



Equality of the sexes

W: Today I'd like to talk about gender equality. Is now a better time to be a woman than fifty years ago?

Sarah: I think the days when women of a certain age were expected to fade into the wallpaper are no more than a memory. Gone are the days when women were said to have reached their sell-by date at the age of forty.

W: Why?

Sarah: well, mainly because nowadays, almost half of the labour force is female, even though women continue to bump their heads on glass ceilings in the workplace, and they only earn on average about seventy percent as much as men.

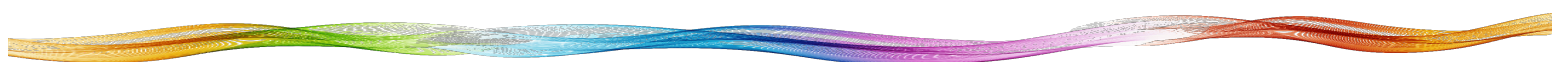
W: One sure thing is that European women are making more headway in government than in the business world where less than five percent of CEOs are women, and despite a slight shift in attitude towards them, they are still regarded as second-class citizens in many countries.

Sarah: I also heard that Kuwait is the only country left in the world where women are still denied the vote.

W: Actually it is Saudi Arabia. And in Brunei which is an absolute monarchy, neither men nor women have the right to vote. To come back to the point, having it all –career, husband, children, a life - turns out to be impossible when men don't do their share of the housework. Women have come a long way, but they still have a long way to go.

Sarah: For me, men would be all the better for it if gender equality became a reality in all fields, but full equality will have been achieved when we elect a woman president.

W: We'll see if Hillary Clinton wins the American election in 2016, but I rather doubt it.





GLOSSARY:

Equality of the sexes	CEOs
To expect	A slight shift
To fade	second-class citizens
Gone	The vote
To reach	An absolute monarchy
To bump ones head	Career
To earn	Husband
To be regarded	Their share
To deny	Housework
To come back to the point	men would be all the better for it
Having it all	In all fields
To turn out	Full equality
To become/became/become	The American election
To achieve: atteindre, parvenir	Mainly
To elect: élire	Even though
To win: gagner	Despite
To doubt: douter	Towards
Gender equality	Neither...nor
A certain age	Rather
The wallpaper	
A memory	
Sell-by date	
The labour force	
Female	
Glass ceilings	
The workplace	
Headway	
Business world	



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