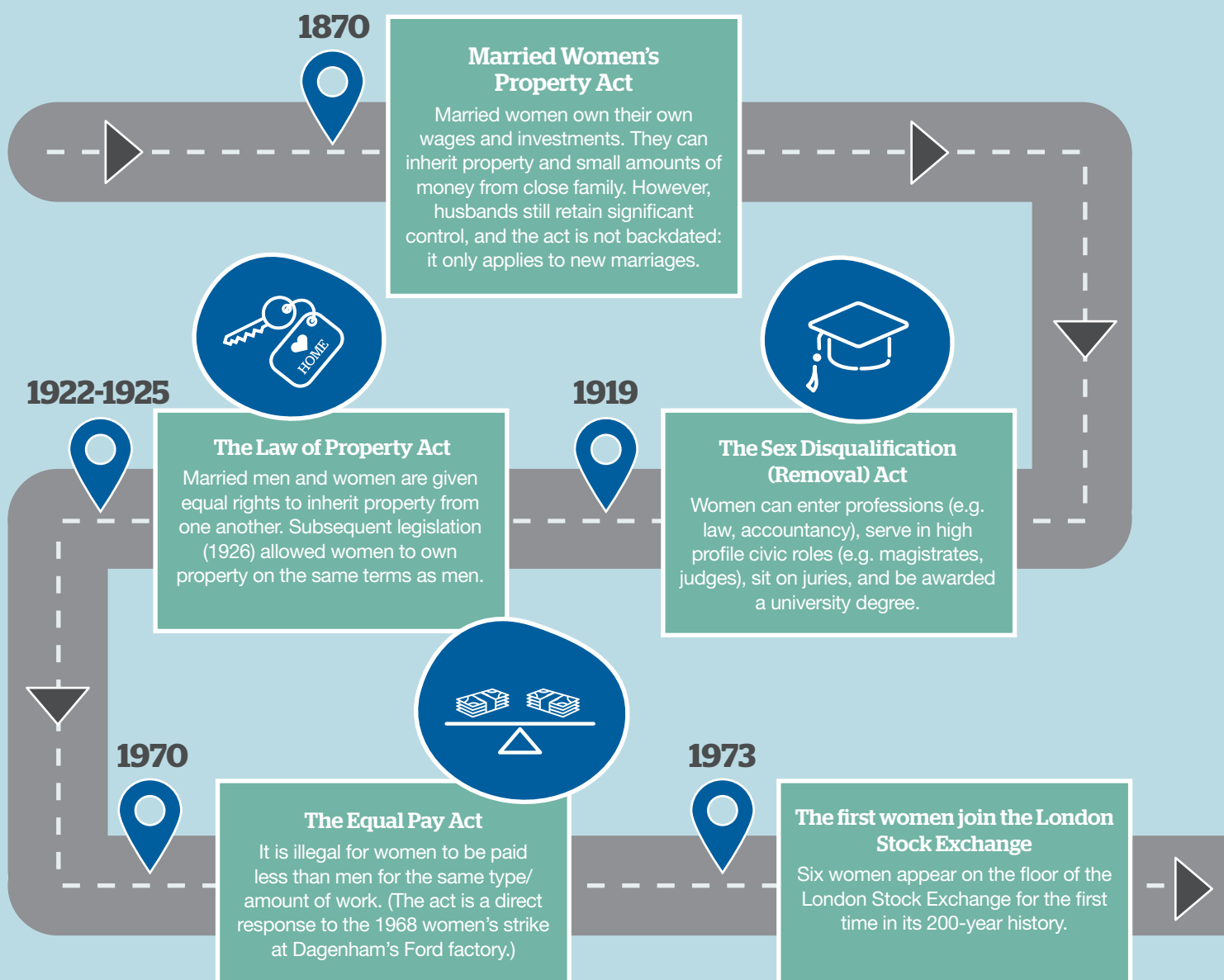


A short history of women and wealth

UK women have not always been systematically excluded from the financial world. In the 800s, Anglo-Saxon law allowed both married and unmarried women to own property in their own right.

From the 1100s onwards, 'coverture' (the belief that a married couple were one financial entity) morphed into the idea that women were the property of their husbands. Married women could no longer own property, run taverns or shops, and their legal rights were more limited than those of men.

In modern history, it's been a slow journey back towards equality..



2017



Government regulations on the gender pay gap

Companies with more than 250 employees must report their gender pay gap information on an annual basis.



2014

Shared parental leave

Families are given more choice over how they look after their young children in the first year of parenting.



Statutory maternity pay for all working women

Following a European Commission directive, all working women are entitled to statutory maternity pay.

1993



1987



Statutory maternity pay for some women

Eligible women are entitled to receive six weeks of maternity pay.

1990



Independent Taxation

With the introduction of Independent Taxation laws, a married woman's income no longer counts as part of her husband's income for tax purposes.



1982



Legal ruling on serving women in pubs

Women have the right to spend their money in pubs: following a landmark legal case, women can no longer be refused service at the bar on gender grounds.

The Sex Discrimination Act

It is illegal to discriminate against women in work, education, training, or financial services. Women can now have bank accounts, credit cards, mortgages and loans in their own name (without a male guarantor).

1975



1977



International Women's Day

8 March becomes an official annual event, formalised by the United Nations.



Methodology

Research conducted by Opinium among a sample of 4,000 UK adults between 12th and 17th January 2024. Respondents were chosen on a nationally representative basis, weighted evenly by gender, age, region and value of financial assets. Of the overall sample, 1,765 (44.1%) were male and 2,216 (55.4%) were female, while 733 (18.3%) had a net worth of more than £100,000.

Results were analysed to focus on gender differences between 10-year age brackets and financial assets to identify trends between demographics. Any population figures are extrapolated based on a UK adult (18+) population (mid-2022), published by the Office for National Statistics in November 2023.

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