

# Spain

Women in decision-making: **1.57/5**  
Socio-economic position of women: **2.28/5**  
Violence against women: **1.5/5**



## Highlights

**37%**

women in parliament and 31% women senior ministers

**16.7%**

gender pay gap

**16.8%**

gender gap in full-time employment rates

**38%**

of infants under 3 in formal childcare

**17.5%**

gender gap in employment of parents with children under 12

**16**

weeks maternity leave at 100% pay

**0.98**

shelter places for women victims of violence per 10,000 inhabitants

## TRENDS:



Spain's investment over recent years in tackling violence against women has brought about increased awareness and changing attitudes. During its 2010 Presidency of the EU, Spain put a European protection order (adopted in December 2011) and a European helpline for victims of violence on the agenda.



The crisis in Spain led to 191,700 women losing their jobs between July and December 2012, as compared to 80,600 men. Women, and progress towards gender equality, are strongly affected also by cuts in essential services. In 2012, the health budget was cut by 13.7% and the education budget by EUR 350 million, with nurseries taking a cut of EUR 100 million. Subsidies for care of dependent persons have been reduced by more than 30% and are expected to be cut by a further EUR 200 million in 2013. Women's employment programmes have been cut by a full 94%. Funding for prevention of violence against women has been reduced by 27%. Services for victims have also suffered cuts of 20%. Paid paternity leave has been abolished.

In 2011-2012, the funding of the "Instituto de la Mujer" was cut by 34%. In all, funding for equality policies has been reduced by 49.09%. Funding for women's associations has also been reduced. Women's voices are also weaker within government, where only 4 of the 13 ministers are female; the former government contained an equal number of women and men.

## UNDERSTANDING SPAIN

Spain has some of the strongest legal measures of any EU country for parity in political decision-making. 40% of candidates on national electoral lists must be women, with placement rules. Non-binding legislation adopted in 2007 for similar improvements for women's representation in the private sector has also had an important impact, with the number of women on corporate boards increasing from 1.9% in 2004 to 11% in 2012.

In 2010, 46.6% of women in Spain worked full-time, as compared to 63.4% of men. Care responsibilities continue however to restrict women's ability to fully integrate the labour market. 59.2% of women with care responsibilities who are "inactive" or work part-time say they do so due to lack of care services. While a good 94% of infants between 3 and school-age are in formal childcare, the proportion is only 38% for children under 3. Also, only 21% of dependent elderly persons receive formal care. Women perform on average more than 4 hours of unpaid work for the family and household every day, as compared to less than 2 hours for men.

Spain has a National Action Plan covering specific forms of violence against women, which contains a gender analysis. Awareness has increased, with 23% of Spaniards in 2009 saying they know of a victim of domestic violence within their family or friendship circle, as compared to 15% in 1999.[1] Tolerance is low for violence against women, with 91% of respondents saying that it is unacceptable and should always be punishable by law, one of the highest figures in the EU.

Conservatism and religious influence continue to limit sexual education and access to legal abortion.

<sup>1</sup> Special Eurobarometer 344 - 2010