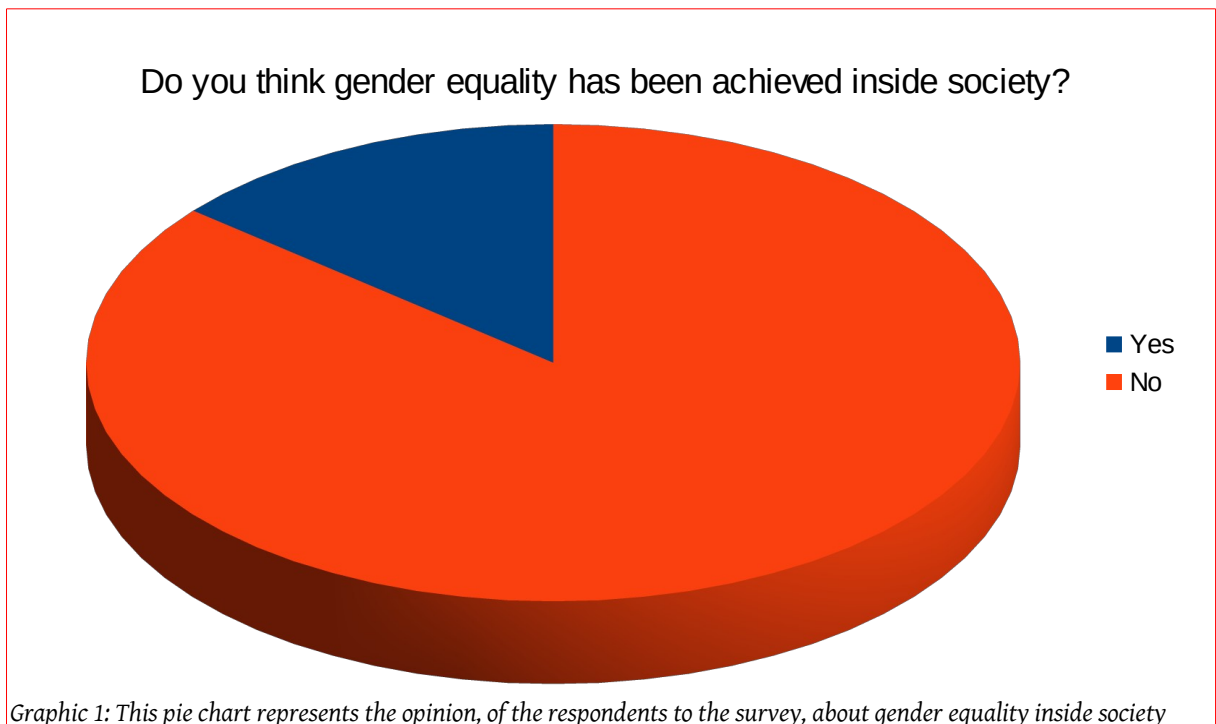
Women's and men's roles are also promoted by publicity. We are not conscious, but in fact, advertisements are full of prejudices and stereotypes which have a lot of influence in our way to think, be and act. Some years ago, the gender discrimination on publicity was more notorious, there were classical and traditional advertisements based on patriarchy that said "*buy her a vacuum cleaner, she will be really grateful!*". Whereas nowadays, there is still discrimination of gender on the publicity, but in an insightful way that we can not appreciate, because although we defend equality between men and women we still have instant prejudices in our mind instilled by the society. For example, in most of the car advertisements there is a man instead of a woman. What conclusion are we supposed to draw? Does this mean that while men can go anywhere and have total freedom, women have to wait for them?

Too many times women are used as an object, usually good looking, in advertisement or in the delivery of sports awards. Imagine female roles in ads played by men, would not they look kind of ridiculous?

We have to leave behind discrimination against women to live in an equal world, and to achieve it we must change the meaning of “running like a girl”, and other stereotypes and prejudices, to make it something to be proud of.

