



March 8th is International Women's Day

“International Women’s Day, a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women, took place for the first time on March 8, 1911. The United Nations (U.N.) has sponsored International Women’s Day since 1975.”⁴ “In their founding message, the U.N. said their mission was “to recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality and development of women; and to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security.” By 1975, the world knew of Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Billie Jean King, Hillary Clinton, and many others who had made, or were making, history in America. Their contributions to women’s equality -- and racial equality -- formed the forefront of the women’s movement.”¹

The campaign theme for International Women’s Day 2022 is #BreakTheBias. Individually, we’re all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. Whether deliberate or unconscious, bias makes it difficult for women to move ahead. Knowing that bias exists isn’t enough. We can break the bias in our communities, workplace, schools, colleges and universities. Action is needed to level the playing field. Imagine a gender equal world. Cross your arms to show solidarity. Strike the IWD 2022 pose and share your #BreakTheBias image, video, resources, presentation or articles on social media using #IWD2022 #BreakTheBias to encourage further people to commit to helping forge an inclusive world.²



A few achievements in Gender Equality:

1848 Seneca Falls, NY: The U.S. Women’s Rights Movement gained momentum on a national level following a Seneca Falls convention in 1848. The demand to vote became a centerpiece of the Women’s Rights Movement following the convention.

August 18, 1920: The 19th Amendment was ratified, granting women the right to vote, but while the ratification of the amendment was a success, barriers remained, or were put in place, to prevent some women from voting, particularly women of color. It wasn’t until 45 years later, with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, that voting equality existed for all women.

“The Equal Pay Act of 1963 was the first piece of legislation to forbid all employers from paying women less money than men for jobs that require the same skills and responsibilities.”¹

Feminism

“The belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes.

Although largely originating in the West, feminism is manifested worldwide and is represented by various institutions committed to activity on behalf of women’s rights and interests.”³



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Sources: 1. The Diversity Movement – Women’s History Month Programming Guide V2

2. <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Activity/15586/The-history-of-IWD>

3. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/feminism> 4. <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>

Photos: Fists - Study Breaks Magazine - (Illustration by Ashawna Linyard, Georgia State University)

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Arm Cross #BreakTheBias - <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/theme>