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INTERNATIONAL VOICES - GUTHANNA
IDIRNÁISIÚNTA

GIRLS IN GALWAY

Find out what random women in the streets of Galway say about womanhood.

GOOD NEWS FOR WOMEN

Six good news for women around the world despite this ongoing pandemic.

WONDERFUL WOMEN IN SPORTS

If Serena Williams is inspiring, we must not forget all the other sportswomen who have also been pillars in this world.

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editor's note

Yes, you are not dreaming; this is the second issue of Mnáazine - International Voices! It is a project that we continue and cherish very much. As usual, this issue is also carried out within the framework of the visiting students' module, European Women's Studies, under the tutelage of the co-ordinator Mary Clancy at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Through this magazine, you will be able to discover new ideas and news concerning women from all around the world. Despite the current pandemic that seems to have put the world and some aspects of our lives on pause, we will present you with recent news. Some good but also some bad news and ideas on advances or regressions for women will be discussed in this issue. If you want to discover women who have changed the world in which they lived or still live, you will find those in the history section: from the most famous women to the least known; scientists, warriors or artists. These women have had ideas, have been strong and have the love to revolutionize their world in common.

In this issue, you can read about the thoughts of women who were interviewed in Galway. They express themselves on the fact of being a woman and give us a special and intimate introduction to their worldviews. The second issue also presents wonderful women in many other fields: from sports to music to video games to women in advertising. These aspects are less known, not often treated; but, they are also preconceived ideas that leave the roots and underlying questions of these subjects aside.

In any case, working on this magazine has made us dream and learn a lot. This second edition is surely the last one, but it will already have opened some minds, and that's what counts. If you want to support us, do not hesitate to follow us on Instagram at @mnazine. Finally, we are glad to wish you, once again, a good time reading and discovering our magazine.

Margaux Coudray

Six Good News for Women around the World

news section

OIHANE FERNANDEZ UNIBASO

This ongoing pandemic appears to have completely stopped time. 2020 has been a year of fear and pain for the world, and the same seems to be the case for 2021. However, we can still be proud of the positive advances done for gender equality and feminine protagonism in politics, economy and society.

More Female Power in the United States

The victory of Joe Biden over Donald Trump has brought new opportunities and promising 'first times' for women in the United States' political history: not only concerning the election of Kamala Harris as Vice President but also the naming of Avril Haines as the Director of National Intelligence. Haines directs a team of 17 agencies that compose the Secret Services of the United States. It is also the first time that the Secretary of the Treasury is a woman, Janet Yellen, who had also been at the Federal Reserve until Trump decided not to give her a second chance by not reappointing her. "I could name her, but she is not tall enough", he joked. There remains hope that this new opportunity in the government will help Americans to shed such misogynistic thoughts.



Sudan Stops Genital Mutilation

Even if it is true that a law is not always enough to eradicate such practices in many African countries, the fact that Sudan has banned female genital mutilation symbolizes an important initial starting point.

This step demonstrates the state opposing such a violent act against women. This past June, the law came into force and punishes those who still practice genital mutilation with three years of prison and a fine. This is undoubtedly a huge step for women in a country where 87% of them have been victims of these practices. For the moment, there are still only five African countries where genital mutilation continues to be allowed (Somalia, Sierra Leona, Liberia, Chad and Mali.).



The First Equal Constitution in Chile

It is an impressive fact that until 2020, there was not one equal constitution in the world. After a referendum with 78% of votes in favour, Chile decided to replace its old constitution, which was still in force since the dictatorship of Pinochet. This new one will be written by an assembly formed by the equal number of men and women. This is a real revolution for a country that has lived in such a patriarchal system for so many years. Women occupy only 20% of the seats in Parliament, and abortion is only legal in therapeutic cases. For many years, women were prohibited from remarrying within 270 days following a divorce or the death of the previous husband.

New Opportunities for Women in Africa

Adjany Costa is a biologist, multilingual and winner of several international awards for her contributions to ecologism and research. Also, since last April, she is the Minister of Culture, Environment and Tourism of Angola. This is the first time that the three ministries have been joined and entrusted to a woman. Adjany Costa has promised to reduce the impact of natural resources, promote clean technologies and relaunch tourism. Also, last February, Emma Theofelus was elected as Namibia's Deputy Minister of Information, Communication and Technology at the young age of 23. As an expert in human rights with a diploma in African feminism and gender studies and a law degree, she is the youngest member of any government on the whole continent.



The European Union, Equality is Near

Recently, the European Institute for Gender Equality delighted us with some positive news. Every year, the institute publishes a list of advances done through women's participation in politics, economy and society – the Gender Equality Index. In 2020, an improvement of half a point has been registered. Although it is estimated that to reach full equality, it will take us another 60 years; we are at least taking steps forward.

According to the index, Sweden, Denmark, and France are the ones ahead. However, the actual good news is the advancement of women in power, which takes women's participation in politics, economics, research and sport into consideration. In fact, this year has covered 65% of all progress achieved since 2010.



Iraq: Women Demand Public Space

Due to the desire to build a new independent and progressive country, there have been constant protests in Iraq since 2019. On the 13th of February 2020, hundreds of women mobilized in Baghdad. They were fuelled by a tweet by Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr advocating for gender segregation during these protests. Taking into account that many of the country's public spaces limited to masculine participation only, the large number of women attending and its implication were astonishing: not only as nurses caring for wounded protestors but also in violent face-to-face confrontations with the police. There is a new generation of young, empowering women emerging in Iraq.



The tweet that made all French feminists go: “ugh!”

news section

LISA BOURTHOMIEU

On the 6th of March 2021, the official account of the French Police Nationale posted an “informative picture” on Twitter with the caption “[#Sexting] Envoyer un nude, c’est accepter de prendre le risque de voir cette photo partagée.” ([#Sexting] Sending a nude is accepting the risk of seeing it being shared). The picture in the tweet shows two people with their smartphones in hand and between them the following text: “He got your nude alright. Your friends, your parents, your classmates, your cousins, your teachers, your baker, your ex-boyfriend, your mailman, your grandparents, your niece did, too.”

