

The background of the image shows the spines of several old, leather-bound books. The spines are decorated with gold lettering, which is slightly out of focus. Some of the visible words include 'WOMEN', 'HISTORY', 'WORLD', and 'THE'. The books are arranged in a row, and the lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the leather and the metallic sheen of the gold.

***WOMEN WHO  
HAVE  
CHANGED  
HISTORY***

**Throughout history, women have struggled for equality and gained political and civil rights gradually. Throughout history, however, the physical differences between them have always resulted in inequalities and domination of the stronger over the weak.**



**Shining in Arabia, a rather undeveloped society in the seventh century, Islam introduced an almost feminist approach to women. Namely, the social and legal status of women reached an incredible level. Until the seventh century, a son was considered more valuable than a daughter in nearly all societies, due to the widespread belief that having a son fulfilled a service to the souls of his ancestors.**



The Quran declares woman and man equal in the presence of God. A woman is entitled to her own wealth and can use it as she wishes, without asking anyone. Her husband cannot interfere with her property. Khadija, the first wife of the Prophet Muhammad, engaged in trade before and after the arrival of Islam. She had many secretaries, officers and servants. In the Ottoman Empire, 36 percent of people who established foundations were women. This shows that women had their own wealth and were free to use it.





In the Ancient Greek and Roman Empires, where are considered the cradle of modern civilization, women were always under the guardianship of men. They were allowed to exercise their civil rights only through a custodial guardian. Family inheritances were given to male heirs and female heirs could not receive inheritance. Kinship was not established through women but through the father and children were not considered their mother's relative. Although the Torah and the Bible brought improvement to the status of women in society during those times, social norms regarding the role of women regressed over the years.





## Women's Rights in the 20th Century

During the 20th-century women gained equal rights with men. Technological and economic changes made it inevitable that women would be given the same rights as men.

By 1884 the majority of men in Britain were allowed to vote. So in 1897 local groups of women who demanded the vote joined to form the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS). The organisation was moderate and its members were called suffragists.

However, in 1903 a more radical organisation was formed called the Womens Social and Political Union (WSPU). Emmeline Pankhurst led it and its members were called suffragettes. The suffragettes committed crimes like arson and vandalism. However, the WSPU did not want votes for n women – only those who met a property qualification. The suffragettes halted their campaign when the war began in 1914.

In Britain in 1918 women over 30 were allowed to vote if they met a property qualification. In 1928 all women were allowed to vote at the age of 21 (the same as men). In 1919 Nancy Astor was elected an MP. She was the first woman MP to take her seat in the House of Commons. In 1929 Margaret Bondfield became the first female cabinet minister. In 1979 Margaret Thatcher became the first female Prime Minister.

