

An illustration of a diverse group of people of various ages and ethnicities, all wearing face masks. The style is flat and modern with a color palette of blues, oranges, and greys. In the top left, a man with glasses and a woman in a hijab are visible. In the center, a woman with short dark hair and glasses, and a man with glasses and a tie are shown. To the right, a woman with blonde hair and glasses, and a woman with dark curly hair are depicted. In the foreground, a woman with a bindi and a man are visible. The background is a solid dark blue.

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CORONAVIRUS AND GENDER

Child-led learning resource

ABOUT

This activity helps you to think about how men and women are affected by the coronavirus. This resource links to the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality.

You will be able to explore interesting questions like:

- Does the coronavirus affect men or women more?
- Are women better leaders during a pandemic?
- Do we think hard enough about gender during a pandemic?

You can give this a go on your own, but if there's someone at home who can join you, why not work together? You could also connect with someone by telephone or video.

We'll practise some critical-thinking skills which are important for understanding and discussing the news.



Ready? Let's go!

WARM UP

Read these opinions and decide whether you agree or disagree with them.



I think women are treated better than men; they are much less likely to have to fight in wars.



Men get in trouble now for saying anything about women so I actually think women are seen as more important.



Women are expected to do most of the childcare and not be at work if they have small kids.



Men are treated better and they should be – they are bigger and stronger.



Practise your reasoning skills. See if you can give an example of a piece of evidence to support your point of view.



If you disagree with one of the opinions, what would you say to the person who has shared it? Can you be open-minded and think about the reason why they might hold that opinion?

BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Men and women are affected differently by disease. Read through each piece of information and try to sum them up, one at a time, in seven words or less.



A study by the Chinese Centres of Disease Control looked at **44,000 people** and showed that **2.8% of men** who were infected with COVID-19 died, compared with **1.7% of women**.

The leaders of **New Zealand** (Jacinda Ardern), **Taiwan** (Tsai Ing-wen) and **Germany** (Angela Merkel) have been praised for their handling of the coronavirus crisis.

They are all women.

Female
52%
Male
48%

Deaths of UK health and social-care workers from COVID-19 (up to 22 April 2020)

Globally, women account for

70%

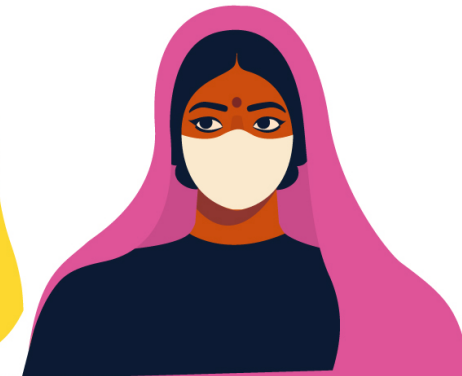
of health-care workers and on average earn

11% less

than men doing the same jobs.



Women are often the main caregivers in their families and communities.



Women are more likely to be hurt at home than men.

The Director of Beijing-based women's rights charity 'Weiping' said the organisation received **three times** as many enquiries from victims during stay-at-home measures than they did before quarantines were in place.



BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

“

At the end of the day, women and girls are at the receiving end of the coronavirus. It will affect us more than anyone else.

Why? Because it's us women who do the household chores all the time. We are the ones who fetch firewood for cooking from the bush. We are the ones who fetch water from unprotected wells, and it needs two to three people to pump it. We cannot do social distancing. We are the most at risk.

Rebecca Kapaira
from Zimbabwe,
as said to
Claire Nevill,
The Independent



29 million



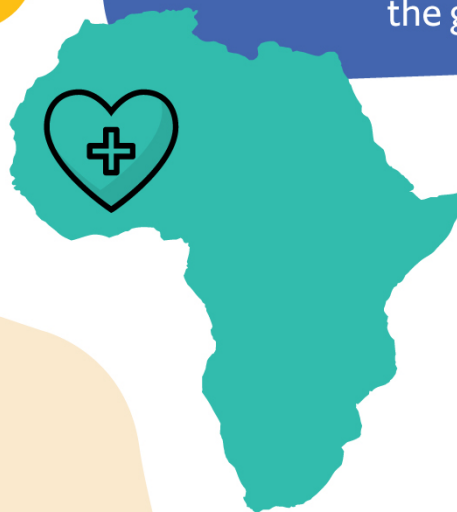
research papers were published around the time of the Zika and Ebola epidemics but

less than 1%

explored the gendered impact of the outbreaks.