Sparked by militant feminist Caroline De Haas’s response to the post, the tweet immediately ignited feminist Twitter:

(“Delete it. No to victim blaming.” @NousToutesOrg)

Tagged by Caroline De Haas, the French feminist movement Nous Toutes was also quick to denounce the “prevention post”. And while the wave of backlash grew and grew on all social media platforms, a few stood up for original post saying it was just a sensible piece of advice and realistic danger awareness.

This argument was also my father’s first opinion when we talked about this piece of news at the dinner table. At first, I was truly flabbergasted. My dad? How could he not see the blatant stupidity and harmfulness of this message? How could he not be as outraged as me that our own police, the people in charge of our safety and of the respect of the law, could post such a victim blaming publicity campaign?

But then, as he saw that my head was, quite frankly, about to explode, he rephrased his thought and said: “It’s just common sense but really badly worded”.



And, weirdly, I understood him. But it still wasn’t good enough. While some might think that the horrible response that the tweet got on the Internet was just a knee-jerk reaction of the liberal “snowflake” community, that people jumped on a bandwagon without considering the Police’s good intentions, it just isn’t that simple.

There are not nearly enough feminist and truly educational messages shared and taught to the public by the current government about sexual harassment and revenge porn. And there are just too many accounts of sexual harassment victims mistreated by the police and the justice system, both in France and internationally. They are being constantly asked what they were wearing, how much they were drinking, why they shared such private pictures in the first place. Belittled, called liars, attention seekers, whores, told that they got what they deserved, that they should have been more careful... The list goes on. Our trust in authority regarding sexual harassment has been so damaged that we cannot simply believe in “good intentions and bad execution”.

Let’s teach people not to share naked pictures of others without consent before telling people not to share intimate pictures at all. Let’s teach people about consent in the first place!

And just imagine how ridiculous this kind of victim blaming backwards thinking would be for other crimes.

IN A WORLD OF DOUBLE STANDARDS...

Lisa Bouthoumieu



General Thoughts on Womanhood

women's thoughts section

LUCILE DULUC AND AUDREY BEGLIOMINI

After writing about my experience and point of view on what it means to be a woman, I asked myself if my definition was universal. I asked my friend Lucile Duluc if she would be on board to answer this question with me. To this end, we decided to write down and ask five questions that would summarize their definition of womanhood to random women in the streets of Galway.

In your opinion, what defines womanhood? - Do you think that your definition is universal? - Do you think that your definition is timeless? - Do you think that women have certain duties to assign? What about men? - Do you think there are core differences between men and women?

Lucile

The definition of being a woman is first and foremost biological: being capable of giving birth but from a social point of view, being a woman is a state of mind - the feeling to have something strong in common with a group of which you are part of. For example, this would be the feeling that you can identify with other women.

In my opinion, it is not universal and depends on your culture and the way you were raised. This definition is also evolving. It is also a personal definition.

In the eyes of the law, men and women have the same duties, but from a social perspective, we expect women to have children and lead a life in which they make presumably 'safe' choices. Meanwhile men are rather allowed to 'take risks' and develop their career. I think that normally they should not be core differences between men and women. But, in reality, the fact of being a woman causes differences, for example, on salaries, rights or emancipation.

Léa

Being a woman has no universal meaning. I think that what defines womanhood is to 'feel like a woman', and this feeling is specific to each individual. It is our own duty to identify with our own definition. In our society, the idea of a definition of womanhood evolves through time; but I think that we are moving towards a new point where the question will not be asked anymore. I make no difference between the duties of a woman and the ones of a man. However, I think that there are core differences between men and women but they only rely on the opinions of people who do not think that both genders or sexes are equal, even unconsciously.

Jane

Womanhood is when a female is of reproductive age, and independent, and able to make life choices ...

It is not a universal definition and is very constrained by many different factors in other cultures, for example. My definition is not timeless as laws as well as culture have an effect on the perception and acceptability of what I think womanhood is! I think that nature and nurture influence the roles of women. We question the rules and change the roles women have to work with. Some cultures allow this, whilst some cultures oppress change. Likewise, men have assigned roles that are constantly challenged in the same ways. Yes, there are core differences ... Chemically, they differ as a result of gene structures ... and therefore, we arrive with physical variations and mental ones too!

Mathilde

If we consider the biological side of it, it is only to have a vagina. However, if we consider it as the gender, it is a state of mind, as with society's evolution, there are no categorization criteria. I do not think that this definition is universal; each country or continent has a different definition of womanhood according to the different societies. I do not think that it is timeless either as society changes. In my opinion, if there are duties, they are to fight for equality and to love oneself. From a stereotypical point of view, which I do not share, a man has to be manly and protect his wife. But I would rather say that he has to fight for equality and live himself as well. Women and men do not have core differences.

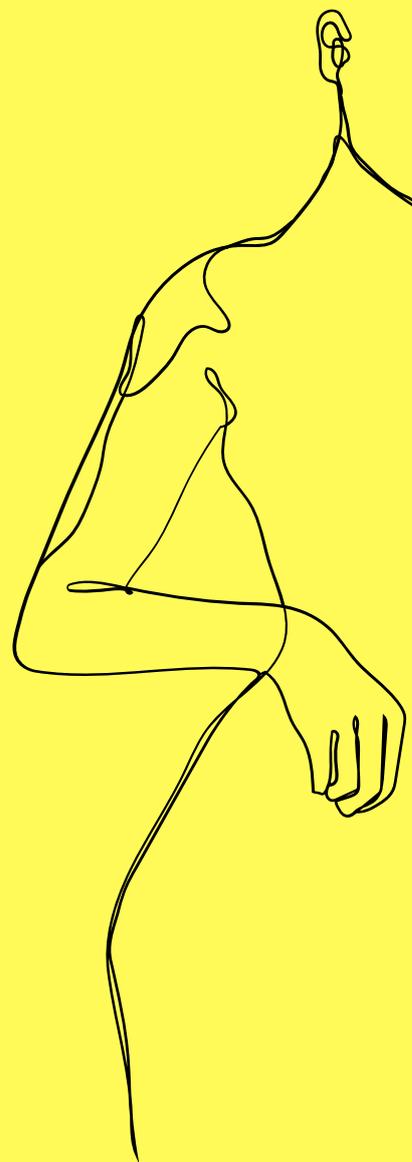
Maiana

I think that what defines womanhood is to 'feel like a woman'. I would not say that this definition is universal; not everybody agrees on this meaning or owns womanhood in the same way. To have a universal definition would be one in the biological sense, to sexually be a woman. I do not think that it is timeless either, as there was (and still is) a big evolution through time, especially for a woman's place in society. To my mind, women and men have the same duties to assign. There are differences regarding society: salary, chances on a social level; it is often more complicated for a woman.

