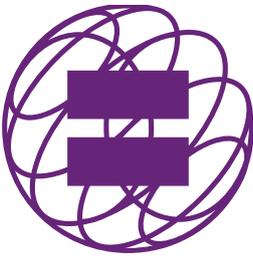


INTERNATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY PRIZE
Background information



Finland has a long history of advocating and promoting gender equality both at home and around the world. In 1906, Finnish women became the first in the world to receive full political rights. Equal succession rights were introduced even earlier in 1878, and women have been entitled to complete university degrees since 1882. Throughout Finland's independence, women have served as leaders in all key positions, including President of the Republic and Prime Minister.

GENDER EQUALITY PRIZE

Discussions about equality are always topical, especially today, even in Europe and other western countries. Equality brings opportunities to all societies around the world. This is why, to commemorate its 100 years of independence, Finland is launching an international gender equality prize to keep discussions about equality alive and to improve the position of women and girls globally.

The decision to establish the gender equality prize was taken by the Finnish Government. The prize will be awarded for the first time in autumn 2017 and after that every other year. This year EUR 150,000 will be awarded. Financing for the prize comes from development cooperation appropriations. The prize is awarded based on the recommendation of an independent prize jury. For 2017 the members of the jury are: **Paulina Ahokas**, Chair and Managing Director of Tampere Hall, **Pekka Timonen**, General Secretary for the Centenary, and **Rosa Meriläinen**, author and researcher.

RECIPIENT OF THE PRIZE

The recipient of the prize is a person or organisation who has promoted gender equality in an internationally recognised way. There are no restrictions on the nationality of the recipient. The prize is a monetary award but it is not granted for the personal benefit of the recipient. Instead, the recipient identifies a cause or project that is aimed at strengthening the position of women and that will be the beneficiary of the prize money. This year the proposals for candidates for the prize were submitted to the independent jury for consideration by the end of May 2017.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AWARD

The recipient of the prize must allocate the funds to development aid activities that promote the position of women. The beneficiary of the prize must meet the Official Development Assistance (ODA) criteria. This means public sector measures targeted at developing countries or aid flows that are designed to promote economic development and wellbeing in developing countries. General aid to international organisations that have been classified as eligible for ODA also qualifies as development aid.

The prize money will be distributed to the beneficiary chosen by the recipient of the prize. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland will oversee the actual implementation of the award, including contracts and transfer of funds to the beneficiary, and providing guidance to the beneficiary in the implementation.