

Details about editing/fact-checking sample

Key facts about women's suffrage around the world, a century after U.S. ratified 19th Amendment

This blog post was notable because it involved checking data for nearly 200 countries; the data was not collected in one source and had to be checked in a variety of (sometimes conflicting) places. As I checked the data for the post, I implemented several changes to reflect the right dates when women gained the right to vote in certain countries because I found sources that the writer missed, or I determined the sources given could not be reliably used. Some notable changes I made during the fact-checking process:

- I changed one reference from “More than a dozen” to “At least 19” because I knew from my fact-checking that the number was notably higher than a dozen, but also it was very hard to get a definitive number, so I thought this wording covered our bases overall.
- I added a clarification (that already appeared later in the post) about the fact that even after the passage of the 19th Amendment, “barriers to vote persisted for some groups of U.S. women for decades.” Throughout the post, the writer and I took care to indicate that suffrage does not necessarily mean everyone had equal access to voting, regardless of what the law officially indicated.
- In one case where we wanted to call out Afghanistan as an unusual example of rights gained and lost multiple times, I had trouble verifying the exact dates involved, so I made sure we were transparent about what information we did and did not have. This led to a note being added to a chart and the language in the post being softened from naming the exact years and number of times that women gained and lost the right to vote to just generally saying that the rights were gained and lost “several” times.
- The name of a Swiss canton was written as three words when one source we cited had it as two words and another had it as three, so I found additional sources that had it as two words and adjusted accordingly.
- In the graphics, one chart title originally had “frontrunners” when our style would be “front-runners,” so I adjusted this.
- On a map in which countries were color-coded based on the year when women gained suffrage, a few countries were wrongly colored in the original version and had to be adjusted.