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**Term Paper for College English 2**

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| **Essay title:**  Gender Equality |
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## Gender Equality

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, a statement entitled “Uniting to Achieve Gender Equality” proclaimed that many governments’ promises of gender equality in politic had not been achieved. “We should not wait more a century”, then the United Nations simulated every government to comply with the principles of gender equality and implement related policies. Gender inequality, however, is not a problem existing in a few countries or a few fields. Over hundreds of years, people all over the world are devoted to improve the pace of gender equality. Gender equality is an unequal state of access to resources and opportunities, including economic and political participation, education and decision-making. As of 2017, gender equality is the fifth of seventeen sustainable development goals of the United Nations. Aimed at disseminating necessary knowledge on gender equality, the article will place emphasis on the influence of gender inequality and the development of fighting for gender equality in recent 100 years.

Gender equality, equality between men and women, entails the concept that all human beings, both men and women, are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without the limitations set by stereotypes, rigid gender roles and prejudices(ILO, 2000). Gender equality means that one have the equivalent right for fairness of treatment regardless of gender, but in terms of benefits, obligations and opportunities.

Gender inequality, as the opposite of the world fashion, has resulted in many barriers for social development.

Social constructs of gender shaped in the influence of gender inequality often have a negative effect on health. It does exist that woman are not being allowed to travel alone outside the home, and being prevented by cultural norms to ask their husbands to use a condom, which harm woman’s liberty and health. Moreover, holding a low social status in gender-based culture, women are usually recipients of domestic violence and even regard it as a common part of life. In the meanwhile, teenager boys are more likely to suffer from lung cancer due to smoking, in cultures which link smoking to masculinity([World Health Organization](http://www.who.int/gender/genderandhealth/en/) [WHO], 2015). The problem lies in that A variety of stereotypes emerge in gender-based social, where gender inequality is seen reasonable, and this connotation will kill a lot of women and men in terms of physical and mental health.

The other adverse influence contributes to a huge obstacle of social development. In certain countries and area, “harmful traditional practice”, as a kind of ritual convention, still takes place where young women are the main victims, although men can be affected. The practice include, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights(2017), female genital mutilation(FGM), early marriage, son preference, female infanticide and other various taboos. This unfair society system certainly results in women obtaining low-wage jobs and disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and exploitation. While the gender-based society show a picture of discrimination and unfairness, the picture of gender-equal society is prosperous and vigorous. In gender-equal society, it gives full support to women to make considerable contribution to society. In turn, women who have decent jobs and afford luxurious commodities will promote the social development in terms of economy and sustainability.

Where there is oppression there is resistance. A great number of famous woman leaders have held protests and parades for women’s right. A range of social movements, political movements, and ideologies, called feminism, share a common goal: to define, establish, and achieve the political, economic, personal, and social equality of the sexes(Mary E. 2006). Chamberlain, Prudence claimed in his book that the history of the modern western feminist movement is divided into four "waves"([Chamberlain](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_ebooks_1?ie=UTF8&text=Prudence+Chamberlain&search-alias=digital-text&field-author=Prudence+Chamberlain&sort=relevancerank) P. 2017). The first comprised women's suffrage movements of the 19th and early-20th centuries, promoting women's right to vote. The second wave, the women's liberation movement, began in the 1960s and campaigned for legal and social equality for women. In or around 1992, a third wave was identified, characterized by a focus on individuality and diversity. The fourth wave, from around 2012, used social media to combat sexual harassment, violence against women and rape culture.

Held in 1946, The Commission on the Status of Women, is a decision-making institution exclusively dedicated to the improvement of gender equality and raising women’s status globally. In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously voted to create a single UN body tasked with accelerating progress in achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment.

With feminism developing, a new concept comes into being, Global Feminism. In 1985, the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, was held in Nairobi. Described by many as “the birth of global feminism”, it adopted an document, Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies to the Year 2000, breaking new ground by declaring an increasing number of women’s issues would be tackled. The Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, went a step further than the Nairobi Conference. The Beijing Platform for Action asserted women’s rights as human rights and committed to specific actions to ensure respect for those rights.

With the efforts of human, gender equality are making its way globally. Women’s rights, however, are not equivalent to men in some area and occasionally. Events hurting women such as sex harassment, job discrimination are not rare even in developed countries. Gender equality, having a long way to go, is still a great business of all human now.

1 [International Labour Organization](https://www.ilo.org/" \t "https://www.google.com/_blank) [ILO]. (2000). ABC Of Women Worker's Rights And Gender Equality. p. 48.

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