Floriane

In my opinion, what defines womanhood is to feel like a woman and to be part of this group. I think this definition depends on the country, but it should be universal. Also, it is not timeless; on the contrary it is evolving. I think both men and women have the same duties, which are human duties in general (to respect the law).

If we look at the group membership (the belonging to a gender), there are differences, but men and women are not equal.



A Female Gaze at the Stars

Women in Science

history section

GIULIA GATTI

According to UIS (UNESCO Institute for Statistics) data, less than 30% of the world's researchers are women. We, women, have difficulties in every field of work because of our gender - but especially when women decide to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Why do women feel less motivated to pursue these types of careers? The reasons vary from their educational pathways to social factors, such as starting a family, something that women feel pressured to do by society. Also, numerous studies have found that women in STEM fields publish less, are paid less for their research, and do not progress as far as men in their careers. The idea of having a career but not being able to pursue it to the fullest because of their gender can certainly make some women second-guess themselves and reconsider their choices.

Throughout history, many women made a name for themselves in the scientific field. However, nowadays, few people know about them. We are talking about Rosalind Franklin, the woman who discovered the DNA double helix, or Lillian Moller Gilbreth, an American psychologist and industrial engineer, also the first woman elected to the National Academy of Engineering. Furthermore, Edith Clarke is the first professionally employed female electrical engineer in the United States in 1922 and Ellen Ochoa is the first Hispanic woman to go to space on a mission aboard the space shuttle Discovery, and many, many others.

For this reason, I want to examine Margherita Hack, an Italian astrophysicist and scientific disseminator. She is very well known in the country since she was profoundly active in the scientific field. Also, her voice was able to reach every generation, thanks to her social and political activities.

Her parents were never fond of religion, and she was an atheist throughout her life, speaking out against the Catholic Church, following the path of skepticism and rationality. So, here you have it, dear readers: a woman, a scientist, an atheist, a good mixture that society would be inclined to despise. However, because of her boldness and her determination, she was able to make herself heard, even when talking about subjects that people assume to be businesses for men.

She was a full professor of astronomy at the University of Trieste for 28 years; she was director of the Astronomy Department at the University of Trieste and a member of the International Astronomical Union (one of the most prestigious physics and astronomy associations). Additionally, she was the first Italian woman to administrate the Trieste Astronomical Observatory for 23 years, bringing it to international fame, thanks to their research on stellar physics. She worked for many projects all around Europe, and her help was fundamental to carry them out: For example, she won two scholarships to the University of Berkeley in 1955, where she was assigned a project on the absorption lines of a particular star and made several discoveries. Thanks to her, scientists were able to understand that when stars get close to each other, this excites their superficial layers (chromosphere). Her discoveries were then published by the Astrophysical Journal, the primary international magazine on astrophysics.

In 1974, she was asked to organize the second European congress of the International Astronomical Union. She also was a member of working groups of ESA and NASA.

Moreover, she was also socially active by always speaking out for what she believed in. She was a supporter of LGBT rights, saying that: "Hanno gli stessi diritti di tutti: essere omosessuali è solo una variante della specie umana" (They have the same rights as everyone: being homosexual is just a variant of the human species).



Women Who Did Things That Nobody Knows

history section

ELENA VILLANUEVA

Mileva Mária

The woman of the theory of relativity.

Albert Einstein and Mileva studied together at the university. She was as brilliant as him, sometimes even with better grades. They fell in love and married. Various biographies suggest that this was the beginning of many years of academic collaboration, for which Mileva didn't get any acknowledgment. Due to raising the children she had with him, she was departed from the front line of science.

In the 43 letters between them that have been preserved, they usually talked about "our works", "our theory of relative motion" or "our point of view". Years after, when they got divorced, they agreed that if he won the novice prize she would keep the money. This never happened.



Nakako Takeko

The samurai woman

In the 19th century, Japanese women held the role of the housewife. Her status as a woman forced her to be obedient to her husband, and her image was fragile in the view of men. However, in this environment, there were several samurai women, and Nakao Takeko was one of them.

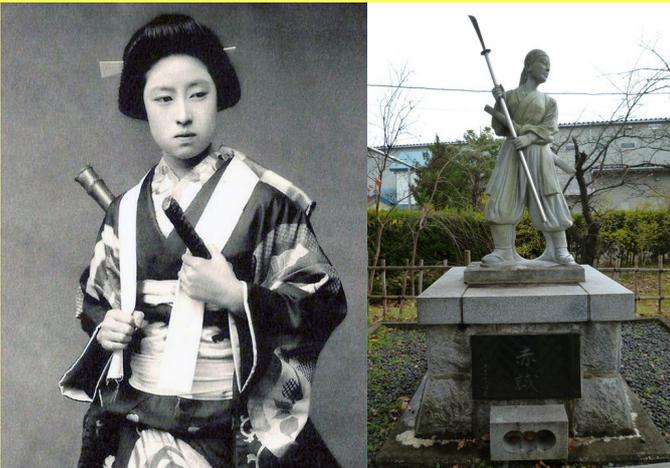
When she got married to Aldo, a childhood friend of hers, they decided against having children, and his career allowed them to travel together for many of her projects. She was free, and she had the opportunity to pursue a career in astrophysics because she was not constrained by the many social factors that, unfortunately, can prevent many other women to in follow her steps.