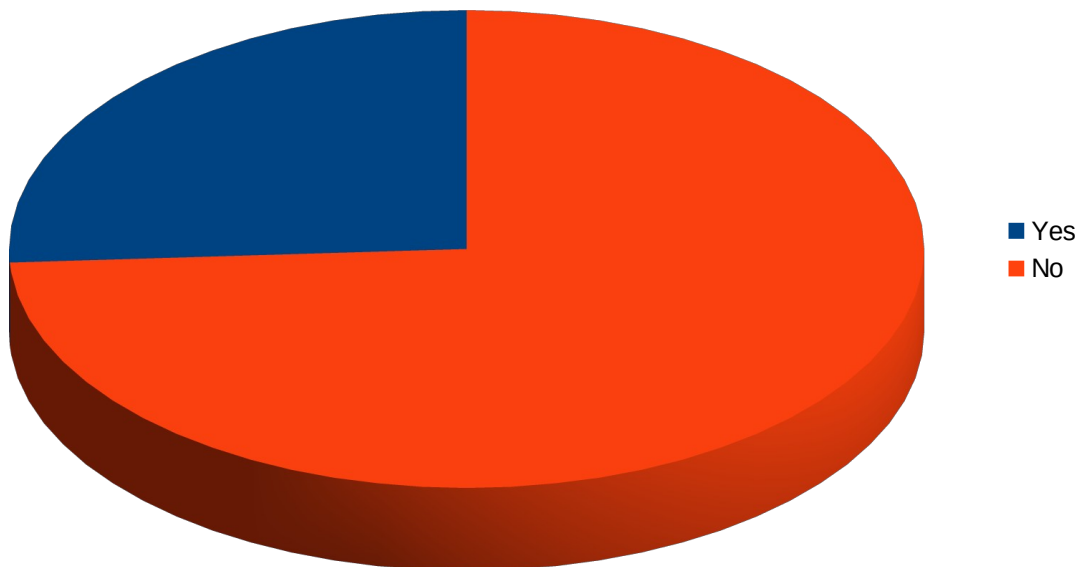
## 8. Gender equality is still a challenge in the twenty-first century

As we have seen along the project, discrimination against women in Catalonia has not been achieved. The surveys done for the practical part show it, they also show that I was wrong when I thought that nowadays society was not conscious of gender inequalities. However, prejudices and stereotypes are too present to leave behind gender discrimination and move on to an equal world, and make useless the efforts that the 54% of the survey respondents do to fight against the inequality of opportunities and treatment between genders, or the male dominance.



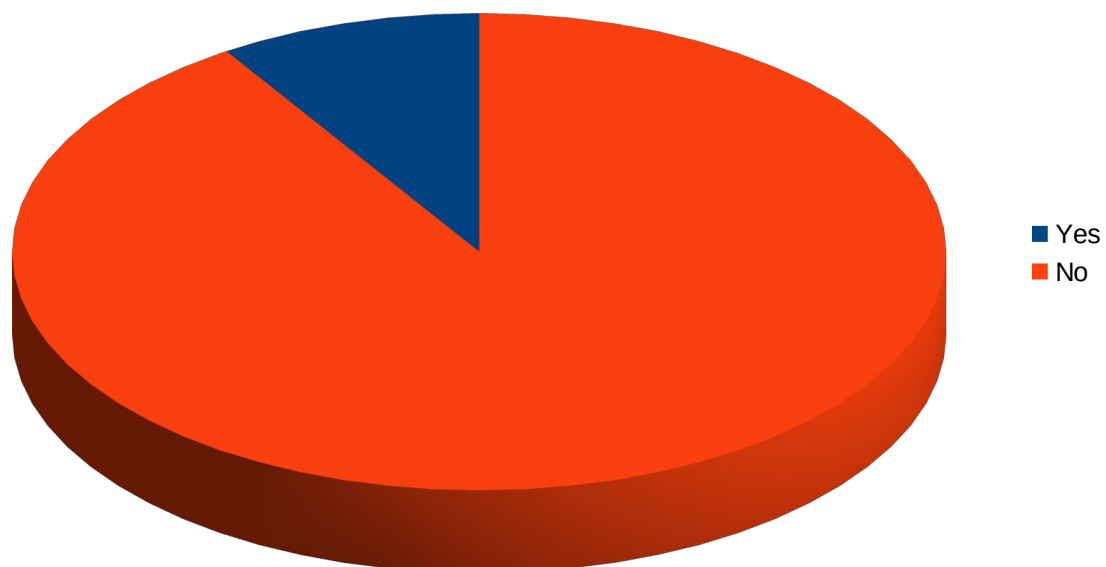
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Do you think gender equality has been achieved in the familiar environment?



