



# One for all and all for one

## Report



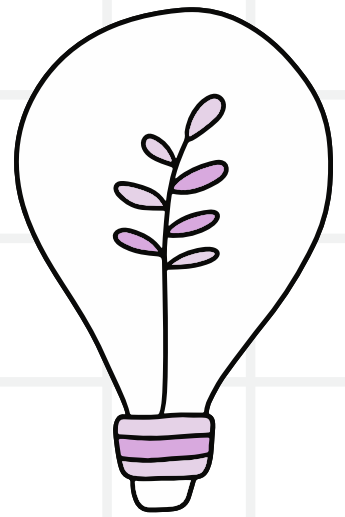
**Participants:** students from Educación Fundativa Mary Ward  
**Topic:** gender equality



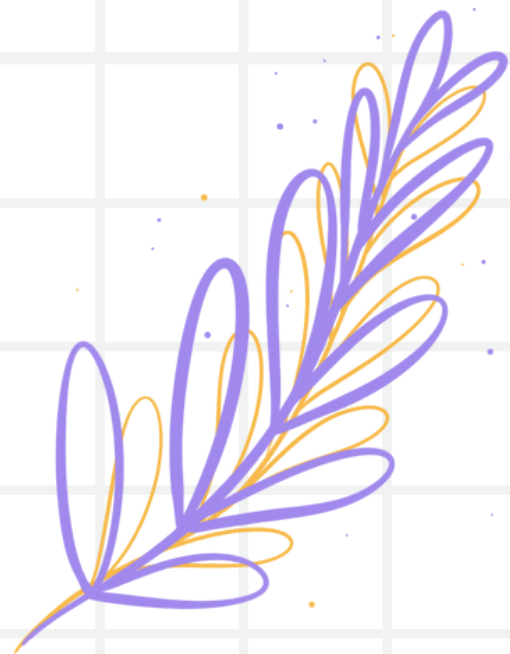
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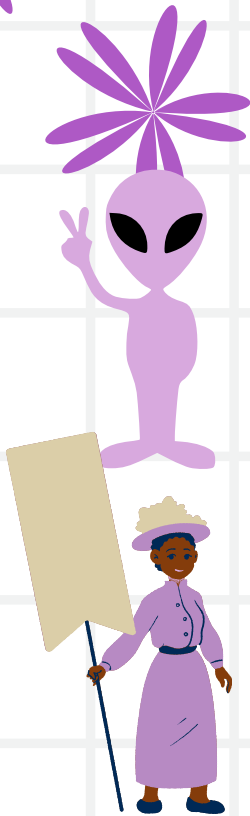
On Thursday 7th March 2024, Irene Cebrián de Arancibia, IBVM Spain Youth Representative held an online event with students aged 15-18 years from the schools of the "Mary Ward Educational Foundation" in Spain. The Mary Ward Educational Foundation brings together IBVM and CJ schools under one umbrella.



*One for all and all for one* was held days before the 68th Commission on the Status of Women. The main objective of the meeting was to raise awareness among students about SDG 5 of the 2030 Agenda and to provide them with a space to exchange ideas and share their perspectives.



## INTRODUCTION



**What themes were explored?** Each pupil was assigned a different character. Some of the pupils acted as aliens, others as time travellers and others adopted their own point of view, representing themselves. Their role determined the perspective from which they would answer the questions. The questions focused on two blocks:

### UNIT 1: EXPLORING THE WORLD



The students researched, through a series of articles and videos, gender equality at national and international level, gathering factual data and drawing on empirical knowledge.

### UNIT 2: EXPLORING MY ARCHIPELAGO



At this point, the participants took a personal view, having to answer different questions about their environment in the weeks leading up to the event. These questions, which appealed to the "islands" of their lives (school, family, city, etc.) varied according to their character, and, in this way, we were able to get different points of view.



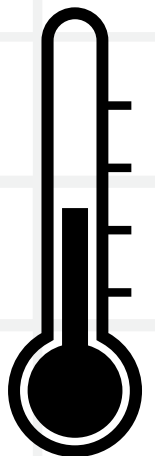
## INTRODUCTION

During *One for all and all for one*, the 40 students - coming from 8 different schools - were divided into groups. Each of these groups prepared the dynamic Equality Thermometer, which focused on answering the question "What is the temperature in Spain today", with lower temperatures indicating greater inequality.

5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



The following report illustrates the conclusions and ideas presented by the students during the sharing, and aims to convey, briefly and accurately, the perspective of part of the youth in Spain, with regard to SDG 5.



## WHEN WARMING IS GOOD NEWS

By adopting the perspective of the "time traveller", a woman from the early 20th century in Spain, they recognised an improvement in today's society compared to the past: it is warmer in Spain today, according to the Equality Thermometer.

The participants stated that in their families they observe parity, for example, in terms of the time of arrival between brothers and sisters, whereas decades ago this situation did differ according to gender. They also highlighted advances in education, where they believe that women are increasingly having as strong a voice as men, in line with what was stated in one of the articles in Block I: Exploring the World, where these advances in education were recognised by research from the University of Seville.



