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## Mend the Gap

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We cannot talk about gender equality without discussing the measures envisaged for paternity leave, to balance the time devoted to family management by both parents;

if the time devoted to the family by men does not increase, it will inevitably be the woman who bears the consequences of motherhood, both in terms of family management and at work.

Equality between men and women is a fundamental principle of the EU, and the “work-life balance” directive has already sought to promote a good balance between family and professional commitments and to strengthen equal opportunities for women and men at work and at home.

All OECD countries, except the United States, offer paid maternity leave, while only half offer paternity leave immediately after the birth of a child.

This appears to be shorter than the period to which new mothers are entitled.

According to the latest data, the countries with the longest leave are South Korea, which holds the record at 54 weeks, followed by Japan, but these are also the countries that use it least.

Northern European countries use it most, while Italian new fathers take just 2 weeks, well below the OECD average of 10 weeks.

The ultimate goal of all these measures is very important, namely gender equality, to guarantee a balance that is not unfavourable to women in the burden of children and motherhood.

Continuing along the path of women's rights and equal opportunities is also the mission of the "Mend the Gap" project, so we are confident that family policies can bring progress in terms of quality of life, not only for women, but more generally for single people.

<https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/8f056391-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/8f056391-en>





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