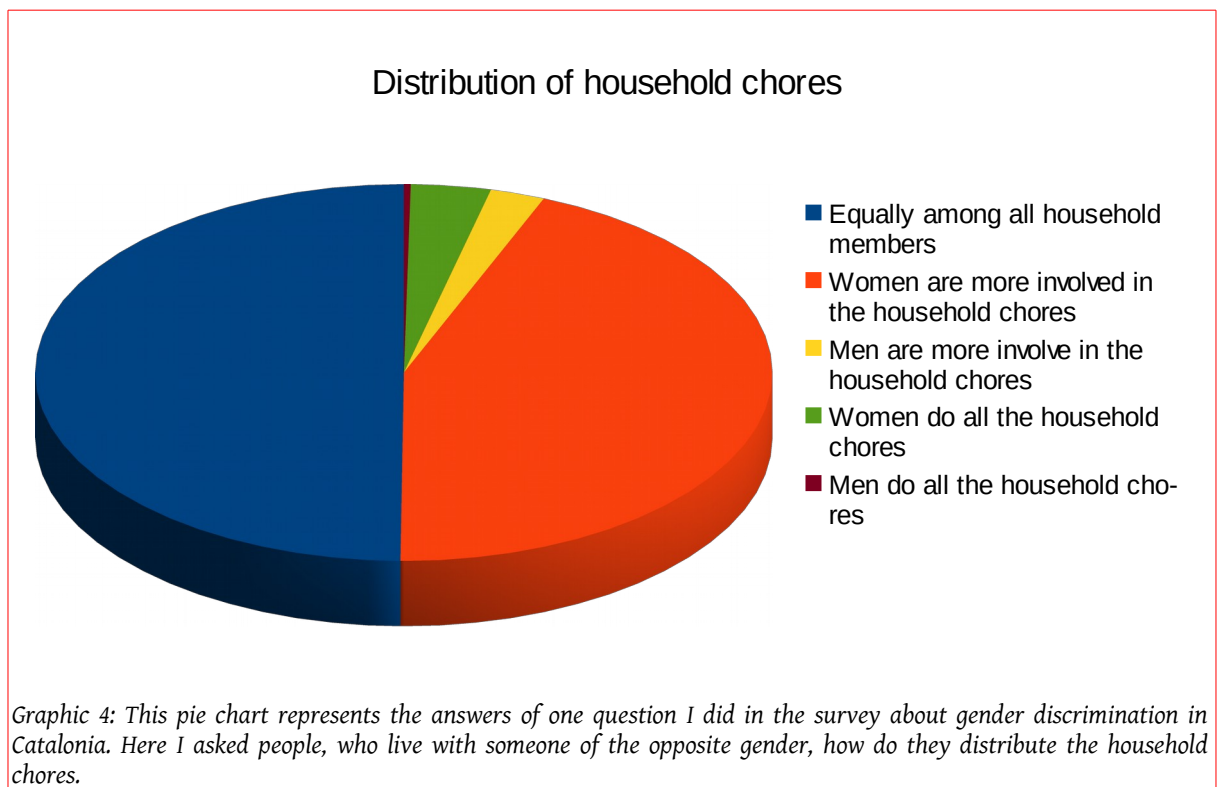
Graphic 2: This pie chart represents the opinion, of the respondents to the survey, about gender equality in the familiar environment

Do you think gender equality has been achieved in the labour world?



Graphic 3: This pie chart represents the opinion, of the respondents to the survey, about gender equality in the labour world

Another question of the survey I did, was one in which asked how the distribution of the household chores are done. Considering that it was answered by almost seven hundred people of all over Catalonia, and with a wide range of different ages, the statistics showed that in many occasions they are equally done among all home members. However, it pointed out that women still spend more time than men doing the housework and also taking care of children. The gender inequality in the family environment may be the oldest area of discrimination against women. Since the antiquity the household chores have been done by the wife and daughters, while the husband and sons have spent their free time doing whatever they wanted to.



