

Representation in Parliament

For the 33 seats in the Faroese Parliament only 7 women were elected in the last election. Amongst these, two of them were chosen for the Government, and therefore the female representation in the parliament is currently 5 women out of 33. Aside from the fact that the number is low, this is still the best election for women to date. There is no political will of using gender quotas in politics in order to achieve a greater equality in the number of elected women and men. Even though this has been recommended by the leading researcher within gender quotas in politics, Drude Dahlerup. Also the subject was part of a debate arranged by the Women's Organization in Tórshavn, where the chairmen of the political parties attended the panel.

Not much has been done politically to make it possible for greater equality in politics and the business sector. In 1999 the parliament passed a recommendation from the West Nordic Council, that called upon the parliaments of Greenland and the Faroe Islands to appoint a committee to take steps in order to improve the female role in politics. The measures to be taken should be within education, advertising and publishing. The committee, named Demokratia, was first appointed for 2006-2007, and started its work in august 2006. However in the finance bill for 2011 the appropriation for Demokratia is reduced from DKK 378.000,- in 2009, to DKK 196.000,- in 2010 to DKK 186.000,- in 2011. This bill makes it practically impossible for the committee to make anything worthwhile, which also seems not to be in the interest of the Faroese Parliament. Jóannes Eidesgaard, Minister of Finance said the reason for lowering the appropriation is that Demokratia almost has achieved its goal. However, as mentioned above, the female part elected in the last election still only counts 7 women, and we do not agree with the Faroese Government on this point, and have also stated this publically. Nothing has however been done to change the decision of the size of the appropriation.

Equality in general

A new research shows, that Faroese women in general do not feel like they are a part of the fight for equality – also young people in the Faroes do not feel like a part of it.

Faroese women are amongst the most active on the work market in Western Europe. 83% of the women are active on the work market. Faroese women are the ones that get the most children in Europe – 2,3 in average. One of the reasons for this can be, that free abort not is available in the Faroe Islands. Their first child is generally born by a younger woman than in the countries we usually compare ourselves to.

Research also shows, that women in the Faroe Islands earn 2/3 of what men earn.

On behalf of the Association of Women's Organisations in the Faroe Islands

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