

A heraldic competition to celebrate the Coronation

Sponsored by Equality of Arms

To celebrate His Majesty's Coronation Year of 2023, Equality of Arms is pleased to launch a competition inviting all comers to submit proposals for reform of heraldic convention to achieve equality of the sexes.

Heraldic convention, as governed by the Kings of Arms in London, currently treats female armigers less favourably than men. Equality of Arms is campaigning to achieve reform of heraldic convention for the purposes of equality.

Equality of Arms seeks considered proposals that address the following aspects of heraldic convention, to ensure that men and women are treated equally regarding those aspects:

1. Entitlement – Eligibility to be granted, to inherit, and to matriculate all elements of a heraldic achievement, including (but not limited to) crest, mantling, and helm;
2. Display – The display (or not as the armiger wishes) of symbols that indicate marital status (single, divorced, widowed), birth order (cadency), or other personal information on the arms themselves and the display of arms in concert with other arms (marshalling); and
3. Inheritance – The right to inherit arms from parents and transmit arms to children, whether the arms were granted to or inherited by the transmitting armiger.

Proposals should be between 3,000 and 6,000 words (not including appendices) and follow conventions for academic referencing, citations, and critical analysis. The inclusion of graphical illustrations is particularly encouraged. All submissions must be in Portable Document Format (.pdf) sent to Equality of Arms at the following email address: equalityofarms@virginmedia.com

The deadline for submissions is 10pm UK time on Monday 8th May 2023 (Coronation Day). A panel of experts will review submissions and judge the best submission. The winner will be informed by the start of the school holidays in the UK depending on the number of entries received.

The author of the winning entry will be awarded a **Sovereign coin** (916.7 Fine Gold, minted by the Royal Mint in the UK), popularly known as 'The Chief Coin of the World'.

A copy of the winning entry will be sent to the Kings of Arms in London and circulated to all the Heraldic Societies in the UK and Commonwealth Realms. The winning entry may also appear in heraldic journals and textbooks.

NB. Equality of Arms is concerned only with heraldic convention as it applies in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and His Majesty's Crown Dependencies, British Overseas Territories, and other Realms which do not have their own national Heraldic Authority. Scottish heraldic convention as governed by Lord Lyon is not in scope. Issues of gender, transgender, non-binary gender, and inheritance by adopted children are not in scope of this competition.

Rules of entry:

1. Entries received after 10pm UK time on Monday 8th May 2023 will be rejected;
2. Entries are welcome from all comers, excluding the panel of experts;
3. The panel of experts' decision is final;
4. Anonymous entries will be rejected; however, all entries will be presented to the panel of experts blind to the identity of the author;
5. Proposals must address all three issues of entitlement, display, and inheritance such that male and female armigers are treated equally, and present workable solutions; and
6. Proposals must not, as part of their solutions, permit discrimination against any person on the basis of a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

Equality of Arms is the campaign to reform heraldic convention for the purposes of equality of the sexes. Equality of Arms is not affiliated with any other campaign or organisation.