An impressive fact which is a consequence of the discrimination of gender is that, as the IQ statistics of health in Catalonia show, there are more sick women than men. This is because, although we not notice it in our day to day, the social inequalities affect to our lifestyle, causing differences at work, education and also in relationships. In a long-term all of this ends with a positive or negative impact on

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health, and unfortunately, women receive a negative impact due to the discrimination against them in many contexts of the society.

It is difficult to stop this gender inequality surrounded by all the stereotypes. Since we are little we are influenced by gender roles, newborn girls are given a cloth or something pink, while newborn boys are given something blue. At the age of two years old we already have prejudices like men can not wear skirts, and women do the housework. We develop our gender identity at the same time we start recognising gender role stereotypes, therefore we are never free to choose the sport we want to do, what we want to make, or even what we want to buy. Since childhood we have learnt something bad, and is that we think that we have to act according to our gender roles in order to be “normal”. But in fact, if we follow the stereotypes we are not doing any good for the development of an equal society, as prejudices will keep going on creating gender discrimination.

Valentí Palat, who is an administrative lawyer, and I talked about the current gender discrimination in Catalonia during the interview I had arranged with him in the Exclusive Court of violence against Women, so I could have first hand information about this topic. This department of the Girona’s court, deals with the denunciations, made by women, for cases of gender discrimination infringed by aggressors of the opposite gender. It was created in 2008, and since the year has started, the complaints have increased, there have already been around four hundred. What we should ask ourselves here is if this high number is due to the fact that more women are getting more courage to denounce the physical and psychological mistreatment of its attackers, or if in fact, gender discrimination has increased since the last years. What is more, the vast majority of the assailants do not have any sense of blame, just a few have the feeling of having acted wrongly. Actually, many women withdraw their complain, sometimes because they think the sentence of the aggressor is too hard.

The non-existence of an Exclusive Court of violence against Men takes me to talk about:



“Equals must be treated equally, and unequals must be treated unequally.” (Aristotle)

There is not any department like this one for males, as usually they do not denunciate cases of gender discrimination. So if women contentiously suffer from it, equality can not be reached, if we want both genders to have the same number and type of opportunities, without obstacles or glass ceilings, women’s needs must be stimulated in order to be in the same level as men in all social, professional, political, and sports issues among others. As a result, there will be a better treatment on women because of the discrimination of gender they receive, however equality will never be established, because the well-being of woman will have more importance.

In the nowadays society feminine gender should not just be considerate something beautiful under men control, girls and women are more than this and can achieve the same and even more than men if they want to.

## 9. Conclusions

Discrimination against women has always been a controversial topic, as in all issues, there are many points of view, so at the time of developing this project I have found different opinions from opposed ideologies, such as the emergence of the *feminazi* concept. Nevertheless, with the exhausted search of information in books, articles, pamphlets, internet, and also the one obtained in the interviews with the ombudsman of Girona, the administrative lawyer and the judge of the Exclusive Court of violence against Women, I have been able to go in depth with the topic, learn new things about it, and also to rectify arguments which I considered at the beginning of the research. Therefore, with all of this resources I have answered the main question I asked myself at the time of searching and redacting, and I also have achieved the other objectives I wanted to complete at the end of this project. So I have found out that discrimination against women in Catalonia is due to a great variety of causes which started with Patriarchy, and is still current in our daily lives because of prejudices.

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What has impressed me is that this issue is very extensive, I was unaware that, since the year has started, in Catalonia there have been around eight thousand calls about men violence against women, nor that, as the judge Víctor Correas told me, the 60% of denunciations on this topic, in our region, are declared by victims of our country and the other 40% by foreign residents. This can have many reasons, maybe because there is more Catalan population or because the number of immigrants who obtain the nationality is increasing. Or it can simply be that, however some religions are more dominated by men than others, there are gender inequalities in all societies, whether these are developed or in developed roads. Therefore, this takes me to think that there is not any culture which promotes it the most here in Catalonia, and that discrimination against women has no borders. What I did not expected was that Ramon Llorente, the ombudsman of Girona, has never had any denounce of gender discrimination, nevertheless, he is aware of this controversial topic.

