



# Achieving Gender Equality



## Japan falls to its lowest level in the Global Gender Gap Index

■ 海外の女性政治家  
 (左上) ヒラリー・クリントン元副大統領 (米) The New York Times/AFLO  
 (右上) テリーザ・メイ前首相 (英) AFP/AFLO  
 (左下) アンゲラ・メルケル前首相 (独) REUTERS/AFLO  
 (右下) サンナ・マリリン前首相 (フィンランド) 新華社/AFLO

The Global Gender Gap Index is an index published every year by the World Economic Forum (WEF). It analyzes and ranks countries for the gaps between men and women in four areas: economy, education,

health, and politics. In particular, women's participation in government has increased around the world. In Finland, for example, a 34-year-old woman became the new Prime Minister in December

NOTES		
00. Global Gender Gap Index 世界男女格差指数	11. cabinet [káebəni] 内閣	26. Rwandan Civil War ルワンダ内戦
02. World Economic Forum 世界経済フォーラム (WEF)	15. President Emmanuel Macron エマニュエル・マクロン大統領	41. Inter-Parliamentary Union 列国議会同盟 (IPU)
10. Prime Minister 首相	21. Nicaragua [nikarágwa] ニカラグア	42. House of Representatives 衆議院
	22. Rwanda [ruánda] ルワンダ	

2019. The new 19-member cabinet is made of twelve women and seven men whose average age is 47. Finland's value system emphasizes skills and talent, regardless of age or gender. In France, President Emmanuel Macron put the same number of men and women in his cabinet in 2017. He also put more female candidates in elections, many of whom won. This also helped to increase the number of women in government. Some developing countries such as Nicaragua and Rwanda also have higher rankings because of women's participation in politics. In both countries, more than half of the government ministers are women. Many young men died in the Rwandan Civil War, so women took a more active role in society. However, women's roles in government have changed society there in many ways.

Japan, on the other hand, is ranked 121st out of the 153 countries in the index. This is Japan's lowest ranking ever, and by far the lowest of developed countries. What are the reasons for this? In education and health, there is not major inequality between men and women. However, that is also true for many other countries. Japan has fallen in the rankings because of low political

	Overall ranking	Economic participation & opportunity	Educational attainment	Health & survival	Political empowerment
Iceland	1	2	36	123	1
Germany	10	48	103	86	12
France	15	65	1	78	15
South Africa	17	92	67	1	10
Australia	44	49	1	104	57
U.S.	53	26	34	70	86
Russia	81	32	1	1	122
Brazil	92	89	35	1	104
China	106	91	100	153	95
India	112	149	112	150	18
Japan	121	115	91	40	144
Nigeria	128	38	145	135	146

■ 世界のグローバル・ジェンダー・ギャップ指数の比較 (WEF, 2019年)  
 この指数は4つの部門における男女格差を分析しスコア化したもので、数字は順位を表す。2019年、日本は153カ国中121で過去最悪となった。

participation by women. Japan's ranking in this area is 144th. According to a March 2019 report by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), only 10.2% of Japan's House of Representatives members are women. This puts Japan at 165th out of the 193 countries. In 2003, the government set a target of putting women in 30 percent of leadership positions in all areas of society by 2020. That goal has not been achieved in the political field. The business world is no different. Women make up 43.8% of the workforce in Japan, but only 13.2% of manager positions.

If there are more women in government and business, then policies will change. This will also bring about changes in society. Therefore, we need to think about what we can do as individuals to make these changes possible.

**WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

Book 広井 暢子著『男女平等の社会へー世界のいまと日本の女性』新日本出版社  
 Book 山田 昌弘著『女性活躍後進国ニッポン』岩波書店  
 Book 大沢 真知子著『女性はなぜ活躍できないのか』東洋経済新報社

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