I will say this: she is a good example of "if you want it, you can get it". It is important that the best scientists have the opportunity to pursue a career and that it is not gender (or any other secondary factor) that determines the chances of success. The reality nowadays is that being a woman means that in a workplace you will always be hampered, you will always have to meet more requirements than men, you will have to face many difficulties, you will always have to live up to the expectations - but not just because a man can do it better. However, dear readers, being a woman means also showing them that they are wrong.



When the civil war started, Takeko was the head of a group of samurai women that she trained personally. In 1868, during the Aizu battle, she was 21 and led a group of twenty women who joined the 3000 men facing the imperial army. The strength with which Takeko and her warriors fought surprised the imperial soldiers who had to change strategy in order to stop Takeko's attacks.

Takeko died fighting. After the battle, a statue was made to honour her. Every year, a group of Japanese women dressed as samurai pay tribute to her.



Margaret Kaene

The woman who revolutionized the 60's art under the name of her husband

In the early 60's, Walter Kaene was one of the most famous artists of United States, widely known for the portraits he painted: children, women and animals with huge eyes full of sadness. Thanks to his style he made a massive fortune. However, the problem was that the real artist wasn't him, but his wife Margaret Kaene.

One day, during an art exhibition, a stranger asked Margaret if she painted too. On this moment she realized that her husband betrayed her, and that he had appropriated her works. He told Margaret that was too late for them to tell the truth, and she participated in the deception for years.



When they got divorced, she told the truth, but Walter denied it, saying that she was a compulsive liar. Margaret took legal action against him and the judge proposed them to do a painting live. He refused to do it, while Margaret finished a painting in 53 minutes. Walter was sentenced to compensate her with 4 million dollars – which he never paid because he had already spent all his fortune on alcohol and sex workers.

Hadijatou Mani Korau

The woman who won a trial against the State of Niger for slavery.



Mani Korau, daughter of a slave, was sold in 1996 at the age of twelve, to a man who paid 300€ so she could be his servant and sexual slave. She was raped for the first time when she was thirteen years old.

In 2004, after the state criminalized the slavery, she was freed and the owner gave to her the "Certificate of Freedom" – although he never let her leave because he pleaded that she was his wife.

One day Mani Korau ran away and married a man she chose freely. But her former owner reported her for bigamy and she was thus imprisoned. She decided to take her case to Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and on the 27th of October of 2008, the government of Niger was sentenced for negligence in fulfilling their duty to defend the citizens against the illegal practice of slavery. The State had to compensate Hadijatou Mani Korau with \$19,000.

This sentence made a crucial difference in the fight against the slavery in Niger.

Only 7,5% of the cultural and scientific references that appear on books are women. The history was written by men, but we won't get tired of telling it the right way.

Sexism and Gender Stereotypes in Contemporary Advertising

women in advertising

THU THAO VU

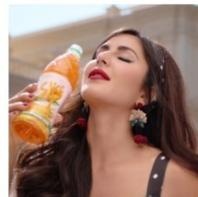
To advocate for and encourage citizens to stay at home during the ongoing health crisis, the British government published an advert on social media in January 2021. However, the campaign has been criticised as sexist for its apparent encouragement of female gender stereotypes. The advert depicts four houses in which only women or female-presenting people are responsible for the domestic chores such as cleaning or the children's remote education. The only male-presenting person is seen relaxing on the couch with their spouse. The advert was met with criticism for its stereotypical portrayal of women as maternal caregivers. It is particularly insensitive concerning the current pandemic in which many women are in an even more vulnerable economic position. Two times more women than men have to take unpaid leave of absences to take care of their children.

Moreover, according to a report, mothers in England were also more prone to unemployment. Although the government deleted and apologised for the post, the damage has been done.

This image is just one of the most recent examples of advertising that seems to rely on gender stereotypes and sexism experienced by women in particular. Sexist advertisements allow for gender stereotypes to persist. They, thus, also affect women and other people's thinking about being a woman and their behaviour towards women in general. Additionally, female-presenting people only appear in one out of ten adverts

with generalising characteristics and mostly unfair beliefs about their gender as a whole. Therefore, these adverts are discriminatory and harmful in their subtle reinforcement stereotypes. As a part of people's daily lives, such images and underlying messages can negatively influence the female and female-presenting group of consumers in their choices, opportunities or aspirations.

Furthermore, sexist advertisement can also underpin women's objectification and eroticisation. For instance, the Indian soft drink line Slice begins its 2020 commercial with actress Katrina Kaif sensually consuming the



despite constituting up to 85 percent of all consumer purchases. Besides only rarely being recognised as part of the general consumership, in those cases, women and female-presenting people also have to deal

with a beverage. One shorter scene solely focuses on her red lips with some of the drink slowly making its way into her mouth. In light of the drink's slogan "Thickest Mango Drink", it could be assumed that sexual undertones were implied in this shot. The commercial does not only point towards the use of the male gaze as a common marketing strategy, but it also permits the continuous treatment of women as sex objects.



Even the brand's succeeding commercial from March 2021 replicates the same closeup shot involving Katrina's lips. Furthermore, this commercial also prompts discussion about gendered advertisements through the arbitrary binary notions of femininity and masculinity. Despite cases in which female or female-presenting persons advertise alcoholic beverages, it appears to be more common to incorporate men than women into those commercials. Regardless of Katrina being the brand ambassador, does the main focus on her in Slice's

their marriage vows, the groom's mother objects and starts vigorously inspecting the bride's physical appearance. After the future mother-in-law's approval, a male voice is heard saying: "An important decision must be made carefully" while a red car is driving on the street. The bride is not only portrayed as passive and submissive in front of the wedding guests – and the audience watching the commercial –, but she is also objectified. She is explicitly compared to a used car. Because that is what the advert is actually about – the possibility to

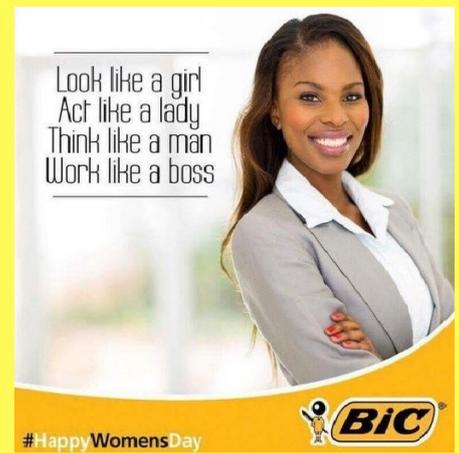


advert for a mango-flavoured soft drink imply any of this binary thinking? That liquor and alcohol should be consumed by men, and women should rather drink more 'feminine' beverages such as this one?