As I have seen along the answers on the survey I did about this topic in our region, I was wrong when I started the project thinking that actual society considers that gender equality has been achieved. But how can be that, although most of the respondents said they were aware of this controversial issue, and moreover they were trying to eradicate it, there is such a clear discrimination against women in the twenty-first century? It could be because many of us hardly know how to overtake this topic. So, in my opinion, schools and education centres should foster gender education in order to improve equality between citizens. We also should try to forget the depraved gender roles imposed by the society, so as not to impose stereotypes since childhood, and be free to choose whatever we want without being guided like dummies by prejudices.

I would have liked to talk about more issues related with discrimination against women as is a topic that needs to be treated in all the contexts of society. However, because of the limited extension, I have written about what I thought that were the most important points of the research. With this project I have been able to acquire

a lot of new knowledge about this topic, what I think is very important because in our daily lives, and all over the world, there are many gender inequalities.

To leave behind discrimination against women in Catalonia we have to empower female gender, but also to remind that equality is not the superiority of neither of the genders, it is the equal status and treatment of women and men.

## **10. Annex**

### ***10.1. History of the feminist movement in England***

England is considered by most the pioneer of suffragist due to the following reasons.

In 1792 the English philosopher, activist and writer Mary Wollstonecraft wrote *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, where she vindicates the equality in education between both genders and also in rights and citizenship, it is considered one of the most radical feminist manifests. It was in 1832, when Mary Smith, a rich owner, requested the recognition of her vote on the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, she was based on paying her taxes and claimed the political rights of women.

Different political characters presented reforms that supported the suffragist. All the same, it was the member of United Kingdom Parliament John Stuart Mill who got to cause a big impact in the movement when in 1866 presented a defence of the female vote and later, in 1867 an amendment to change the word "man" for "person" in the Second Reform Act, this was denied arguing that the word used had a general sense. But later, 5,475 women were expelled from the lists to participate in the elections from Manchester with the refutation of the affirmation that the word "man" had a general sense. In 1869 English women got the municipal right thanks to the member of the United Kingdom Parliament and defender of the movement John Bright, this was an encouraging act for suffragists.

It was in 1903 when the most important suffragist group was born, this was the

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Women's Social and Political Union, an organization formed by Emmeline Pankhurst, who nowadays is recognized as the heroin of women's suffrage. She was the brains of many vindications and also made a call to civil disobedience: not only interrupted speeches done by ministers and other political figures with her suffragist organization during the national campaign, but they also did terrorist acts against public buildings, broke shop windows and set fire to post boxes. With this big pass to action were arrested around 1,000 women, a big part of them did hunger strikes once in the prison in order to draw public attention.

Another remarkable suffragist event is the Mud March, it was organized by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in February 7 of 1907 in London. More than 3,000 women demonstrated on the cold, humid and full of mud streets of the capital from Hyde Park to Exeter Hall with only one purpose: obtaining the equality of the vote between female and male.

We can not forget one of the most protest acts of suffragist that took place in June of 1913 during a race in the racecourse of Epsom. The suffragette Emily Davison threw herself on the passage of the horse from King George V, consequently she had serious injuries that caused her the death four days later. It is possible that Davison entered the race track with the aim of flying the Women's Social and Political Union flag and get the attention of the cameras. This radical act turned Emily into a martyr of the movement, it also made spread the ideology to other countries capturing the attraction of thousands of women who joined the fight for women's suffrage.

The First World War was an epoch of great changes for almost all the countries, cultures and also for the English suffragist movement. Upon the outbreak of the war in 1914, men were sent to the front lines obeying orders from their King George V, while women went occupying the workplaces that males had left vacant. As all English female were needed to keep going on with the manufacturing economy, the warlike industry and the public administration, King George V gave amnesty to suffragettes in order to they could incorporate in the new jobs. Moreover, they demanded the following compensations:

- Have the same salary as men
- Have a labour week of 48 hours
- Increase the number of inspectors in the women factories
- Magnify the protection in the dangerous works
- Establish subsidies of maternity
- Remodel the education
- Declare women's suffrage

The King could not oppose to the demands of the suffragettes as they supposed a huge part of the working class that with their efforts at work helped the maintenance of England while the country was driving towards victory. Therefore, in May 28 of 1917 the women's suffrage was approved in England for women above 30 years old. A few years later, concretely in 1925, the English law recognized the rights of mothers above their children.

