

Our group met today and had an engaging discussion on the subject. We came up with the undernoted points:

<b>Reasons why so few females entering STEM jobs:</b>	<b>Possible ways forward</b>
Attitudes fostered in early years (nursery and primary)	Gender neutral classrooms still not widespread. Need to build this into the curriculum and inspect schools to ensure real change has been made. Could there be research into how best to promote gender neutral classrooms. This could be disseminated through the sector.
Attitudes fostered in commercial sphere	Could shops be colour coded as recognised for promoting positive gender attitudes?
Attitudes fostered in secondary school	More visiting speakers to tell boys and girls of opportunities available to both sexes. More career advice targeting STEM subjects to girls. This could even be done in Secondary S1 so, early on girls have a goal to work towards.
Attitudes fostered in colleges and universities	The 'milk round' does not advertise STEM jobs enough. More consultation with sector leaders on how better use can be made of career fairs.
Attitudes fostered at home	Using schools and community centres as vehicles to communicate with parents on the advantages of STEM industries to females entering the employment market.
Attitudes fostered through social media.	Social media seems to be playing a major role in opening young people to different gender roles. Can use be made of this medium to make the politics of the gender imbalance in STEM more transparent to girls and boys?
Research	Can research be commissioned specifically focused on key factors that led to improvements in gender equality through the decades? This may be useful in forging ways forward in the present climate.