



# Women in 20th Century Ireland

Term	Definition
1922 Constitution of the Irish Free State	Gave the vote to all women and men over the age of 21
Absentionism	Policy by Sinn Féin MPs to not take their seats in the House of Commons.
Anti-Discrimination Act 1974	Women and men must be paid the same wage for the same work
Bunreacht na hÉireann	Constitution of Ireland, 1937
Conditions of Employment Act	Limited the number of women in any industry
Countess Constance Markievicz	an Irish politician, revolutionary, nationalist, suffragist, socialist, the first woman elected to the Westminster Parliament, and was elected Minister for Labour in the First Dáil, becoming the first female cabinet minister in Europe.
Cumann na mBan	an Irish republican women's paramilitary organisation
Discrimination	Unjust treatment of different people, usually based on race, religion, sexual orientation or gender.
Dr Kathleen Lynn	the use of fear and acts of violence to try to change society or government policy for a political or ideological purpose
Employment Equality Act 1977	Women have equal rights to be employed regardless of marriage status
Feminism	The belief that men and women are equal and should have the same rights and opportunities.
Franchise	The vote or suffrage
Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington	a suffragette and Irish nationalist
Katie Taylor	an Irish professional boxer and former footballer.
Marriage Bar	Women had to give up their jobs in the civil service when getting married.
Mary McAleese	The second female President of Ireland
Mary Robinson	The first female President of Ireland
Relief Aid	Charity for people who are poor and have no income.
Sonia O'Sullivan	an Irish former track and field athlete.
Suffragettes	Women who were willing to take militant action in order to achieve voting rights.
Women's Suffrage	The right of women to vote in political elections.

## 2.9 EXPLAIN how the experiences of women in Irish society changed during the twentieth century

The Stone Age		
<p>The 20th century was a pivotal time for women in Ireland, marked by significant social and cultural changes. Women played a significant role in the struggle for Irish independence, challenging traditional gender roles and leading to greater political participation. The 1960s brought about gradual changes for women in areas such as education, employment, and contraception. The emergence of the feminist movement in the 1970s and 1980s led to greater gender equality and women's rights, challenging the conservative social policies of the dominant political party, Fianna Fáil. The party's policies had a significant impact on women's lives, with discrimination and marginalization a common experience. The Magdalene Laundries were an institution that reflected the neglect of women's rights in Ireland, and the Irish state was complicit in the abuse of women held there. From the 1970s to the present day, Ireland has seen significant changes in women's rights and representation, with challenges still remaining in achieving gender equality.</p>		
The Struggle for Irish Independence	The 1960s	The Magdalene Laundries and Mother and Baby Homes
<p><b>The Struggle for Irish Independence</b> marked a significant moment in Irish history, with women actively participating in the political movement. Women played a significant role in the fight for independence, particularly in the Irish Citizen Army and Cumann na mBan. Women's involvement in the Easter Rising of 1916 challenged traditional gender roles, leading to changes in women's status and greater political participation. However, the newly established Irish Free State failed to recognize the contributions of women to the independence movement, and their rights and representation were subsequently neglected.</p>	<p><b>The 1960s</b> brought about gradual changes for women in Ireland, particularly in the areas of education, employment, and contraception. The introduction of free secondary education enabled greater access to higher education for women, while the gradual liberalization of Ireland's economy increased job opportunities for women. The 1960s also saw the emergence of the feminist movement in Ireland, advocating for greater gender equality and women's rights. The 1960s were a pivotal decade in Ireland's social and cultural history, leading to greater social and political changes for women.</p>	<p><b>The Magdalene Laundries</b> were institutions run by religious orders in Ireland, where thousands of women were held captive and subjected to forced labour and abuse. Women were sent to these institutions for various reasons, including being unmarried mothers, victims of sexual abuse, or considered "troubled" in some way. The Irish state was complicit in the abuse, with women being forcibly placed in these institutions and their rights neglected. The Magdalene Laundries continued to operate until the late 1990s, with survivors only receiving a formal apology and compensation in recent years.</p>
The Irish Feminist Movement	The Conservative Fianna Fáil Governments and their treatment of Women	From the 1970s to Present Day
<p><b>The Irish Feminist Movement</b> emerged in the 1970s and 1980s, advocating for greater gender equality and women's rights. The movement sought to challenge traditional gender roles and the patriarchal structures that kept women from participating fully in Irish society. The movement led to significant changes in Irish law, including the legalisation of contraception, the recognition of marital rape, and greater access to abortion. The feminist movement was instrumental in shaping Ireland's social and cultural landscape, with women gaining greater representation and equality in various aspects of Irish life.</p>	<p><b>Fianna Fáil</b> was the dominant political party in Ireland from the 1930s to the 1970s, during which time the party adopted conservative social policies that discriminated against women. The party supported the Magdalene Laundries, opposed contraception, and restricted women's access to education and employment. The party's policies had a significant impact on women's lives, with many women facing discrimination and marginalization as a result. Despite the feminist movement's efforts to challenge these policies, it wasn't until the 1990s that Ireland began to see significant changes in women's rights.</p>	<p>Ireland has undergone significant social and cultural changes, particularly in relation to women's rights and representation. The feminist movement played a significant role in shaping these changes, leading to the legalisation of contraception, the recognition of marital rape, and greater access to abortion. Women gained greater representation in politics and the workforce, and traditional gender roles were challenged. However, Ireland still faces challenges in achieving gender equality, particularly in relation to the gender pay gap and the under-representation of women in senior positions.</p>

