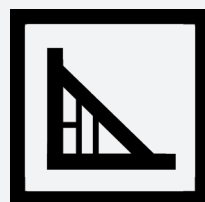


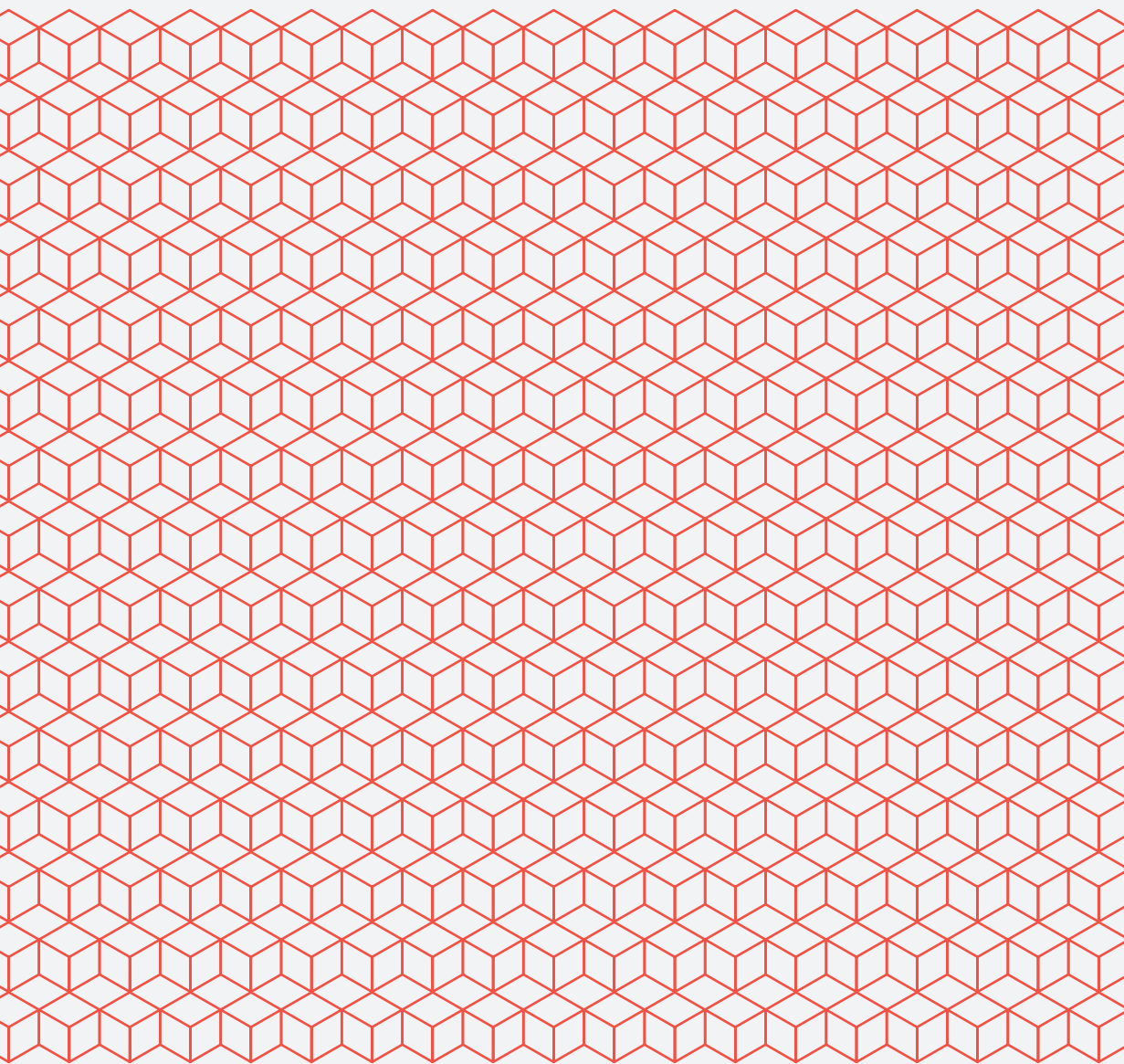
Compiled and written  
by Will Stronge

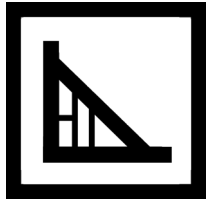
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**Work & Gender**





