

Growing gulf between genders, academics warn

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Ideological gap: Young men and women in the same societies no longer see eye-to-eye.

Are boys being left behind? Young women are outpacing men in many countries. And some men are turning to turning to anti-feminist politics in response.

What's happening?

What is the biggest divide of our time? Many would say age.

But recently, researchers have found a new divide: the gap between young men and women. It might become the biggest gap of our time.

Find out more

Boys and girls, of course, have always been divided. But young people's political views were rarely that different across **gender**.

Some say this has now changed. Polls from 20 countries found that young women were much more likely to be **liberal** than **conservative**. Two decades ago there was no difference.

There are many reasons for this growing gap. One is education. At the end of British secondary schools, girls are almost 10 months ahead of boys in English. In many countries, more women are going to university than men.

Work is another. Once most high-earning jobs were held by men. Now that women can get these jobs too, men have more competition,

These shifts make some men **resent** women. In 27 European countries, men under 30 are more likely to believe that “advancing women’s and girl’s rights has gone too far” than men over 65.

But not everyone agrees that the gulf is so clear. **Expert** Ruth Dassonneville studied 30 countries and found the trends different in each. She says: “I’m not quite sure we’re really at a place where we can say there’s been dramatic change.”

Are boys being left behind?

Some say

Some people say

“Gender equality is not only an issue for women and girls.”

Justin Trudeau (1971 –), current prime minister of Canada

Empty heading

What do you think?

Six steps to discovery

1. **Connect**

How do you feel about this story? -

Do you think there is a gap between men and women in your country?

2. **Wonder**

What questions do you have? - For example: What jobs have the highest status?

3. **Investigate**

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain and one thing we cannot say for sure from this story.

4. **Construct**

What is your point of view? - You are a politician who wants to stop extreme views on social media. What do you suggest?

5. **Express**

What do others believe? - In pairs, write a list of things traditionally linked to either girls or boys. Identify any which you feel are unfair.

6. **Reflect**

What might happen next? - Design a poster for a campaign to stop young men from becoming anti-feminist.

Yes! It seems clear as day — young men and women are heading in different directions. And it is women who are trending upwards.

Others think

No! Men have had more power and wealth than women for hundreds of years. Now women are finally on the road to **equality**. One day, things will be even.

Glossary

Gender - A person’s gender identity (whether they feel like a man, woman or something else) is not the same as their biological sex (which is determined by genitals, hormones or chromosomes).

Liberal - Liberalism is a school of political thought that stresses individual liberty. Liberals believe that society should not try to impose values or behaviours on individuals but should be tolerant of different lifestyles. A leading exponent of liberal thought was the 19th-century English philosopher John Stuart Mill, the author of the classic work *On Liberty*.

Conservative - Holding traditional values, and in a political context, favouring policies such as private ownership.

Resent - Feeling bitter or angry because you have been forced into a situation you do not like.

Expert - Someone who knows a lot about a particular subject.

Equality - When everyone has equal rights and opportunities.