Finally, in 1928 English women got the right to vote.

### ***10.2. History of the feminist movement in the United States***

The United States are also considered an important country for the development of the suffragist movement. The first document of North American collective feminism is the Declaration of Sentiments, written on July 19 of 1848 by the members of the Seneca Falls Convention held in New York. What characterize this organization is that was the first one in the country that talked about women's rights, the Declaration of Sentiments denounced political and social restrictions in which women were subjected, like not having the right to vote, not being allowed to run in the elections and neither take part in political meetings.

The American Civil War that took place between 1861 and 1865 helped the spread of suffragist around the country, due to it lead women to the conclusion that if slaves

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had achieved minimum rights the female gender deserved it too, therefore they demanded to be seen as full citizens of America.

A few years later arrived the Woman's Era, from 1890 to 1920 North American women got a few new rights, for example the right to private property, to control their own economy and to make contracts.

At the end of the Woman's Era it was becoming more and more difficult to deny the women's suffrage due to the following reasons. The largest organization of the movement in the United States, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, had already around 150,000 members who together demanded the right to vote. In addition, the number of women that were entering in the universities and that were joining suffragette protest groups was increasing, they even founded the National Women's Suffrage. It also appeared the National Consumers League, an organization which saw that in fact women had the most power of economy as they were almost the only ones who bought and they could regulate the trades as they wanted to. Therefore, they cut down buying products manufactured by children as they were against sweatshop labour. Besides, the new technological achievements created new job positions which were mainly held by women. Consequently, being a housewife was no longer the only choice for female gender.

A wider freedom was coming for the women of America when, after many vindications, female gender achieved the legal birth control. Even so, women had not yet achieved the right to vote and, as a result, some women organizations moved to action. The suffragette Alice Paul founded the National Women's Party and with its members began to employ the aggressive vindications that were used by the

English suffragettes in the early twentieth century. Like when in 1917 the demonstrators chained themselves to the fence of the White House to reclaim their right to vote. Consequently, around 200 members of the National Women's Party were arrested, once in the prison they started a hunger strike following the steps of the English women protesters, but in fact they were finally force-fed.

After a period of many protests, in August 26 of 1920 was written, and introduced into the United States Constitution, the Nineteenth Amendment in which we can read: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex". Actually, women suffrage could not be denied any more due to female gender had given a huge patriotic support during the First World War working in the war industries of the country. And, moreover, the votes of women were considered as pluses to establish the Prohibition, or also known as the Dry Law.

Finally, after this big and difficult success of the American suffragists, the Woman's Era ended and let place for the entrance of the Third feminism wave.

### **10.3. Survey about discrimination against women in Catalonia**

You can find all about the survey in this link:  
[https://docs.google.com/a/jvvgirona.eu/forms/d/1\\_Up4\\_eI4cfAQ7LkKxXOvsHNGtoadlucFwxOuBNty3XY/edit#responses](https://docs.google.com/a/jvvgirona.eu/forms/d/1_Up4_eI4cfAQ7LkKxXOvsHNGtoadlucFwxOuBNty3XY/edit#responses)

#### PART ONE

##### **1. What is your gender?**

65%: Female                      35%: Male

##### **2. How old are you?**

Respondents were from thirteen years old to sixty seven.

##### **3. Do you live at your home with people of your opposite gender?**

88.7%: Yes                      11.3%: No (If you mark this answer skip directly to the second part please)

##### **4. How do you distribute the household chores?**

49.8%: Equally among all members of the house(If you mark this answer skip directly to the second part please)

43.9%: Women do more household chores

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2.4%: Men do more household chores

