




Footprints in History Report



Participants: 32 students from the eight schools of the Fundacion Educativa Mary Ward in Spain

Topics: Historical progress and pending tasks in gender equality within the framework of SDG 5.

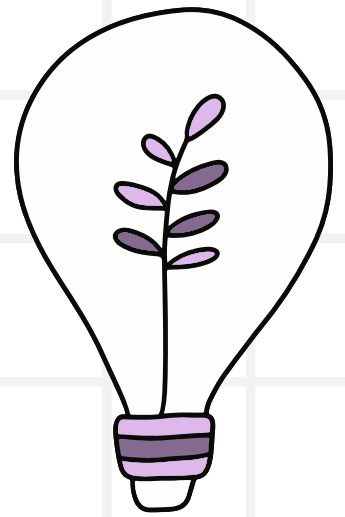
Date: 06/03/2025



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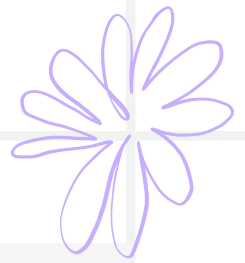


On Thursday, March 6, 2025, within the framework of **International Women's Day**, the Young Representative of IBVM in Spain hosted an online event with 32 students aged 13 to 17. For the fourth consecutive year, the event provided a representative space for dialogue on **SDG 5** of the **2030 Agenda**: gender equality.



While UN Member States gathered in New York for the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)**, the participants in this event engaged in discussions in virtual rooms about historical progress and pending tasks in gender equality. The students focused on **four thematic areas**: education, culture and sports, health, and employment.

WHY?



1

The Mary Ward Educational Foundation leverages International Women's Day as a learning opportunity to promote **reflection on gender equality**. Its goal is to provide students with a space where they can develop their ideas freely and with accurate information, in line with its commitment to educating in values for the benefit of society.

2

This event encourages empathy and **dialogue**, steering away from the polarization often found in the adult world, where discussions tend to be confrontational.



HOW?

CLASS SESSION

Throughout **February**, **history teachers** in all schools across Spain dedicated one class to the *Footprints in History* event.

CLASS

1st year

2nd year

3rd year

4th year

TOPICS

Education

Culture and Sports

Health

Employment



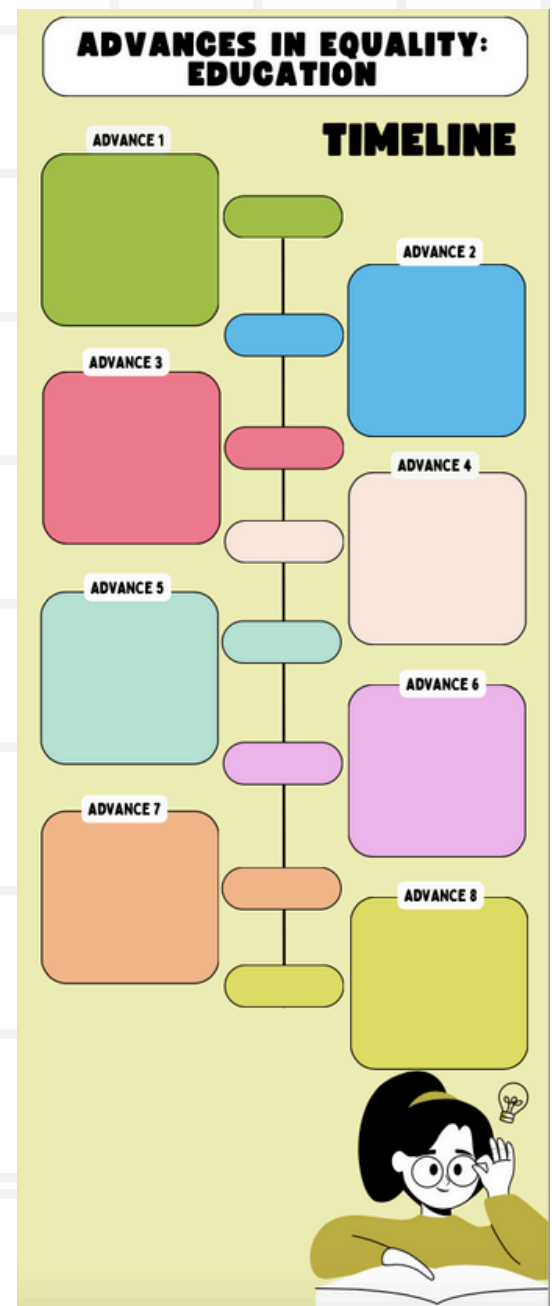
Students worked on specific topics based on their grade, as shown in the table on the right.

