



## Equal Opportunities

### Task: Inequality and Women

#### Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 10.

You are going to hear a talk about **inequality and women**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

#### Audio Script

It is hard to believe that there is still gender inequality in the world. Some countries and cultures are more prone to having this imbalance than others. **Do you think we might ever be** in a world where no matter the gender that you are, you won't feel different from the opposite sex? It is nice to think so.

First and foremost, there are some reasons that are **absolutely obvious in why the thorny subject of** gender inequality is still a social issue. One of these reasons being that in some cases there is still uneven access to education. Unfortunately, in these cases, we can see that females don't have priority to certain educational opportunities when compared to their male counterparts. To make matters worse, this later affects their future and opportunities since the women were not able to advance their education in the same way that the men were able to. Which takes us to the next point of there being segregation in employment. There is a false belief that men are more able to work certain jobs than women are. It is not exclusive in this way, since it is also true the opposite. However, not with as much frequency. In addition, we must also come to the consideration of society's mindset. **Basically,** there exists an unconscious bias all around encouraging gender inequality. This can be seen from what type of toys are acceptable for boys and girls, to the type of clothes they can wear, hairstyles they can have and even how they are permitted in a social setting on being able to express their emotions and feelings. Most of the time we **turn a blind eye to** this way of thinking because in truth we see it even as normal. Therefore, we convert ourselves to be an active participant in gender inequality. We mustn't forget to draw attention to the fact that there is also a historical imbalance. This is **certainly** tied to old habits and stereotypes, which brings on gender inequality. For instance, the place of the woman is in the house while that of the man is to be the provider. This is the most stereotypical vision of the place that a woman has in a man's world. It doesn't end there, women are constantly being said to be worse drivers than men are. And yet, insurance companies charge men more than women due to the increased accidents they have had over women. If we consider men, if a man is a stay-at-home father, he is looked at strangely for not working and doing the tasks that the mother would have typically done in the past. It is **completely** absurd, but it remains true that people feel these are not typical gender roles.

**So to continue,** there have been certain outcomes that are grossly unfair within gender inequality. One of these would be that of disproportionate incomes. Experts have been commenting for some time now that women earn 84% of what men do. But wait, it gets



worse than that. It is mind blowing to think that women of ethnicities other than that of caucasian, as well as women with children, have an even greater difference in their earnings from that of men. This is **totally** unacceptable. Furthermore, women of certain positions often have a lack of community and support. This would be comparing women in senior roles of their career within the organization, not having the same support group as men do. Part of the reason is simply because more men work in senior roles than women do. Women in these positions often feel as if they are constantly in a **sink or swim** position, and they aren't necessarily wrong to think in this manner. Another outcome that has been seen from many women that have had to **get off their chest** is the harassment risks in the workplace. Although, this isn't just women, but it is true that women have a higher tendency to experience more cases of sexual harassment than men do. Something else that we can see is that there are less professional opportunities for women in general. So, it is not surprising that **quite** a lot of women have complained about discrimination based on gender in the workplace and how they are treated incompetent, no matter if they have the same or more experience and educational level than that of a man. It is unfair, that is for sure. **Finally**, it should be noted that it has been such a challenge for women at times to find an equal footing to men in the workplace, that some women have **made a move** in seeking out additional education so as to increase their opportunities in the workforce.

All in all, every year that passes, there seems to be an improvement in gender inequality. That being said, **I may be wrong**, but I feel that it is important to stand up against violent and inappropriate behaviour in order to have equal treatment amongst the genders and end the differences in salary.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me **about the thoughts of the speaker, reasons for gender inequality and its outcomes.**

Now tell me **about the thoughts of the speaker, reasons for gender inequality and its outcomes.** You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

**Answers:**

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>stand up against violent and inappropriate behaviour and end differences in salary</li></ul>
Reasons for gender inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>uneven access to education: females to not have priority to certain education compared to males, later affects their future and opportunities</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• segregation in employment: the belief that men are more able to work certain jobs than women.</li> <li>• Society's mindset: unconscious bias all around encouraging gender inequality</li> <li>• Historical imbalance: tied to old habits and stereotypes, bringing on gender inequality</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p>The outcomes of gender inequality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disproportionate incomes: women earn 84% of what men do: women of ethnicities other than caucasian and women with children, the difference is greater</li> <li>• Lack of community and support: women in senior roles of their career within the organization, don't have the same support group as men do</li> <li>• Harassment risks in the workplace: women tend to experience more cases of sexual harassment than men do.</li> <li>• Less professional opportunities: women have complained about discrimination based on gender and how they are treated incompetent.</li> </ul>

Marks: +\_ / +10



**Grammar Used in the listening task:**

- **Modifiers:** basically / quite / certainly
- **Intensifiers:** absolutely / completely / totally
- **Tentative Expressions:** I may be wrong but... / Don't you think it might be...?
- **Signposting Words:** firstly / finally
- **Idioms / Expressions:** under the weather / to be bored to tears / sink or swim / a shoulder to cry on / turn a blind eye to / to my mind / small talk / get it off your chest / be at a loose end / make a move / laugh your head off