3.5%: Women do all household chores

0.3%: Men do all household chores

**5. Do you think this distribution of the household chores is correct?**

48.3%: Yes

51.7%: No

**6. Have you ever tried to change this distribution to make it more equitable?**

54%: Yes

46%: No

PART TWO

**7. Do you have a cleaning assistant?**

44.7%: Yes, she is a woman

0%: Yes, he is a man

55%: No

**8. Do you think the reply to a wrong action is different depending of if it has been done by a man or by a woman?**

41%: Yes

59%: No

**9. Do you think there is a major equality of goods and property between women and men?**

24%: Yes

76%: No

**10. Do you think there is equality between men and women in management positions of private companies?**

10.6%: Yes

89.4%: No

**11. Do you think senior political positions are equal employed by men and women?**

12.3%: Yes

87.7%: No



**12. Do you think there are more male Catalan athletes with world medals than female?**

51.4%: Yes                      48.46%: No

**13. Do you think gender equality has been achieved inside the society?**

14%: Yes                      86%: No

**14. And in the familiar environment?**

25.9%: Yes                      74.1%: No

**15. And in the labour world?**

9.1%: Yes                      90.9%: No

**16. Do you think there should be sensitivity of gender inequality in the media?**

90.9%: Yes                      9.1%: No

**17. Do you think gender education should be fostered in schools and educational centres?**

84.5%: Yes                      15.5%: No

**10.4. Interview with the ombudsman of Girona**

**1. Which is the function of the ombudsman?**

The Ombudsman of the citizenry of Girona is an independent institution, created by the city council. It acts with full autonomy, impartiality and discretion. It does not receive orders or instructions from any authority and neither from any social group, it supervise municipal action.

To serve and defend the citizenship rights, to drive practices of a good administration and ensure the common good, are the central concepts of the action and the commitment of the ombudsman. Who acts following the moral, the justice and the equity, making more human the bureaucracy.

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**2. Have you ever treated any case about gender discrimination?**

Not directly in the ombudsman office, but it is more than evident the existence of improper behaviours of a society that preaches as supreme values the equality, the justice and the defence of the human rights. These share the purpose to guarantee the equality from the dignity of any person, no matter what race, colour, religion, language, etc. And this has not been achieved yet.

**3. Do you think the administration gives an equal treatment both women and men?**

In a municipal area I do not have evidence of any discriminatory treatment because of gender.

**4. Do you believe nowadays there is still gender discrimination?**

Nowadays there are countries which have not understood the issue of gender equality and scorn women just because of being it. In the occidental world, is expanding the idea of gender equality, Legally the equality of humans is guaranteed, but socially there is still a long improvement to do.

**5. In which backgrounds do you consider that this inequality between men and women is present?**

Perhaps in the private business and in more competitive fields women have lower payments than men doing the same work. It is also more difficult for women to access to the presidencies of big companies and multinationals.

**10.5. *Interview with the administrative lawyer of the Girona's Exclusive Court of violence against Women***

**1. When was created the Exclusive Court of violence against Women?**

This specific department was created in 2008, but the petition of having the Exclusive Court of violence against Women was done in 2005.

**2. Which is the function of this special court?**

This court deals with the denunciations of gender discrimination made by women, either by physical or psychological mistreatment made by aggressors of the opposite gender.

**3. How many complaints have been since the year has started?**

There have been around four hundred complaints, however some have been withdrawn by the victims, normally because they think that the sentence for the aggressor is too hard.

**4. Are usually the victims of a particular municipality or neighbourhood?**

No, there is a lot of variety, there are victims from Girona, Banyoles, Llançà, etc.

**5. How old are the majority of victims? And the aggressors?**

The majority of victims have between 25 and 35 years old, meanwhile, the aggressors usually are from 40 downwards.

**10.6. Interview with the judge of the Girona's Exclusive Court of violence against Women**

**1. From the creation of the Girona's Exclusive Court of violence against Women have increased or decreased the number of denunciations?**

In 2008, there was a good number of denunciations, however it decreased. But since two years ago, the amount of complaints has increased.

**2. Which is the percentage of victims with the Catalan nationality?**

The 60% of victims have Catalan nationality, and the other 40% represents the foreign residents victims. But while comparing these percentages we have to consider that the number of immigrants who are obtaining the nationality is increasing.

**3. Once in the Exclusive Court of violence against Women does the aggressor recognises he has used physical or psychological strength against the victim?**

No, they usually do not recognise it, because they do not feel like having done something illegal, and even less bad.

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#### 4. Do the victims usually depend economically on their aggressor?

No, they do not usually depend economically on the man. However, the great majority have to get along with the aggressor, like for example in the case of divorced couples with children.

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