

Gender inequality has been a problem that continues to exist for centuries, and it can still be recognised today on different levels – locally, nationally and globally. Although we live in societies that have advanced significantly in the field of human rights protection, there is still much work to be done regarding women’s rights, as we continue to witness many violations of the same. Even nowadays, women and girls face different obstacles in private and professional life. Throughout history, they have been denied certain rights simply because of their gender. The movement for women's rights is often categorised into three waves of feminism. The first one concerned legal issues and occurred in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The second wave extended to more issues including family, sexuality and workplace rights, between the 1960s and 1980s. The third wave emerged in the 1990s and continues today. It highlights diversity within the feminist movements (Freedman, 2002). Over the past few decades, gender equality has gained widespread acceptance and numerous countries and international organisations have made commitments to achieving it (Lombardo, Meier, & Verloo, 2017, p. 1). Gender equality is one of the founding EU values that is firmly embedded in the Treaties of the EU, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Articles 21 and 23) and secondary legislation (European Parliament, 2024).