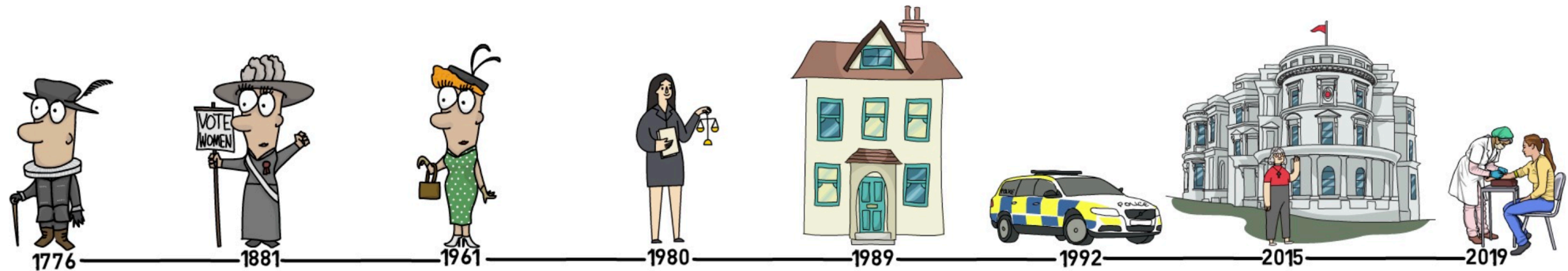


Women's Rights Timeline Isle of Man



Historical events and changes in the law can seem irrelevant. But, understanding our heritage helps us understand how we live now. Women in the UK only gained many legal and political rights recently. Many women and girls in the world today still have few or no rights.

Some of the rights women have gained include:

Economic: To be economically independent and secure.

Legal: To have legal protection.

Political: To be able to contribute to their country's political process

Cultural: To be valued within their community.

Bodily autonomy To have full control over their body.

Education To have equal access to education.

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." George Santayana

Until 1776, under ancient Manx law, women retained rights to their possessions, however under English rule this changed and upon marriage, all a woman's possessions became her husband's.

Manx women were the first in the world to be able to vote in a national election, with women gaining the vote in 1881.

Women were not allowed to stand for election to the Legislative Council until 1961.

Women could not serve on a jury on Mann until the law changed in 1980.

Women subjected to violence and abuse had nowhere to go until the first refuge opened. It was registered as a charity on the island in 1989.

Men could legally rape their wives until 1992 when marital rape became illegal.

All seats in the Legislative Council were not open to women until 2015, when the Church of England vote for Women Bishops opened up the role of Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man to women.

Women could not have an abortion on the Isle of Man until the law changed in 2019. Terminations after 14 weeks gestation are not medically possible on the island and must be performed in the UK.



Women's Rights Exercise Isle of Man

Complete the timeline by including yours, your mum's and your grandma's age (or other women you know from similar generations) at the time the law changed. If you / they weren't born yet, use minus figures.

	My Age	Mum Age	Gma Age
1. Until 1776, under ancient Manx law, women retained rights to their possessions, however under English rule this changed and upon marriage, all a woman's possessions became her husband's.			
2. The Isle of Mann was the first place in the world where women could vote in a national election, in 1881, with universal adult suffrage achieved in 1919.			
3. The Manx Government began regulating holiday camps on the island in 1911. Tynwald agreed that camping should only be for men as it was "not desirable" for women, and "not in ladies best interests".			
4. The Football Association (FA) banned women from playing professional football in 1921.			
5. It became illegal for women to be discriminated in public office due to their sex or marital status in 1921.			
6. Marion Shimmin was the first woman elected to the House of Keys. She was elected unopposed in a by-election caused by the death of her husband Christopher in 1933.			
7. Women were not allowed to stand for election to the Legislative Council until 1961.			
8. Women subjected to violence and abuse had nowhere to go until the first refuge opened. It was registered as a charity in 1989.			
9. Men could legally rape their wives until 1992 when marital rape became illegal.			
10. The United Nations did not consider violence against women a human rights violation until 1993.			
11. The FA began administering women's football in 1993, (the ban on women's professional football ended in 1971).			
12. Anglican priests had to be male until the Church of England allowed women to be ordained priests in 1994. In that year, Rev Sue Patterson became the Isle of Man's first female priest.			
13. Taking a girl abroad from the UK to subject her to female genital mutilation was legal until 2003.			
14. Amnesty International did not consider violence against women part of their role until 2004.			
15. At Wimbledon tennis tournament female players did not get prize money equal to male players until 2007.			
16. Clare Christian MLC became the first female President of Tynwald in 2011.			
17. All seats in the Legislative Council were not open to women until 2015, when the Church of England vote for Women Bishops opened up the role of Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man to women.			
18. In 2013, a local landlord refused to rent a property to lesbian women. This type of discrimination was legally allowed until the Equality Act came into effect in 2019.			
19. Women could not get a termination on Mann until the law changed in 2019.			
20. Women could not have an abortion on the Isle of Man until the law changed in 2019. Terminations after 14 weeks gestation are still not medically possible on the island and must be performed in the UK.			
21. There was a 25% pay gap between the average pay for men and women in full time employment on the Isle of Man in 2019.			
22. The Isle of Man Cricket association formed its first women's national team in November 2020.			
23. The first female Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Venerable Tricia Hills, was appointed in 2024.			

