



Discussing the Gender Gap as a Woman in Leadership

Gender diversity is a key component of any company's success — particularly when it comes to leadership roles. While society as a whole strives to rectify the current pay and leadership gender gap, those who hold a lot of influence and power to implement the necessary changes are women currently in leadership positions.

If they've already shattered the glass ceiling at their own company, then women are well-positioned to reach out a hand and bring others along with them. The first step is to learn how to have productive conversations that are action-oriented and optimistic, which can help in lifting up fellow female professionals.

Be honest and encourage open conversations

Facilitating conversations around the gender gap creates an open and honest environment in any company — no matter how diverse the company may be. In an ever-changing workplace, the advice that a female leader shares with those around her can have an impact on generations of workers to come. These conversations can also show them that it's a good place to work as a female, further retaining employees.

Key takeaways



Open conversations can not only improve the current workplace environment but have an impact on the next generation



Blind review and hiring processes can help ensure equal pay for equal work.



Encourage flexible schedules for both men and women to level the playing field for any employee who is also a caretaker.

It's important to recognize that gender inequality is an issue faced by many, even as employees rise up the management chain. According to Catalyst, only about 4.8% of CEOs, and only 26.5% of executive and senior-level officials and managers in S&P® 500 companies are female.¹

Implement a blind review and hiring process

According to Analytics in HR, by removing personal traits like gender, race and age from the evaluation process, your company can increase diversity and even revenue. This process reduces unconscious bias — or a “bias [that] tends to be unfair and discriminatory because much of the personal information that is presented is generally unrelated to his or her on-the-job performance” — giving all candidates the same opportunities.²

In addition to a blind review process, ensure that your company is doing bi-annual or annual reviews of its hiring processes to ensure unbiased candidate evaluation steps are followed — maintaining fair and honest HR processes is important.

Offer flexibility

According to SHRM®, the main cause for a gender gap in pay is not that men are paid more for the same work as a woman, but that they're more likely to be promoted, faster.³

The support you need

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¹ Catalyst, “Knowledge Center: Women CEOs of the S&P 500,” October 3, 2018, <https://www.catalyst.org/knowledge/women-ceos-sp-500>

² Ji-A Min, “How Blind Hiring Increases Workplace Diversity,” <https://www.analyticsinhr.com/blog/blind-hiring-increases-workplace-diversity/>

³ Stephen Miller, CEBS, “Close the Gender Pay Gap with Career Parity,” April 10, 2018,

<https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/hr-topics/compensation/pages/gender-pay-gap-closure-requires-career-parity.aspx>

⁴ Vanessa Fuhrmans, “More companies introduce paternity leave and tell fathers: ‘If you don’t take it, it’s borderline idiotic,’” July 11, 2018,

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/more-companies-introduce-paternity-leave-and-tell-fathers-if-you-dont-take-it-its-borderline-idiotic-2018-07-11>

⁵ Elizabeth Schulze, “Closing the gender pay gap could have big economic benefits,” March 8, 2018,

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/08/closing-the-gender-pay-gap-could-have-big-economic-benefits.html>

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