IN-CLASS: ACTIVITY 1



Each class, working in groups, completed a **timeline template** provided to them based on their assigned topic. They were given a set of **cards**, each containing a supposed historical achievement in gender equality. Their task was to place these milestones on the timeline, trying to guess when each had been accomplished.

In STEM fields, female university students now represent 50% of the student body for the first time.	Child marriage is decreasing in Latin America: the rate of girls forced into marriage drops from 1 in 4 to 1 in 10.
All girls in rural areas complete at least 12 years of compulsory education.	Budgets for girls' education in developing countries now exceed military spending in those regions.



However, the teachers later revealed the truth: these supposed achievements were not real milestones but rather **pending tasks**. They then provided students with real statistics or data that disproved the assumed progress.

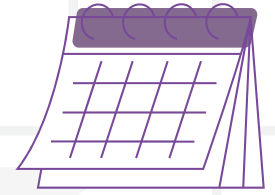


In STEM fields, female university students now represent 50% of the student body for the first time.



According to Europa Press, women represent 36% of the student body in STEM degree programs.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITY 2



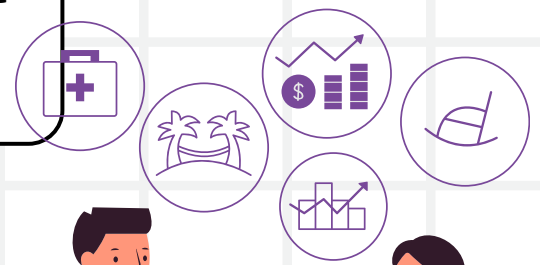
The students then regrouped with a new task: choosing one of the false advances—a goal that remains unachieved. They had to justify their choice and propose a **measure** to achieve that **goal**, as well as set a **deadline** for its realization.

Once each group had developed their “**pending task**”, complete with a proposal and a deadline, students presented their ideas through a class **spokesperson**.

ONLINE EVENT

● SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES ×

One student from each grade was chosen as their school’s spokesperson, carrying their group’s proposal to the **inter-school virtual event**. This event took place on March 6 in the morning, via **Google Meet**, with four students from each of the eight schools, one representing each grade. The event was moderated by Youth Representative Irene Cebrián and Marta Santos, JPIC Coordinator.

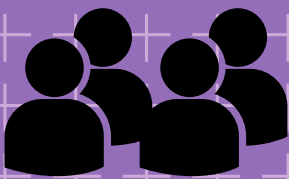


ONLINE EVENT



After the general presentation and introduction to the event, students joined their assigned **virtual rooms** based on the topic they had worked on. Once in the room, they had **40 minutes** to complete two specific tasks.

EACH SCHOOL



- 1st year:1 student
- 2nd year:1 student
- 3rd year:1 student
- 4th year:1 student

Total participants from 8 different schools: 32 students

Education Room



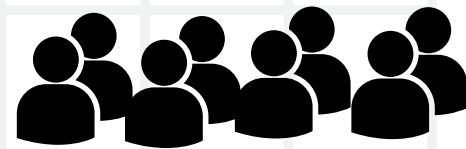
8 students from 1st year

Culture & Sports Room



8 students from 2nd year

Health Room



8 students from 3rd year

Employment Room



8 students from 4th year

1

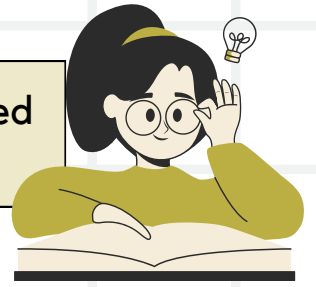
Sharing and discussing the progress **proposal from their class**, along with the projected completion date. Filling out a **new future timeline template**, this time organizing the proposed advancements from each school, ensuring that one advancement per school was represented in each thematic room.

After these discussions, students worked as a team to write a **brief letter to a woman of the future**, from the year 2200. In this letter, consisting of one or two paragraphs, they summarized the advancements they had reflected on in the timeline and expressed their hopes that the woman of the future would be enjoying these achievements by the time she read it.

