



## Finnish Women

The predecessor state of modern [Finland](#), The Grand Principality of Finland, was part of the Russian Empire from 1809 to 1917 and enjoyed a high degree of [autonomy](#).

In 1863, taxpaying women were granted municipal suffrage in the country side, and in 1872, the same reform was given to the cities. The Parliament Act in 1906 established the unicameral [parliament of Finland](#) and both women and men were given the right to vote and stand for election. Thus Finnish women became the first in the world to have unrestricted rights both to vote and to stand for parliament. In elections the next year, 19 female MPs, first ones in the world, were elected and women have continued to play a central role in the nation's politics ever since.\*\*

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/32/Women\\_in\\_Finnish\\_Parliament\\_%281907%29.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/32/Women_in_Finnish_Parliament_%281907%29.jpg)

\*\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's\\_suffrage#Finland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's_suffrage#Finland)

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