

1. Do you agree that “This pandemic will reverse the progress toward gender equality”? Why?

I agree that the pandemic has had negative effects on the progress made towards gender equality. The pandemic has affected women and girls on different levels. First of all, in terms of the work-force, the COVID-19 pandemic has made work far more precarious for women. The pandemic has made gender inequality more apparent and put disparities in the limelight. Since children were out of school for a long time expectations were placed on women to stay home and provide care to their children. These expectations were mostly pushed onto women and not fathers. This meant women’s employment was more vulnerable during the pandemic. Women were not able to work because they had to care for their families.

2. Using a country as an example, explain what policies the government of that country has implemented to address this problem.

In Spain, those who look after dependents were granted a temporary reduction of 100% in working hours. Policies like this have been put in place and in turn bolster women’s income, and protect them when faced with having to care for their family. Instead of losing their jobs people are able to care for their family and return to work when the situation becomes more stable.