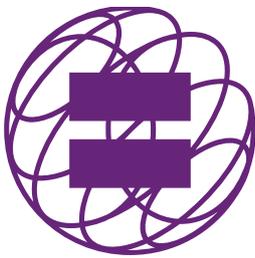


# INTERNATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY PRIZE

Background

**INTERNATIONAL  
GENDER EQUALITY  
PRIZE**

**2017**



Finland has long traditions in advocating gender equality and promoting gender equality 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 than that in Finland, in 1878, and women have been entitled to complete university degrees since 1882. Throughout Finland's independence, women have served as leaders in virtually all key positions, even as President of the Republic and as prime minister.

## PRIZE

Discussion about equality is always topical, and especially today, even in Europe and other western societies. Equality is an opportunity for all societies in the world. This is why Finland is celebrating its centenary of independence by launching an international gender equality prize, which serves to keep discussion about equality alive and to improve the position of women and girls globally.

The Finnish Government took a decision to establish an equality prize to commemorate 100 years of independence. The prize will be awarded for the first time in autumn 2017 and from then on every second year. In 2017, the prize amounts to EUR 150,000 and will be financed from development cooperation appropriations. A competition jury appointed by the Prime Minister's Office will nominate the candidate for the prize. This year the composition of the jury is: **Paulina Ahokas**, chair and managing director of Tampere Hall, **Pekka Timonen**, General Secretary for the Centenary and **Rosa Meriläinen**, author and researcher. The prize will be awarded by a member of the Prime Minister's Office.

## RECIPIENT OF THE PRIZE

The recipient of the prize is a person or actor who has promoted gender equality in an internationally recognised way. There are no restrictions on the nationality of the recipient of the prize. The prize consists of a monetary award that the recipient does not receive for their own use. Instead, the recipient nominates a concrete target as a recipient of the monetary award to strengthen the position of women. In 2017, proposals for candidates for the prize, both those living in Finland and those living abroad, may be entered between 19 March and 31 May 2017 for the competition jury to consider.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIZE

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

In practice, the recipient of the prize chooses a target that is eligible for development aid. The concrete implementation, including contracts, transfer of funds to the target and steering of implementation, is carried out by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.