

1893 New Zealand

1902 Australia

1906 Finland

1913 Norway

1915 Denmark

1917 Canada

1918 Austria, Germany,

Poland, Russia

1919 Netherlands

1920 United States

1921 Sweden

1928 Britain, Ireland

1930 South Africa

1931 Spain

1934 Turkey

1944 France

1945 Italy

1947 Argentina, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan

1949 China

1950 India

1954 Colombia

1957 Malaysia, Zimbabwe

1962 Algeria

1963 Iran, Morocco

1964 Libya

1967 Ecuador

1971 Switzerland

1972 Bangladesh

1974 Jordan

1976 Portugal

1989 Namibia

1990 Western Samoa

1993 Kazakhstan, Moldova

2005 Kuwait

2006 United Arab Emirates

2011 Saudi Arabia

The right to

VOTE

does not

guarantee

equality

18.3%
of government
ministers are women

22.8%
of all national
parliamentarians
are women

15
female Heads of State

Representation is key to making the voices of women heard on local, national, and international stages.

It is not enough to voice our grievances in the comfort of our monthly meetings or yearly commissions. We must have women in positions of influence who will amplify the voices of the marginalised until the work of achieving Gender Equality is done.

Leading the way: Rwanda



- In the 1990s, women members made up an average of 18% of the Rwandan Parliament.
- The 2003 Rwandan Constitution set a quota of 30% women Parliament members.
- After the 2008 elections in Rwanda, women made up 56% of Parliament.
- The number jumped to 64% after the 2013 elections.

Rwandan Parliamentary members say that while the quota has led to changes in the government, social change lags considerably behind. Wives are expected to obey their husbands, and girls are expected to stay quiet in school.

There is hope in a new generation of Rwandan women. The quota that gave women a voice in government also insisted that women have access to education, and it is these educated women who are defining their own Feminism, circling back to address the social issues that the quota skipped.

Education is empowerment, and empowered women get to choose their future for themselves. Whatever that looks like, the future of Rwanda is bright with the promise of true equality.



ACWW Out and About

What ACWW Member Societies are up to around the world

RWNZ Works Towards Gender Equality with the Trusts Bill

Our legislative process in New Zealand allows for submissions from interested parties which are written, and can be followed by an oral presentation once accepted. Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) recently submitted to the Justice Committee on the Trusts Bill. This Bill aims to modernise New Zealand's Trust laws and RWNZ took a particular interest in this from both the rural and gender perspective and how they intersect in such a way as to disadvantage rural women and girls.

We consulted with Members, Federated Farmers New Zealand, stakeholders, and wider networks to ascertain thoughts and experiences. Our research showed that rural women and girls are disadvantaged. In New Zealand, women were not included in trusts that were designed many years ago, as traditionally the expectation was that the wives and daughters were to be looked after by their fathers and husbands. Consequently, many women received nothing when their fathers and husbands left or passed away, which still happens if these trusts are still in place. Other trusts were set up by families and anyone joining the family, even by marriage, were not considered. This often happens with women given the gender imbalance in the farming workplace. Nowadays, there are some families or businesses that set up trusts explicitly to avoid sharing any value of the family farm or farming business with partners.

We shared how the Trusts Bill needs to take into account these anomalies. Our oral submission was strong and the Chair of the Select Committee remarked that he was unaware that these situations still occurred. Our submission emphasised the need for both a rural impact analysis and a gender impact analysis and the intersectionality of both.

RWNZ remain positive that our submission on the Trusts Bill will positively contribute the lives for our rural women and girls in New Zealand. It is 2018, 125 years since women won the right to vote in New Zealand.



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development