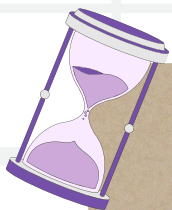
2

EDUCATION ROOM

Below, we present the conclusions reached in Room 1, focused on advancements in education:



- ☐ By **2025**, budgets for girls' education in developing countries will surpass military spending in those regions.
- ☐ By **2028**, child marriage will decrease, going from 1 in 4 girls to 1 in 10.
- ☐ By **2029**, for the first time, women in STEM fields will represent 50% of university students.
- ☐ By **2030**, all girls in rural areas will complete at least 12 years of compulsory schooling. Girls' education will not only improve their quality of life but will also contribute to the progress of their families and societies, reducing poverty and gender inequality.
- ☐ By **2035**, the female school dropout rate due to marriage or teenage pregnancy will have been reduced to 0% in regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- ☐ By **2040**, child marriages and adolescent pregnancies will have significantly decreased.



Dear Woman of the Future,

I hope that by the time you read this, all our proposed advancements have been achieved, and that you feel better in the world of the future. Right now, girls in Sub-Saharan Africa face challenging conditions, which is why we thought of the following solutions.

First, we believe that all girls should receive an education and learn at least the basics (a minimum of 12 years of schooling). Then, we thought that girls should have the right to choose their own future, including decisions about marriage, childbirth, and clothing. Finally, something we also found very important was ensuring that women in universities represent 50% of students. We truly hope that in the future, these goals will become a reality.

Sincerely,

The Children of Fundacion Educativa Mary Ward



CULTURE & SPORTS ROOM



Below, we present the conclusions reached in Room 2, focused on advancements in culture and sports:

- ☐ By **2027**, there will be a female Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- ☐ By **2028**, salary equality will have been achieved.
- ☐ By **2030**, there will have been 10 consecutive years without any media-reported cases of sexual abuse in sports involving women and girls.
- ☐ By **2032**, sexist comments will have significantly decreased.
- ☐ By **2040**, sexual abuse cases will have been reduced, with psychological support for victims and longer prison sentences for abusers.
- ☐ By **2050**, there will be greater respect and better coexistence between men and women, along with reduced gender discrimination.



Dear Woman of the Future,

I hope that by the time you read this, salary equality has been achieved, that sexual abuse against girls and women in sports no longer happens, that sexist comments are a thing of the past, and that men and women coexist in harmony. And finally, that abusers receive longer prison sentences for their actions.

Sincerely,

The Children of Fundacion Educativa Mary Ward



HEALTH ROOM



Below, we present the conclusions reached in Room 3, focused on advancements in health:

- By **2029**, the pressure of beauty standards on women will have decreased. These standards have been gradually established by new trends, which have significantly impacted many women.

To achieve this, we encourage the establishment of:

- Regular medical check-ups to maintain awareness of one's health.
- Mandatory visits (if needed) to the psychologist annually.
- Greater education regarding self-respect for one's body.

- By **2030**, female genital mutilation will have been eradicated in Africa

To achieve this, meetings will be organized by the EU to raise awareness among the different African governments about the harms of these practices, which not only violate human rights but are also extremely damaging to the physical and mental health of millions of girls and women, and represent a loss of economic resources that are vital for a country.

- By **2040**, there will be free access to feminine hygiene products.

To achieve this:

- The total VAT on these products will be removed, with the 4% VAT being added to the 10% VAT already applied to hospitality services.
- Grants will be offered based on a woman's annual income (e.g., 15,000 euros/year = 1,000 euros/year).
- Campaigns and meetings will be organized to advocate for the necessity of hygiene products for women's health, emphasizing that they should not be charged for them.
- Subsidies will be provided to companies willing to offer these products for free or at an affordable price.

- By **2040**, maternal mortality will have been reduced.

To achieve this:

- Special attention will be given to pregnant women and for two weeks postpartum.
- Careful nutrition will be provided for faster recovery.
- Regular check-ups will be offered, as the majority of deaths today are due to diseases, and 8.7% of deaths occur because of abortion.

HEALTH ROOM

Below, we present the conclusions reached in Room 3, focused on advancements in health:



Dear Woman of the Future,

We hope that by the time you read this, beauty standards have changed, allowing women to feel completely confident in their bodies without any external influence. We also hope that female genital mutilation has been completely eradicated in Africa, bringing better health to all the women there.

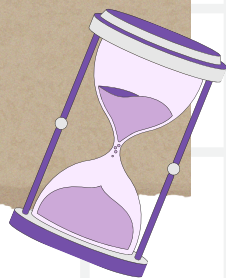
We wish that all girls and women who have reached puberty, regardless of their country, have not faced any difficulty in obtaining feminine hygiene products—something that was not the case in our time, but which was essential due to their high cost and the VAT imposed on them.

We also hope that mothers receive all the help and attention they need, and that abortion is no longer a concern thanks to the support they will receive. Childbirth is something that affects many women, so we hope that in the future, all women are better cared for and supported.