## WHEN WARMING IS GOOD NEWS

In addition, some of the groups were optimistic about the situation of women in the labour market, where, they said, they see an increase in the presence of women in managerial positions which, although slow, gives hope for eventual parity.

The students highlighted the persistence of inequality in other countries, arguing that, in reality, it is not necessary to travel back in time to appreciate differences in the achievement of equality measures, as, even today, many regions suffer much colder temperatures than within our own borders, without this detracting from our own experiences.



## WE ARE STILL COLD!

On the other hand, almost all groups agreed on a non-conformist view, demanding further progress and, while appreciating what has been achieved so far, insisting on challenging the inequality that still persists.

Several spokeswomen underlined the lack of parity in the sharing of care, despite the fact that there is now a more equal quantitative distribution of domestic tasks in some of their households. One group used the term "mental burden" to refer to the enormous energy consumption that this imbalance creates in women's mental space. Another group noted that their mothers had less free time than their fathers did.



## WE ARE STILL COLD!

Regarding their interpersonal relationships at school, students observed through the questions in Block II - Exploring my archipelago, different behaviours towards boys and girls: girls are more criticised, and the word "bossy" is heard much more often than "bossy". It was also emphasised that girls are expected to take more responsibility than boys during their adolescence.

On the other hand, there was a general consensus that the activities that boys and girls do in the school playground are still very much determined by gender roles: boys play football more than girls, while girls tend to stay in the corners, talking to each other. However, several groups concluded that, in the absence of an official rule regulating the choice of activities, these were the result of the students' free choice, and therefore did not consider these differences to be of vital importance.





## WE ARE STILL COLD!

In terms of employment, the spokespersons highlighted the unequal sectoral distribution of men and women: while men are more represented in engineering and STEM careers, women are more represented in careers in the social sciences. One group in particular highlighted the relevance of the unpaid care work of housewives as an explanatory factor for the pay gap.

The students believe that the solution does not lie in remunerating this care work - a policy they consider to be of doubtful viability - but in achieving total parity in its distribution. They state that these are tasks that we all have to do because they are part of being human and living in society, and that therefore the key is not to seek remuneration for them but to seek to reconcile them with the rest of our lives, which involves an equitable distribution of these tasks.



## WE ARE STILL COLD!

In addition, the same group stressed the influence of maternity leave, considering positively the family law that provides equal time for maternity and paternity leave. However, students believe that we are still far from other countries, such as the Nordic countries, where paternity leave is extended to one year. The students pointed to alternative measures that other countries, such as the United States, have adopted to promote work-life balance: nurseries and breastfeeding rooms in the workplace.

This idea, as the spokesperson of one of the teams explained, is important because it allows families to have access to work-life balance mechanisms without having to dip into their own pockets. This reasoning of the students reflects an intersectional vision that considers the interconnection between gender and purchasing power.



## WE ARE STILL COLD!

On the other hand, one group included in its conclusion a reference to inequality in terms of the medical dimension: diseases suffered by women receive less funding for research.

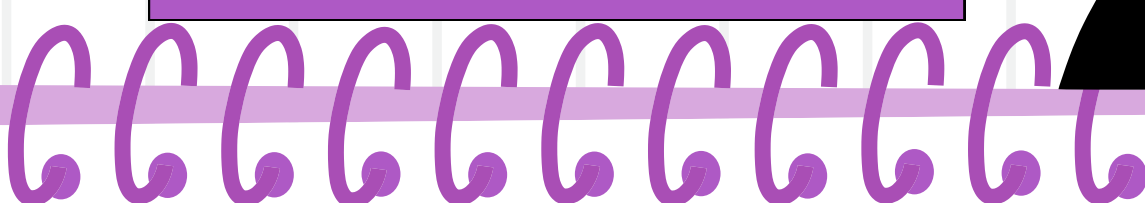
Finally, another spokesperson highlighted the fear women face when returning home alone, especially at night. Their choice of means of transport or even their choice of clothing is often conditioned by this insecurity.



It is imperative to highlight the enthusiasm we observed in the voluntary contributions at the end of the event, where many were encouraged to participate to thank the organisation of the event which, they said, is part of the measures that can be taken to promote equality. In addition, many of the people who had not been speakers shared their own opinions, and several boys said they had been enriched by sharing a space with views different from their own.



## CONCLUSION



In conclusion, the pupils from the Spanish schools of the Mary Ward Educational Foundation demonstrated a deep and vibrant concern for gender equality. All groups agreed on a positive assessment of the progress made so far, under the perspective of the time traveller. Regarding the critical view of the alien, who looks at the world with an analytical spirit, we find a greater variety of opinions, even within the groups themselves. While some felt that the temperature was already warm enough, the majority insisted on the need to continue to combat gender stereotypes and material inequalities in order to achieve true parity. The event concluded with the intervention of a student who said "Many people think, due to ignorance, that feminism is about putting women above men, but feminism is about equality, which benefits us all".