

Exercise 1

In this first exercise, you can use selected **quotes** that tell you something about the history of women, their role in society and how that also changed, to sketch and record the most important developments in a timeline.

**Information for teachers:**

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| **Level** | From 8th grade |
| **Duration** | Min.- 1h /Max. project day |
| **Method/ Material** | Group work, plenary / enlarged copy of quotations and sources |
| **Aims** | The students should get a first **overview of the status of women in history**.  In a possible follow-up exercise, the students should gain a deeper understanding of the unequal relationships between men and women and the need to overcome them. |
| **Procedure** | **Find quote/author pairs:**   1. Each student is given either a quote or a source. The students try to the link quotations to the respective authors and look for their partners. 2. When the right pairs are found, the students should try to arrange the quotes chronologically. 3. Create a timeline on the wall/board. |
| **Possible extensions** | **Discussion**  **Group presentations:**   * Research and present background information on each quote/person.   **Develop scenes:**   * In small groups, the students * think about a short scene based on a quote/person (clarify W-questions)  and present it afterwards.   **Design collage** on the theme of "women's history” |

| **Quote** | **Source** |
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| *"As in all the churches of the saints, let your wives keep silence in the church; for they shall not be permitted to speak, but shall be subject, as also saith the law. If they want to learn something, let them ask their husbands at home. It is evil for women to speak in the church."* | Bible  1st Letter to the Corinthians - Chapter 14 - Verse 34 |
| *"Woman has the right to ascend the scaffold. She must equally possess the right to mount the rostrum."* | Olympe de Gouges (1784-1793), French. Revolutionary and women's rights activist. [Link](https://www.europa.clio-online.de/essay/id/fdae-1505) |
| *"The husband is the head of the family. (...) The wife receives the name of the husband and enjoys the rights of his status. She is obliged to follow the husband to his residence, to assist in housekeeping and acquisition to the best of her ability, and, as far as domestic order requires, to follow the measures taken by him as well as to make him follow them."* | Family Law, General Civil Code (1811). [Link](https://stmk.spoe.at/history-friday-familienrechtsreform/) |
| *"According to the rule, the girl should stay in the bosom of the family all her youth until a man chooses her as his life companion. She does not need the wisdom of the world, because her destiny is not the world, but the house and the love of the man."* | Heinrich J. Hillebrand 1818, German philosopher and politician. [Link](https://www.edugroup.at/fileadmin/DAM/eduhi/data_dl/UP_5_Schulstufe_gesamt.pdf), S.8 |
| *"[…] But I think I must say that the sudden extension of the right to vote to all women would be an evil. [...] The right to vote: what a danger that the political discord will enter the families. But if one should think that the woman would be of the same opinion with the man anyway, then the whole suffrage is superfluous. [...]"* | Ignaz Seipel (1876-1932), theologian and politician. [Link](http://www.demokratiezentrum.org/fileadmin/media/Bildung/Unterrichtsbeispiele/Politik%20und%20Wahlen/Windischbauer_U-Bsp_27_weiblichen_Waehlerwillen.pdf) |
| *"Women will not attain their emancipation until they themselves struggle for it by their own efforts."* | Adelheid Popp (1869-1939), Austrian women's rights activist and socialist. [Link](https://www.diequerdenkerin.at/adelheid-popp/) |
| *"A momentous and all thinking women gratifying event has taken place. (...) She as a woman had to pass double tests and she passed them brilliantly."* | Newspaper article about Gabriele Possaner, first female doctor in Austria (1897). [Link](https://www.gabrielepossanner.eu/gabriele-possanner/) |
| *"There are people who are the absolute majority among the people and have the fewest seats in parliament. Ask the men why."* | Johanna Dohnal (1939-2010), Austrian feminist and politician. [Link](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johanna_Dohnal) |

Historians see the initial spark for women to represent their rights in public in 1848, in the "bourgeois revolution," when the middle classes in Austria generally began to demand political rights. Before that, a united, cohesive movement of women to represent their interests was unthinkable. But a growing education and a growing participation of women in economic life (economic crisis after Napoleonic wars, industrialization, ...) also promoted political interest.