Other examples of sexism and gender stereotypes in advertisements emerge all around the world. The German automobile manufacturer Audi had to retract their Chinese commercial in 2017. In the advert, a wedding is held, but before the couple can exchange

purchase a second-hand car. The commercial ends with a shot directing viewers to the brand's website and the same voiceover saying: "Assured by official certification" – as if women are some sort of resaleable livestock. Following criticism and an outcry by Chinese viewers, the advert was removed, and Audi apologised.

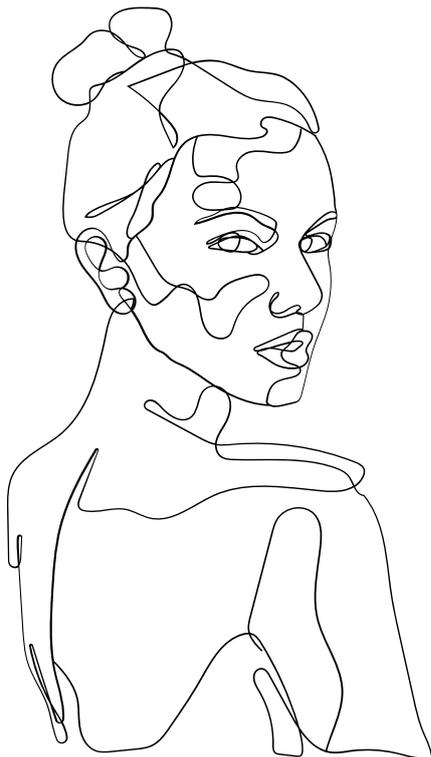
Another instance represents a South African advert by the French corporation BIC from Women's Day in 2015.



International Women's Day on the 8th of March should be a day to celebrate women and their achievements. It should not be a day to dictate to women how to behave or to affirm the aforementioned male gaze. The South African branch of BIC seemed to have not been aware of this since it published a social media post reading: "Look like a girl. Act like a lady. Think like a man. Work like a boss.". For one, this advert underlines the gender-based binary of femininity and masculinity. It also suggests that women need to behave according to their gender, "like a lady". Moreover, it also places certain beauty standards deemed appropriate onto women, exemplified through the depicted model and the text's first line. According to a study by Cunningham and Roberts, almost 70 per cent of women do not think that they are represented in advertisements. Consequently, these images can influence women's perception of themselves and other women or female-presenting persons. The aspect of "look[ing] like a girl" seems even more insensitive because it could hint at the infantilisation of and potential age discrimination against women.

What ultimately qualifies this post as tone-deaf is its third remark to use the male gaze and “[t]hink like a man” – on International Women’s Day.

There are instances in which sexism and the depiction of gender stereotypes are more prominent and rightly denounced. Though, there are still sexist notions that are far more subtle and remain undetected. However, hopeful progressive measurements are gradually taken to reduce sexist advertising and properly represent female and female-presenting people in advertisement. For instance, the UK banned the portrayal of gender stereotypes in its advertisements in 2019. More recently, in January 2021, the government of the sub-provincial city Shenzhen in South China introduced a guidebook on gender discrimination in advertisement. Other countries have also improved their existing legislation regarding gender stereotypes and sexism in adverts, for example, Canada, New Zealand, Bulgaria or Finland. There are also organisations and associations fighting against gender-biased and stereotypical depictions in advertising, such as the French Pépité Sexiste and its various international branches. Yet, it remains crucial to be aware of sexist advertisements and not view them as past events but recognise them as present occurrences in contemporary media.



HIGHLIGHTS

NOGA EREZ

music section

LISA PRIEUR



Noga Erez is a 31-year-old Israeli artist. She released her first album *Off the Radar* in 2017. Her second album *Kids* was recently released on March 26, 2021. She is a hip-hop artist who mixes electro, rap and pop with well-placed punchlines, a good flow of lyrics and beats that stay on the listener’s mind. Noga has an attitude, a charisma that has really struck me. She does look like a woman of power who knows what she is doing and the message she wants to convey. Her character does not leave the audience indifferent. Furthermore, she is accompanied by Ori Rousseau, her creative and life companion in many of her songs. He adds a modified voice that gives a soul to the titles of Noga; the harmony between this duo works really well. Departing extremely far from pop clichés, she creates impactful and creative clips.

With her perfectly felt punchlines, she explores the evil being of our world and its anxiety, but also all the hope that she still finds here.

She actually had these words, full of hope for musicians, about the pandemic:

"Sometimes you can feel that making music has stopped being the goal to become the thing you do to sell tickets ... I think the pandemic has put everything back where it belongs"



Some so good lyrics:

"VIEWS (feat. Reo Cragun & ROUSSO)" (Kids Album).

"People buy views, I know it's old news
But also bad news for everybody"

"Wave (feat. Noga Erez)" (Mirapolis Album by Rone).

"Go out of your way, do it for me
While they smile, request, "Help me!"
Put the screen down, I don't want them to see
Me as I plead, "Help me!"
Turn the lights on, don't talk silently
Let's change the subject, help me
I'm still here, hey, it's still me
Think from behind the screen
"Help me, help me!"

