



# WOMEN IN GLOBAL GOVERNMENT

## LEARNING GOALS

- To recognize the gender imbalance and the challenges women face in global governance.
- To consider the benefits of having more women leaders.
- To practice drawing connections between local challenges and global contexts and best practices.

## ASSIGNMENT

Estimated Time: ~17 min

- Watch "[America's Powerful Female Politicians Tell Us How They Broke The Glass Ceiling](#)" (~3 min)
- Watch "[Power and Politics in Rwanda](#)" (~7 min)
- Read "[Why Are Women-Led Nations Doing Better With Covid-19?](#)" (~5 min)
- Read "[In Hawaii Legislature, 17% Of Women Have Leadership Roles](#)" (~2 min)

## TERMINOLOGY

- **Glass Ceiling** - A metaphor for the invisible barrier that prevents women from advancing in a career, including but not limited to the corporate world, politics, STEM, and Hollywood.
- **Patriarchy** - A term that describes a male-dominated society where women are systematically excluded from leadership, power, and influence.
- **Feminism** - The belief in political, economic, and social equality between genders.
  - ◇ **First-Wave Feminism** - The women's suffrage movement during the 1800s and early 1900s. Its main focus concerned legal issues, such as voting and property rights. Famous thinkers include Emmeline Pankhurst and Susan B. Anthony.
  - ◇ **Second-Wave Feminism** - A feminist movement that began around 1963, the year Betty Friedan wrote *The Feminine Mystique*. Second-wave feminists addressed topics as diverse as reproductive freedom, workplace discrimination (i.e. unequal pay), and domestic violence. Famous thinkers include Simone de Beauvoir and Gloria Steinem. Succeeded by third- and fourth-wave feminism.

## KAHOOT QUIZ

- Go to [Kahoot.it](https://kahoot.it) or use the Kahoot mobile app and enter the pin 09146002
- Or, use [this link](#)



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What challenges do female politicians face? Do these barriers affect student government elections at your schools?
- How did female members of Congress beat the odds and win their races?
- Are there any female politicians, past or present, who inspire you? If so, why?
- What were the benefits of female leadership in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- In regards to the second video ("Power and Politics in Rwanda"), why might the mere presence of female leaders not be enough? How do entrenched cultural norms block progress?
- Do you feel that Hawaii has done enough to empower women? If not, what can we do to promote female participation in international, national, and local leadership positions?
- What role do men play in the struggle for women's rights? How can women and men work together to end gender inequality?
- Should we introduce a quota in Hawaii for women in government? Why or why not?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Women In Politics: 2020](#)  
A UN-generated map that shows female political participation around the world.
- [Women In Foreign Policy](#)  
A website that explores female representation in diplomacy and international relations. Model UN participants are especially encouraged to review its contents.
- [Women's Participation in Peace Processes](#)  
The Council on Foreign Relations researched the effect women have on international peace agreements. Their research, for instance, found that female participation makes an agreement "35% more likely to last at least 15 years."
- [Center For American Women And Politics](#)  
Hosted by the Eagleton Institute at Rutgers University, CAWP studies the relationship between gender and politics. A must-see for anyone interested in political science research and/or activism.
- [We Should All Be Feminists](#)  
A TED Talk delivered by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a MacArthur Fellow and author of *Americanah*.



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## IDEAS FOR ACTION

### Easier

- Read about the history of female leaders. One local individual you might want to explore is Rep. Patsy Mink, who played a major role in the passage of Title IX, a law that empowers female athletes and survivors of sexual assault. Also peruse through classics like *The Second Sex* (Simone de Beauvoir), *The Feminine Mystique* (Betty Friedan), and *I Am Malala* (Malala Yousafzai).
- Speak up whenever you see someone getting discriminated against and/or unjustly disadvantaged. "Injustice anywhere," Martin Luther King Jr. once noted, "is a threat to justice everywhere."

### Medium

- Vote as soon as you turn 18. The ballot box is, by far, the most effective way to effectuate change in a democracy.
- Write articles in your school paper or even local outlets, especially Civil Beat and the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*. An article in a mainstream platform can reach diverse audiences, thereby educating people who otherwise wouldn't hear about the challenges female leaders face.
  - ◊ If film is your specialty, produce a YouTube video.
  - ◊ Paint a mural at your school. Art is an important medium for social justice campaigns, informing the viewer via aesthetic splendor.
- Organize a conversation online or invite a guest speaker to visit your school. If you are unsure of whom to invite or need help reaching out, email PAAC at [hs@paachawaii.org](mailto:hs@paachawaii.org). We'll be more than happy to get you started.

### Hard

- Join the campaign of a female leader who is running for office. You can canvass, sign wave, and/or donate to ensure that women get represented in the halls of power! Also consider non-governmental organizations that champion women's rights. As President Obama put it, "The arc of the moral universe may bend toward justice, but it doesn't bend on its own." We the People have to bend it.
- Or perhaps you should think about running yourself, especially if political issues captivate your interest and excite your idealism.
- Policy advocacy: lobby your elected representatives to pass bills that would establish equality, tackling issues like equal pay, sexual harassment, and women's health. A well-analyzed piece of testimony can accomplish much.

## HAWAII CORE STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (HCSSS) LINKS

- Content Standard [SS.WH.8.7.2](#)
- Content Standard [S.US.12.8.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.US.12.16.2](#)
- Content Standard [SS.MHH.4.9.1](#)
- Action Projects link to [SS.PID.5.7.1](#)

This lesson was created by Matthew Sohn.