

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

What is it?

International Women's Day on 8 March is a day to celebrate the achievements of women, whether social, political, economic or cultural.

In 2023, the theme is Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender equal future.

Why does it matter?

Because we're not there yet.

The first women's march was about ending harmful workplace conditions and exploitation. Sadly, those aims are still relevant today.

Because the rights we have are not secure.

Sometimes after progressive women's rights laws are established, they are still disregarded.

Because progress hasn't been equal.

Many women still face compounded challenges in the fight for equality.

A history of the day

In 1908, thousands of women took to the streets of New York to protest for shorter hours, better pay and working conditions, as well as voting rights.

In 1909, the Socialist Party of America announced a National Women's Day to honour the strikers.

In 1910, it went global after attendees of the International Conference of Working Women voted for the creation of a Women's Day. The first International Women's Day was held in 1911, and more than a million people turned out to rallies in Europe.

In 1975, the United Nations adopted International Women's Day on 8 March, when it is still held.

How can I get involved?

Learn more

Find out more about the feminist movement and the fight for gender equality.

Share with your peers

Celebrate your favourite women, women leaders, or feminist achievements by shouting them out using #IWD23.

Be deliberate in your choices

Think about whether there are opportunities to support women's livelihoods through the media you consume or the products you buy.

Donate to a feminist cause

There are countless groups working for gender equality or women's rights. Consider helping their work with a donation.

Are men welcome too?

Yes. Male allyship, especially when men use their privilege to support gender equality, is a welcome amplification of women's voices.