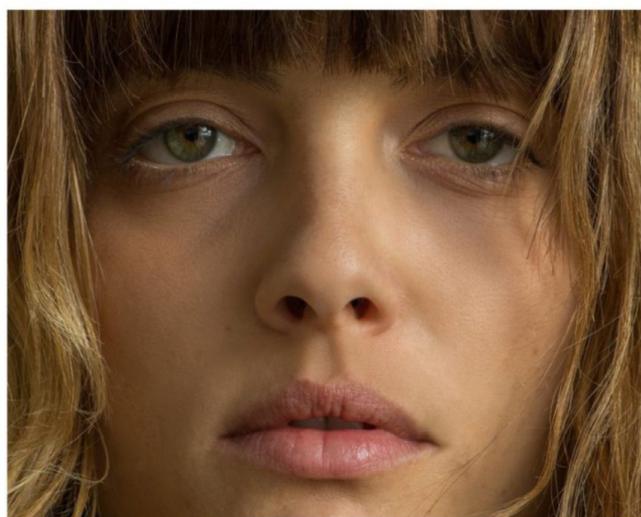
"Fire Kites" (Kids Album).

"Run up your splinter fields alone, I'm barefoot, travel
light
'Cause those who buy the smart equipment never
learn to improvise"

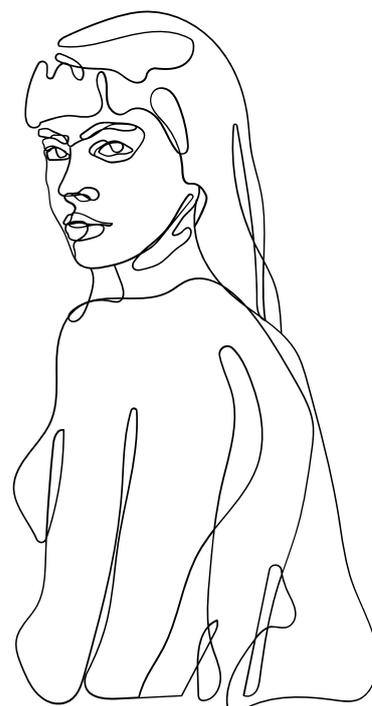
"NO news on TV" (Kids Album).

"I don't wanna look at my phone anymore
I don't wanna roll like a stone anymore
I can not hear my thoughts in this silence no more
Bring back the noise, bring back the noise"

Noga Erez



Off the Radar



Representation of Women in Video Games

video games section

MARGAUX COUDRAY

In a video game, the representation of women is never random. In past video games, these main or secondary characters have been mostly young girls in distress or hypersexualized heroines. However, in recent years, we have been able to discover different women who stand out for their courage, strength and intelligence. They are far from the old female standards imposed by the video game industry. Presuming that independent games are the ambassadors for the change in the representation of women, it is crucial to consider that some big studios also bet on it or advocate for gender equality.

Consequently, here are two lists of three games made just for you; so that you can discover feminism in well-known but also in smaller or independent games.

3 Original Female Leads in Platform Games



Child of Light is a platform role-playing game that looks like an independent game, but it is not one. Indeed, this game released in 2014 was developed by Ubisoft, a well-established French video game company. The heroine of the game is Aurora, a pure-hearted princess who must save her kingdom from darkness. No more clichés of the princess in distress waiting for her Prince Charming: Here it is Aurora who embodies wisdom, intelligence and fighting spirit.

The sun, moon and stars have been stolen by the Black Queen. Lemuria is the kingdom that this child must save. It is a magical world full of quests, puzzles and turn-based combats, in which little Aurora sees herself growing up and exploring the most mystical corners to find the three sources of light. This game is unique in its kind; the story and dialogues are all written in verse, the pastel graphics coupled with the beautiful music bring an atmosphere filled with magic, hope and emotions to the game - even though the story is somewhat dark.



Gris is a platform game with interactive illustrations. An independent game developed by the Spanish video game developer Nomada Studio. The heroine is eponymous Gris, a woman who must confront her feelings and explore her emotions. She wanders through a desert and ruined universe full of puzzles. During the game, she develops abilities that allow her to advance within the different biomes. This is a pure artist's game; the experience is based on the graphic side and the atmosphere. Gris is a game of unprecedented beauty, visually and emotionally. With its watercolour look, soft colours and strong emotional music, this game is very soothing. The main character Gris represents a woman who is going through the stages of grief in a very poetic way.

Denial, anger, reconstruction and acceptance are associated with different colours: grey, red, green and blue. These colours are combined with various statues that dot the world and reveal the emotions and sorrows of the heroine. As a story without dialogue that lets the breath-taking music and emotions speak for themselves, *Gris* is a timeless trip reminding us for a few hours that video games can take many forms and give us thrills. *Gris* is a game that appeals to and heals the mind.



With its poetic paintings, music and story, *Never Alone* not only highlights a part of an Inuit culture and its people but also the perseverance and courage of a young heroine.



3 Famous Video Games that Promote Gender Equality

JANIS DETAIL



Pokémon is probably one of the most renowned game in the world. It has been considered a gaming classic for the past 25 years. But one thing not really noticed by players is how it offers equal opportunities for women and men. You can choose your gender, which only changes the character's physical appearance: No actions, conversations, or fights are influenced by gender. The most striking gender equality example can be found in the Non-Player Character. These bots are probably not equally male and female, but still, we, as women and girls playing, see other women as leaders, players, and trainers. One of the most known NPCs who stands out among all others is Cynthia, the league champion. She is the last trainer we fight in the Pokémon Diamond and Pearl (which will be coming back, remastered, by the end of 2021). She is a role model for every young female Pokémon trainer.

One of the only differences between gender in this franchise can be found in the Pokémons themselves. There are very small details varying between the male and female counterparts, but it most of the time unnoticeable.



Are you a boy?
Or are you a girl?



