

International Women's Day

Every year on March 8th, people around the world recognize the achievements of women and renew the call for gender equality. International Women's Day highlights both the progress that has been made and the work that still needs to be done to ensure that women and girls everywhere can live safely, freely, and with equal opportunities.

Why International Women's Day Matters

International Women's Day began in 1911 as part of a global movement advocating for women's rights, including better working conditions, fair wages, and the right to vote. Over time, it has grown into an international moment of reflection, advocacy, and celebration of women's contributions to society.

Despite progress, significant gaps remain. Globally, women currently hold only about 64 percent of the legal rights that men have. In many areas of life, including work, finances, safety, family life, property ownership, and more, laws and policies can still disadvantage women and limit their opportunities.

Disability Justice and Intersectionality

Conversations about gender equality must also recognize that women experience inequality in different ways. Factors such as disability, race, income, sexuality, and immigration status can shape how barriers are experienced and who is most impacted by them.

The concept of Intersectionality helps explain how these overlapping identities can lead to compounded discrimination. For example, women with disabilities often face barriers that combine gender bias and ableism, affecting access to healthcare, employment, housing, and safety.

Globally, women with disabilities are more likely to experience poverty, social isolation, and gender-based violence, and they may encounter additional barriers when seeking justice or support services. Recognizing these realities is an important part of building a more inclusive movement for equality.

The Power of Collective Action

International Women's Day is driven by the collective efforts of people around the world. That spirit of shared responsibility is what makes the day powerful. From community events and advocacy campaigns to conversations in workplaces and homes, every action helps move society closer to gender equality.

International Women's Day is both a celebration and a call to action. It reminds us that advancing equality benefits everyone and that progress depends on continued commitment from individuals, communities, and institutions.

Sources:

1. <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>
 2. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/womens-day>
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For more information on the topics discussed or questions, please contact us at info@nydp.ca

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