

Feminism in Italy in the Modern Time

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Abstract. The women's rights movement in Italy has played an important role in the development of feminist positions in Europe. The peculiarities of Italian feminism, activities of certain historical figures are observed in this article, and some conclusions about the impact of Italy in the emergence of feminism as a global trend are made.

Keywords: feminism; women's movements; women's organizations; women's rights; activism; equality

Феминизм в Италии на современном этапе

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Аннотация. Движение за права женщин в Италии сыграло важную роль в развитии феминистических настроений на территории Европы. В статье рассмотрены особенности феминизма в Италии, деятельность отдельных исторических личностей и сделаны выводы о роли Италии в эволюции мирового феминизма.

Ключевые слова: феминизм; женские движения; женские организации; права женщин; активизм; равноправие

Feminism is becoming not only a movement for women's rights, equality, and representation of women at all levels. Nowadays feminism can be defined as a tendency that implies the support of women and girl empowerment all around the world. Despite the fact that the World Economic Forum predicts the achievement of full gender equality in 108 years at best [1], some positive effects of communities' activism and governments actions, highlighted in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, are evident [2]. The first female activists not only helped their supporters to find the way to a more dignified future but also created scientific works, which can be a source of terminology and history of feminism and women's movements.

Italian feminism originated in the 14th century. It was Italian female writers, such as Christine de Pizan, Laura Cereta, Moderata Fonte and others, who are widely considered to have had a significant impact on the following development of the feminist movement in general [3].

The second half of the XIX — the early XX century were marked by significant expansion of women's rights regarding the disposal of property and child custody, access to universities. One of the outstanding participants of the movement for female rights at the time was Anna Kulisheva. According to her, social and work equality would lead women to achieve freedom, dignity, and respect, while marriage and family life would always humiliate them: "The married woman is the being most worthy of commiseration" (cited in Paola Mocchi, 2004). She also claimed that Italian women still had not developed the sense of solidarity that would subvert oppressive structures, the clergy and the socialist party, which stuck to the regressive agenda not battling for the women's right to vote because it "was considered too dangerous from a political point of view; a move which might hand votes to other parties". Anna also participated in the development of legislation on children's and female labor, conducted through the Parliament of the Socialist Party in 1902. In 1911, together with Maria Goya, she took part in the organization of the Socialist Committee for the female electoral law.

Thus, feminism in Italy began to take shape in the Middle Ages, but it received its political embodiment only at the beginning of the 20th century. One of the key figures of Italian feminism was the Russian em-

igrant A. Kulisheva. Thanks to her activity, the women of Italy received more rights.

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