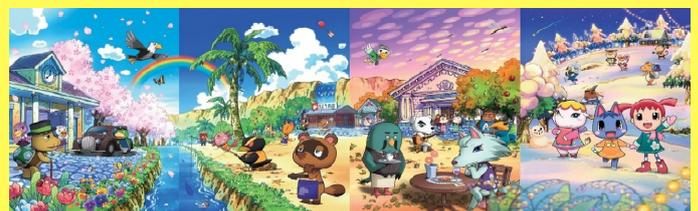
Never Alone is an independent adventure platform game and a documentary developed by Upper One Games. The heroine of the game is Nuna, a young Inupiat child who is accompanied by her little snow fox. The story is told in the form of an oral tale inspired by Alaskan Native tales. Nuna is destined to discover the source of the blizzard that has ravaged her village and to restore the balance of nature. As the adventure unfolds, this young girl who tries to save her village moves through enigmatic settings strewn with puzzles and rides supernatural spirits that help her overcome obstacles without ever leaving her alone. This is a game that is somewhat unprecedented since documentary footage on the culture of the Inupiat people is featured at certain stages of the story. In fact, it is one of the first games owned by the first indigenous video game developer in the history of the United States.



Life is strange is a game that deals with human issues, concerning both men and women, but predominantly women. For now, there are four games in total (the last one coming out by September 2021). Three out of these have women as main characters and a majority of characters being women in general. What is interesting about these games is that they portray women as they are, with different body types, faces, ideas and attitudes. It is a fantastic game set in a realistic environment. The game is about a normal character acquiring a power. All these details put together create a relatable adventure because we experience intimate moments between characters, friends, lovers and family. We can see relationships between men and women, women and women, healthy or toxic; it accurately portrays their life, not only as women but also as people dealing with mental health issues also. And all that centres on emotions and feelings. This aspect is even more apparent in the latest game, which promotes sympathy, empathy as great powers possessed by the main character. It advocates for genuine comradeship between mostly women, empowerment and healing.



Animal Crossing is a cute little game about nature, friendship, and ownership. In the beginning, you can pick your gender, which changes nothing about what you can do as a Villager, Mayor, and Resident Representative, depending on the version you play. Something even greater came with the latest release New Horizons: the possibility to change the character's gender at any moment or place; thus, promoting gender equality but also making it LGBTQIA+ friendly (almost). Just as in the real world, in this game, you can pick different outfits and haircuts with these styles and accessories available both for men and women. A skirt, dress, pixie haircut, long wavy hair only depends on the player's choice and has nothing to do with gender. These same ideas apply to the villagers (NPCs), too; they will wear whatever they get and 'want'. Of course, all these great details came with time. For example, Animal Crossing Community's latest achievements about making the hairstyles and skin tones more ethnically inclusive, which was a success. This success demonstrates this game will always evolve with us and our society.



Women in Sports

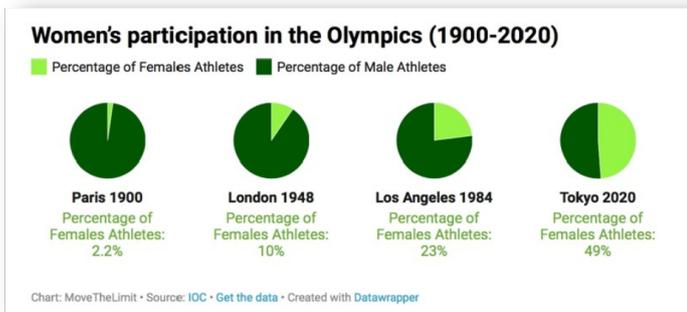
“It’s only crazy until you do it.”

Serena Williams

sport section

DANIELA ANSALONI

We do not have to go back all the way to the gladiators in Ancient Rome or the knight games in the Middle Ages in order to experience gender discrimination in sports. For the longest time, women have been banned from the spectators’ benches. Only a few years ago, a woman running a marathon, boxing or coaching a team in the North American professional basketball league, the NBA, was considered crazy. However, in recent years, change started to slowly but steadily revolutionize the sports world, and strong women began fighting for equality. A look at the percentage of athletes represented at the Olympics in the last century confirms this fact. As for the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games, the IOC (International Olympic Committee) has predicted that female participation will finally reach a number as high as 48.8%.



However, one of the top statistics by the European Institute for Gender Equality on women’s participation in sports in 2020 shows that today, we are still far from gender equality. It states that 37% of women exercise or play sports at least once a week compared to 45% of men. And more women (47%) than men (37%) never exercise or play any sports.

It is not only about the representation of female athletes in sports or at certain events such as the Olympics. But it is about the role of women in the whole sports world: starting from girls participating in school sports to female representation in leading positions such coaches, directors or board members in national committees as far as to equal payment and equal prize money at sports events. For instance, at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, only 11% of the coaching staff consisted of women. And with reference to sports events, only 83 % of sports awarded men and women equal prize money by 2020.

These numbers are shocking, and this is why all over the world, strong women are fighting for equality in sports. In 2019, all 28 players on the US women’s soccer team filed a gender discrimination lawsuit against the United States Soccer Federation to make their battle for equality public. Even though the female athletes were playing and winning more games than the men’s team, they received less pay. However, not only were they discriminated in regards to their paycheck, but the “institutionalized gender discrimination” affected everything: starting from where and when they should train, but also the medical care and coaching they received.

For the longest time, women were not allowed to participate in a marathon. Kathrine Switzer entered the Boston Marathon in 1967 with the acronym “K.V. Switzer” to hide her gender. She was discovered during the race because of which men assaulted her and tried to push her out of the course to stop her from competing. But Switzer managed to finish the race, becoming the first woman to complete it as an official entrant.



For many years, experts declared distance running as damaging to women's health and femininity. "We learned that women are not deficient in endurance and stamina, and that running requires no fancy facilities or equipment," Switzer wrote in *The New York Times* in 2007. Only five years later, in 1972, were women officially allowed to enter the race. Moreover, women's marathoning joined the Olympics in 1984.

In 1976, the captain of Yale University's women's rowing team, Chris Ernst, was sick of not having proper showers to use after practice. Together with her teammates, the two-time Olympian rower decided to protest against it. The athletes stripped to their waists and revealed the words "Title IX" written on their backs and breasts, referring to the federal civil rights law prohibiting discrimination. After the media began to talk about this event, the athletes finally received new locker rooms, and educators started viewing Title IX as a law that required compliance.

