# On the way to gender equality: a time journey

7.2.1971
Women gained the right to vote and to be elected at federal level.

**1971**

**5%**
Share of women in the National Council

**1980**

**16%**
Share of doctorates obtained by women

The principle of equal rights for women and men was enshrined in the Swiss constitution.

**1981**

**1988**

The Federal Office for Gender Equality was introduced by the Federal council.

The Federal Statistical Office published the first report on disadvantages of women in some areas of life.

14.6.1991
Women's strike

**1991**

**68%**
Activity rate of women aged 15 to 64

1.7.1996
The Federal Act on Gender Equality entered into force.

**1996**

151.1
**Federal Act on Gender Equality**
**(Gender Equality Act, GEA)**

**1997**

Switzerland ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

**1998**

The Federal Statistical Office published the first edition of the brochure «On the way to gender equality».

**2008**

**40%**
Unexplained share of the gender wage gap in the private sector

**2018**

**44%**
Unexplained share of the gender wage gap in the private sector

**2019**

**46%**
Share of doctorates obtained by women

**42%**
Share of women in the National Council

**2020**

**80%**
Activity rate of women aged 15 to 64

The revision of the Gender Equality Actcomes into force on 1 July and introduces new provisions to better enforce equal pay.

**2021**

**50 years** Women's right to vote
**30 years** since the 1st women's strike
**25 years** Federal Act on Gender Equality

Sources: FSO – SESS, LFS, SIUS, Election statistics

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