

IRELAND

Region: Northwestern Europe (Global North)

Population (2022): 5.1 million (123rd)

Life Expectancy at Birth (Women): 83.48 (26th)

Governance System: Constitutional republic, parliamentary system

Capital: Dublin

Land Area (km²): 68,890 (117th)

Major Languages: English, Irish

Select Global Rankings

GDP (2022): 27th (529,245 US\$ Millions)

Human Development Index: 8th (Very High)

Fragile States Index - Inverted: 9th (Cat. 1)

Good Country Index: 8th

Human Freedom Index: 5th

World Happiness Ranking: 14th

Select Global Rankings (Gender-Focus)

Gross National Income Per Capita (Women): 3rd

Gender Social Norms Index: no ranking

Women's Power Index: 58th

Social Institutions and Gender Index (World Cup rank): 13th

Gender Inequality Index: 21st

Global Gender Gap Index: 11th

Women Peace & Security Index: 19th

Elite Sport System Rankings

2020 Summer Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 2 (50%)

2022 Winter Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): none

Global Cup Ranking (Women): 58th

Football/World Cup Profile

FIFA Region: UEFA

FIFA Ranking: 22

World Cup Appearance: 1st

Best World Cup Performance(s): Debut

Qualification: UEFA Qualifying Playoff

World Cup Group: B

Last World Cup Appearance: none

IRELAND in International (Gender) Affairs (by Tasha Cory)

The Republic of Ireland women's national football team competes in events like the UEFA Women's Championship and the FIFA Women's World Cup on behalf of Ireland. The Algarve Cup, the Istria Cup, the Cyprus Cup, and the Pinatar Cup are just a few of the invitational competitions in which it has competed. The Women's Football Association of Ireland (WFAI) oversees its organization.

Women's Football Association of Ireland was first established in 1973. The Football Association of Ireland did not control it at first. The installation of a new governance structure for women's association football in the Republic of Ireland was part of the 2015-2018 Football Association of Ireland (FAI) [Women's Strategic Plan](#). This resulted in the full integration of the Women's Football Association of Ireland into the FAI and the creation of a national Women's Football Committee. Additionally, eight Women's Regional Football Committees were unveiled, each composed of participants from all divisions of the game within their designated geographic region.

In accordance with the FAI Strategic Plan for Women's Football, these committees are in charge of directing the growth of women's and girls' football in their respective regions.

In April 2017, the squad demanded better treatment from the FAI and threatened to [boycott](#) a home match against Slovakia. They wanted a higher match fee, and broken time payment for amateurs missing work. They claimed that they had to share with underage teams the tracksuits they wore travelling to and from away matches, and change out of them in airport toilets. The boycott threat was lifted when agreement on improvements was reached.

During the 1916 Easter Rising and later in the war for independence, women were instrumental in the struggle for Irish freedom. Some women were granted the right to vote in 1918 thanks to the success of the [suffragette movement](#) in Ireland and the United Kingdom. Four years later, all women aged 21 and over were given the vote. Ireland appeared to be moving in the right direction toward achieving gender equality at the turn of the 20th century. In 1919, Constance Markievicz, a prominent Republican, became the first woman to be elected to the House of Commons in both Ireland and the United Kingdom. The [Irish Women's Liberation Movement](#) was established in 1970. The movement sought to address issues like reproductive rights, domestic violence, and workplace discrimination. It was influenced by feminist movements in other nations. The Health (Family Planning) Act, which was passed in 1979, made contraception legal in Ireland. Homosexuality was made legal in 1990. By popular vote, Ireland became the first nation in the world to legalize same-sex unions in 2015.

According to data published by the [OECD-Eurostat](#), the gender pay gap in Ireland was 14.4% in 2017. This ranks slightly ahead of the OECD average of 16%. Ireland compares favorably with the UK (17%), US (18%) and Canada (18%). In December 2022, [PwC Ireland](#) published a report on gender pay gap analysis which reveals a mean gender pay gap of 12.6% across Irish organizations that have published reports. This compares to Ireland's latest available national gender pay gap of 11.3% (2019) and an EU average gender pay gap of 13% (for 2020), based on Eurostat data.

The Irish Football Association has introduced a [new plan](#) to encourage the growth of women's and girls' football in Northern Ireland. The association's commitment to continuing to make significant investments in girls' and women's football and growing the game from the grassroots up is reaffirmed by the strategic plan, "Growing the Game - Maximizing Impact." The [Women in Sport Programme](#), which aims to increase women's participation in sport, including non-participatory opportunities like coaching and volunteering, has received over €20 million in funding from Sport Ireland.