Yale Women Strip To Protest a Lack Of Crew's Showers

Special to *The New York Times*

NEW HAVEN, March 3—Nineteen members of the Yale women's varsity crew stripped naked this afternoon in the office of Joni Barnett, director of physical education, to protest the lack of shower facilities at Derby, Conn.

The nude women, with the words "Title IX" emblazoned across their chests and backs in Yale-blue paint, stood at attention as Chris Ernst, a senior from Wilmette, Ill., who

She made a statement when she decided to stop representing the national team at the Women's World Cup in France in 2019. She quit the Norwegian national team in 2017 to protest their treatment of women's football.

Even though the sports industry is making steps towards an equal future, there is still a way to go. But this will not stop women from succeeding and pursuing their dreams.

"If they think your dreams are crazy, show them what crazy dreams can do" (Serena Williams)



The Norwegian professional footballer Ada Hegerberg was the first woman to win the Ballon d'Or Féminin in 2018. Additionally, she is recognized as the best female soccer player in the world.



“It’s Just Girls’ Sports. What Are You Getting So Worked Up For?”

sport section

SANDRA MATSCHKE

We all see it in football, tennis, basketball, volleyball, athletics... the list goes on. Women’s Sports has been treated as something less important ever since it was invented. The reason being that society claims women doing sports is not as exciting and interesting to watch in comparison to men’s sports. However, the gender inequality in sports goes far beyond simple distinctions of fan participation.

The Gender Pay Gap

Like in any other carrier field, the gender pay gap between women’s and men’s sports is alarming. There are marked differences between female and male athletes’ income, when looking at the amount of money earned each year. In Germany, for example, a female football player, who plays in the German premier league, earns roughly 39,000€ a year. In comparison, a male football player, playing in the German third league (the lowest possible league) earns about 120,000€ a year. A male German premier league player makes 47,500€ on average per game. Everyone reading this should understand just how ridiculous that is.

The Female Body

Regardless of gender, athletes in the same sport will face the same general hardships that result due to the chosen sporting profession. However, the system is designed for the male body. Generally, functions of the female body are being ignored. Things such as period pain or hormonal imbalance and related symptoms are not being addressed. Especially during those times, female athletes suffer more than their male counterparts and face the dilemma of simply not being able to perform at 100%, due to a normal biological reason that women have no control over. The stigmatisation revolving around periods causes female athletes even more stress than they are already under.

The Male-Dominated Work Sphere

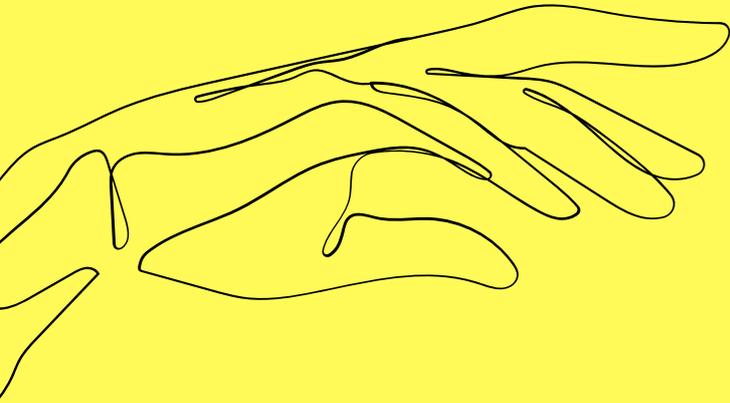
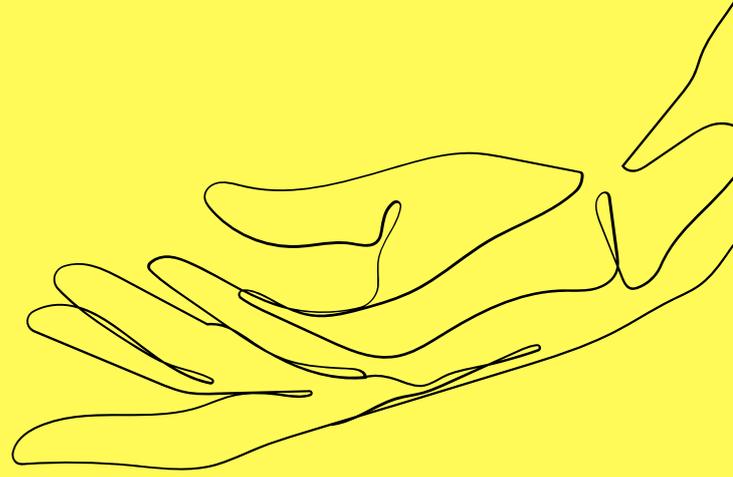
Given the historical development of sporting professions, it is safe to say that professional sports is still a heavily male-dominated work sphere. Most, if not all, positions of power in the athletic field are occupied by men. Therefore, female athletes often operate in a work atmosphere that is filled with misogyny, sexism, and harassment. Looking back at the USA Gymnastics Team Scandal that began back in 2015, society got a first proper look behind the scenes of the seemingly glamorous and perfect field. Mind you, this is definitely only the tip of the iceberg. At present, there are little to no studies regarding harassment of female athletes – and it is safe to assume that a lot of crimes are still being covered up.

The Hate Against Successful Women

Last but not least, our patriarchal society hates successful women with a passion. A prime example would be professional tennis player Serena Williams. Back in 2017, Serena Williams revealed that she was two months pregnant when she won her 23rd grand slam title at January’s Australian Open. Instead of addressing her remarkable play and congratulating her for the win, social media and newspaper platforms started to talk about how her pregnancy could have possibly helped her in achieving her win. No words... I, for my part, would like to congratulate Serena Williams for not just winning the title while being two months pregnant but also for keeping her cool, when her name is being associated with a rumour so ridiculous, I can only laugh in disbelief.

“This Is What I’m Getting Worked Up For.”





**Once again, we hope you
enjoyed the magazine!**

