

Greece



Women in decision-making: **1/5**
Socio-economic position of women: **2.14/5**
Violence against women: **2.5/5**

Highlights

21% women
in parliament

7% women
on boards and no
women presidents
of the largest
companies

22%
gender pay gap

8% of infants
under 3 and 58%
of those between 3
and school-age in
formal childcare

71% of
dependent elderly
persons receive
formal care

17 weeks
maternity leave at
100% pay

Abortion is available
on demand free of
charge

TRENDS:



In 2012, Greece transposed EU legislation for the equal treatment between men and women in Self employed activities, improving the rights of assisting spouses, mainly women.



The crisis has hit all Greeks hard, but women are often in more vulnerable positions to start with. Women's unemployment rate has increased dramatically year upon year from 13.1% in 2009 to reach 29% in August 2012. 62.1% of women between 15 and 24 are unemployed, as compared to an also staggeringly high 46.8% of young men.

The gender pay gap in 2010 stood at 22%. Since then, minimum wage has been reduced by 22% for adults and 32% for young workers.

Cuts in essential services such as health, education and childcare have a double impact on women as employees and prime recipients of public services. In addition, when services are cut, women take on the major burden of their replacement.

The effects are visible in increased poverty, affecting more than a quarter of women over 65, and 43% of single-parent families. Funding cuts also leave more women vulnerable to violence, as shelters and women's associations close down. In parallel, the number of calls to helplines is increasing.

The budget of the General Secretariat on Equality has been cut by 30%, further weakening women's voices in the development of post-crisis Greece.

UNDERSTANDING GREECE

Greek legislation for the promotion of women on boards of administration only covers state companies. The general representation of women on boards is one of the lowest of the EU.

Only 46% of women work full-time, compared with more than 70% of men. Insufficient childcare services mean that only 8% of infants under 3 and 58% of those between 3 and school-age are in formal care.

Although Greece has legislation protecting women from dismissal upon return to work following maternity leave, discrimination is widespread.

In Greece, 34% of people said in 2009 that they knew of a woman experiencing domestic violence in their neighbourhood, up from 22% in 1999.¹ There is little tolerance however for violence against women, with 93% (the highest figure in the EU) of people saying that it is unacceptable and should always be punishable by law. This is a remarkable change on a decade earlier, when only 25% of people thought violence against women unacceptable. 98% of the population favour tougher laws.

98% of Greeks believe that social services have an obligation to help women victims of violence. However, at present, there are 7 shelters for women victims of violence in Greece, or 0.18 places per 10,000 inhabitants.

¹ Special Eurobarometer
344 - 2010