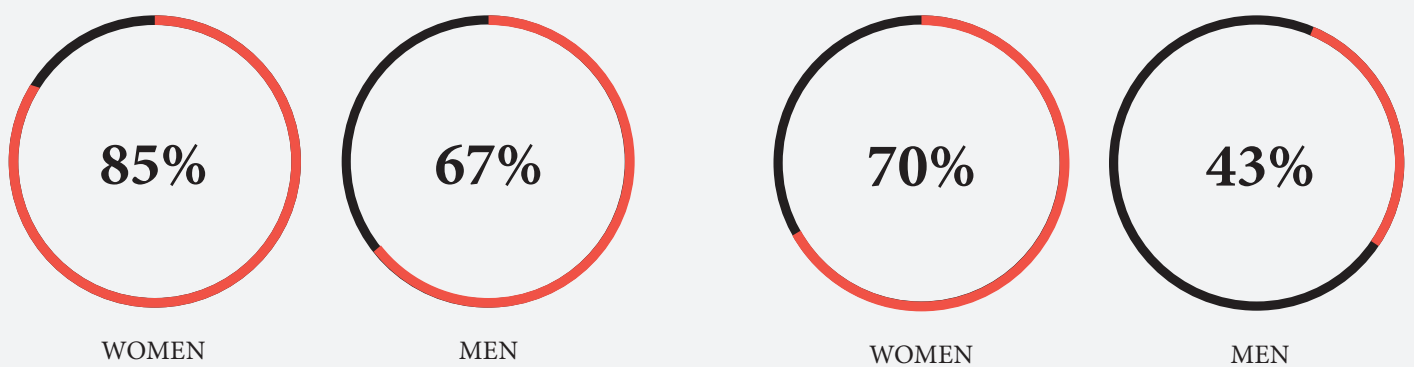
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**Work & Gender**

In order to fully grasp the relationship between gender and work, it is essential to note the many daily activities carried out that are usually not taken into account when we talk about ‘work’ or the economy as a whole. If we ignore, for example, the everyday – unpaid – toil of the household, of domestic tasks, of child and elderly care, then we fail to grasp key foundations of what keeps our society running.

The ‘sphere of reproduction’ as it is called – those practices through which the population replenishes its health, cares for its children, makes its home and so on – falls disproportionately upon the shoulders of women. Usually this work goes unpaid, relying instead upon ‘traditionally’ gendered – that is to say, discriminatory – ideas regarding who does what in our social-economic system<sup>1</sup>.



The United States’ Bureau for Labour Statistics revealed that on an average day, 85% of women and 67% of men spent some time doing household activities such as housework, cooking, lawn care, or financial and other household management.

On an average day, 43% of men did food preparation or cleanup, compared with 70% of women. On the days they did household activities, women spent an average of 2.6 hours on such activities, while men spent 2.1 hours.

<sup>1</sup>We should note that most of the following studies represented here discussed gender simply in the terms of ‘men’ and ‘women’. Needless to say, the fact that these categories do not account for trans people in their calculations renders the research, to that extent, incomplete and problematic.

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Discrimination based on gender within waged work practices is not unique to the current crisis – it has surely persisted for many years. Thus it remains important to note current inequalities and the unjust, gendered practices still in effect.

Perhaps most shockingly, in the UK in 2011, the Home Office found that 88% of transgender employees experience discrimination or harassment in their workplace.




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These inequalities and unfreedoms are set to be exacerbated by the imminent introduction of labour-saving technologies – a process some are calling the ‘fourth industrial revolution’. The effects of widespread automation are predicted to contribute to drastic re-organisation of workplaces and to an increase in structural unemployment; the effects of these changes fall disproportionately upon men and women.

Between now and 2020, due to the re-organisation of business models (partly as a result of the effects new technologies will have upon certain sectors):

.....  
*Female workers will face*

**5**

jobs lost for every job gained  
.....

.....  
*Male workers will face*

**3**

jobs lost for every job gained  
.....

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