From Caroline Criado Perez's book *Invisible Women*

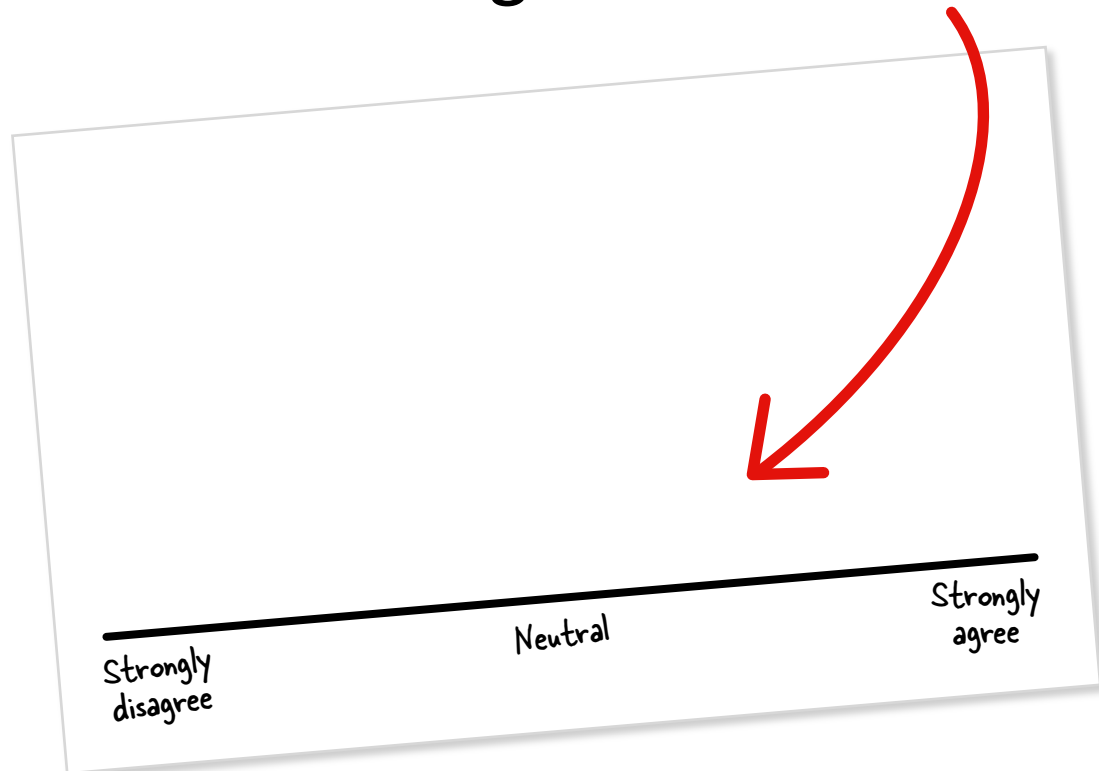
There has been very little exploration so far of the gendered impact of COVID-19.



The Ebola outbreak in West Africa affected everyone's income but men's income returned to what it was pre-outbreak faster than women's income.

PLOT YOUR OPINION

Get a piece of paper and copy this line along the bottom.



Read each of the statements below. For each statement, decide how much you agree or disagree with it. Write the number of the statement in the correct place on your piece of paper. You can use the information from the last activity to help or research further.

STATEMENTS

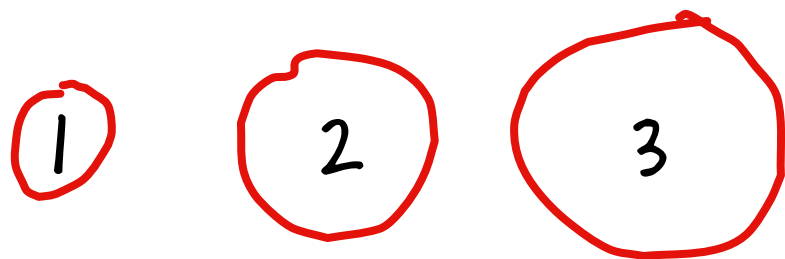
1. **COVID-19 affects women worse than men**
2. **Women are better leaders during a pandemic**
3. **People don't think hard enough about gender in pandemics**
4. **COVID-19 is making gender inequality worse**
5. **We can't know the impact of COVID-19 on gender until the crisis is over**

PLOT YOUR OPINION

Next, draw a circle around each number to show how much evidence you have to support your opinion.

If you have lots of evidence, draw a big circle, if you have hardly any, draw a small circle.

For example:



This shows you have lots of evidence for your opinion about statement 3 but not much evidence for your opinion about statement 1.



Move your mind!

Pick your strongest opinions (the ones closest to either end of the line). Try to find evidence that might move your opinion in the other direction.

OR



Reason with rigour!

Pick your answers with the smallest circles (the ones with the least evidence). Try to find more evidence to support or adjust your opinion.



REFLECTION

- Did you have enough information to feel confident about your opinions?
- Did you have a strong opinion about any of the statements, but not much evidence? If so, why do you think that was?
- Did any of the evidence make you change your mind? If so, can you explain how?
- Not all women are affected in the same way. Can you explain why?



SUPER-REFLECTION

- How could gender equality improve after the coronavirus?
- The coronavirus will have a worse impact on certain groups of people. Which groups should we be thinking about, and planning for, now?
- What other circumstances would have a different impact on men and women? For example: war, natural disasters. How?

NOW...



Do some research

Find out how gender equality has changed in the last 100 years



Have a discussion

Talk to someone else about the issues covered in these activities



Become the teacher!

See if you can go through these activities again, as the teacher, with somebody else in your household



Challenge

Write 100 words about why you think it's important to think about gender equality during the coronavirus pandemic. You can ask an adult to share this with us on Twitter [@Econ_Foundation](https://twitter.com/Econ_Foundation)

WHAT NEXT?

It's normal to feel anxious or worried about a pandemic.

Knowing the facts is one way to help deal with this. Check out [youngminds.org.uk](https://www.youngminds.org.uk) for further support.

Enjoyed these activities?

Share them with your teacher and see if they can encourage more pupils at your school to try them too!

Find out more about Connecting Classrooms.

This resource was supported by the Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme from the British Council and UK aid. To find more home-learning activities, and to get involved in the programme, you can visit britishcouncil.org/connectingclassrooms