Good luck.

Sincerely,

The Children in Fundacion Educativa Mary Ward



EMPLOYMENT ROOM

Below, we present the conclusions reached in Room 4, which was dedicated to advancements in employment.



We hope that, in the future...

- ☐ Laws protecting domestic workers have been improved and made stricter.
- ☐ Near-total parity has been achieved in the proportion of men and women who leave work to care for their children.

To achieve this:

- Work schedules will be adjusted.
- State pensions will be provided for parents facing economic difficulties.

- ☐ There will have been an increase in the percentage of workplace harassment reports in relation to the cases that occur.

To achieve this:

- Lawyers will be provided for workers.
- Security measures will be reinforced.
- Educational talks will be offered in schools.

- ☐ Equality in the distribution of household chores will have been achieved.

To achieve this:

- Educational talks will be offered to raise awareness.
- Awareness campaigns will be spread through social media, as younger generations are influenced by what they see.

- ☐ More women will hold managerial positions in companies.

To support this, equal access to education will be provided.

- ☐ The gender pay gap will have been eliminated.

Laws will have been established to ensure equal pay regardless of origin or gender.

EMPLOYMENT ROOM

Below, we present the conclusions reached in Room 4, which was dedicated to advancements in employment.



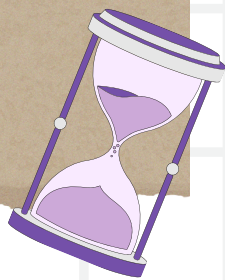
Dear Woman of the Future,

We hope that by the time you read this, all the advancements we have written and discussed in the past have been achieved. That society is fairer in terms of gender equality, meaning that women and men have the same opportunities, such as:

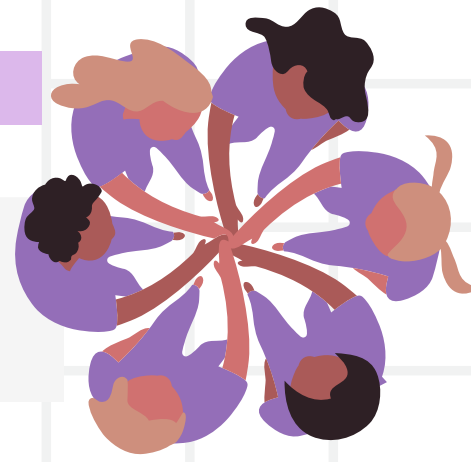
- *Social workers having gender-equal contracts.*
- *All workers who experience workplace harassment feeling safe to report such behavior without fear of social or economic repercussions, such as unemployment or criticism.*
- *Witnessing how gender inequality in unemployment rates due to childcare responsibilities has been balanced and that alternative measures we proposed—such as schedule adjustments, remote work, and state pensions for families facing economic inequality—have been implemented. This way, no family member is forced to leave their job to care for their children.*
- *Household chores being equally divided between men and women, with the common understanding that maintaining a home is everyone's responsibility, and we must all contribute equally to achieve this goal.*

Sincerely,

The Children in Fundacion Educativa Mary Ward



CONCLUSIONS



Below, as a conclusion, we present a **SWOT analysis** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) of the event *Footprints in History*.

Strengths

- Innovative format that reduced the workload of pastoral staff and gave more prominence to history teachers.
- Greater dissemination of the 2030 Agenda among teachers, promoting the integration of its values in the school environment.
- Involvement of all students in the preliminary phase, with representation through spokespersons, leading to more representative conclusions.
- Division into thematic areas (education, culture and sports, health, and employment), allowing for a deeper and more structured analysis.

Weaknesses

- Technical issues, such as difficulties accessing shared documents and restrictions on Chromebooks due to parental controls.
- Lack of effective communication, as some schools did not receive the second version of the Toolkit on time, leading to a lack of coordination and requiring the restructuring of rooms on the fly.
- One school (Bami) did not attend the event, which affected the overall representativeness of the schools involved.

Opportunities

- Coordination challenges: Since communication with the eight centers is through a single pastoral direction, delays and misunderstandings may arise.
- Risk of these activities being perceived as exclusive to pastoral care, which could limit their integration into the school curriculum.

Threats

- Extend the organization of these events to teachers of various subjects in order to integrate them more organically into the school curriculum.
- Optimize document management using institutional accounts of the Mary Ward Educational Foundation, ensuring efficient access to shared documents.
- Improve communication channels to avoid coordination problems, ensuring that all schools receive clear and timely information.