



**INVEST IN WOMEN: ACCELERATE
PROGRESS**

**UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S DAY
PROPOSAL**

**International Women's Day
8 March**

MARCH 2024

“Communities and countries and ultimately the world are only as strong as the health of their women.”

— Michelle Obama

“I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. ...We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.” – Malala Yousafzai

“The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up.”

– Serena Williams



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International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to differences, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political.

Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike. The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point to build support for women's rights and participation in the political and economic arenas.

Movement in the United States

The first National Woman's Day was observed in the United States on 28 February, 1909. The Socialist Party of America designated this day in honor of the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York, where women protested against working conditions.

But the first milestone in US was much earlier - in 1848. Indignant over women being barred from speaking at an anti-slavery convention, Americans Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott congregated a few hundred people at their nation's first women's rights convention in New York. Together they demanded civil, social, political and religious rights for women in a Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions. A movement was born.



UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S DAY PROPOSAL



The theme for the 2024 International Women's Day was 'Invest in women: Accelerate progress'.

“Achieving gender equality and women’s well-being in all aspects of life is more crucial than ever if we want to create prosperous economies and a healthy planet. However, we are facing a key challenge: the alarming \$360 billion annual deficit in gender equality measures by 2030.”--UN Women

Here are five key areas needing joint action:

- **Investing in women, a human rights issue:** Time is running out. Gender equality is the greatest human rights challenge, benefiting everyone.
- **Ending poverty:** Due to the COVID pandemic and conflicts, 75 million more people have fallen into severe poverty since 2020. Immediate action is crucial to prevent over 342 million women and girls living in poverty by 2030.
- **Implementing gender-responsive financing:** Conflicts and rising prices may lead 75% of countries to cut public spending by 2025, negatively impacting women and their essential services.
- **Shifting to a green economy and care society:** The current economic system disproportionately affects women. Advocates propose a shift to a green economy and care society to amplify women's voices.
- **Supporting feminist change-makers:** Despite leading efforts, feminist organizations receive only 0.13% of official development assistance.

ENDING POVERTY: IMPLEMENTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE FINANCING

Women's poverty arises from unequal access to economic resources. Discriminatory norms may keep them in certain occupations, working for wages less than those of men. Legal statutes may restrict their ability to inherit land or seek credit.

Women left financially dependent on men are more vulnerable to poverty, and less equipped to manage risks such as economic downturns.

World leaders have committed to ending poverty by 2030. But that aspiration can only be achieved by ending the discrimination that traps women in poverty. Globally, 1 in 5 girls are in households living on less than US\$1.90 a day, a sum that leaves them without enough food, housing, health care or education.



Between the ages of 25 and 34, poverty gaps between women and men are particularly acute as women struggle to combine paid work with an unequal burden of care for children and other dependents. Globally, for every 100 men in this age group who are poor, there are 122 women.

GREEN ECONOMY AND CARE SOCIETY

CARING FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

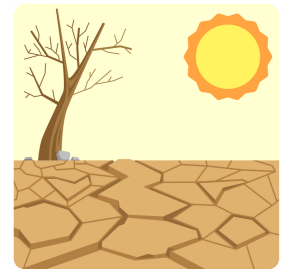


Climate shocks increase unpaid healthcare work for women and girls

A rise in diseases linked to the climate crisis is disproportionately impacting the care-load for women and girls. A study in Delhi, India, and Dhaka, Bangladesh, showed that women spent on average an additional hour per day on care work when a member of their family had a climate-related illness, such as a water-borne disease from torrential rains.

Droughts deepen food insecurity for women

Women also face greater food insecurity than men. When there is food scarcity, it is common for men and boys to be fed first with women eating last and least. Droughts force many women and girls into subsistence farming and activities which increases their workloads as they grapple to secure sufficient food provisions for their families.



So, what is a care society?

The concept of a care society emerges as a pressing alternative to the current economic and development model based on the extraction and exploitation of natural resources, fossil fuels, and human lives. It emphasizes the crucial role of both caring for people and the planet. Recognizing the irreplaceable value of care is essential, as is addressing the unequal care burden that women and girls currently bear, and increasingly so amid the climate emergency. The provision of care should be a shared responsibility involving the state, markets, communities, and families.



SUPPORTING FEMINIST CHANGE-MAKERS

ORGANIZATIONS TO FOLLOW:

[Women Employed](#)

Improves the economic status of women and removes barriers to economic equity

[Women Delivered](#)

Advocacy drives investment—political and financial—in the lives of girls and women worldwide

[Equal Rights Advocates](#)

Fights for gender justice in workplaces and schools across the country since 1974

[National Center for Lesbian Rights](#)

Committed to advancing the civil and human rights of LGBTIA+ people and their families through litigation, legislation, policy, and public education.

[Love Is Respect](#)

is the national resource to disrupt and prevent unhealthy relationships and intimate partner violence among young people.

[SisterSong](#)

a national activist organization dedicated to reproductive justice for women of color

[Women Engage for a Common Future](#)

a nonprofit network dedicated to a gender just and healthy planet for all.

DID YOU KNOW?

Just 5% of government aid is focused on tackling violence against women and girls, and less than 0.2% is directed to its prevention.

**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY
EVENT!**

Join us for an
exciting night of
celebrating women
and creating space!

Investing in Women:



A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

MARCH 5, 2024

**6:00A HT / 7:00A AT / 8:00A PT / 9:00A MT /
10:00A CT / 11:00A ET**

MARCH 7, 2024

**2:30P HT / 3:30P AT / 4:30P PT / 5:30P MT /
6:30P CT / 7:30P ET**

Hosted By:



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HERE'S SOME OF WHAT WE COVERED:

During this event, we uplifted and explored the United Nations' International Women's Day proposal. We offered our online communities a vibrant program filled with song, spoken word, calls to action, and community grounding

On both March 5th and 8th, Investing in Women: A Virtual Celebration was a resounding success, harmonizing the empowering messages of gender equality and women's wellness with the captivating presence of musical guests Emma's Revolution, Lea Morris and Rev. Summer Albayati.

- The conversations delved into important topics like gender equality and the economic and social empowerment of women. Our speakers highlighted the significant benefits of gender equity and the urgency to address the projected deficit in gender-responsive measures. Karen Kortsch's insights into the global initiatives of ICUW, particularly their engagement with the United Nations, highlighted our global reach and commitment to making a difference beyond just our community.
- The sessions also focused on the powerful message of global interconnectedness and environmental responsibility. This was particularly highlighted by Salote Soqo's moving message from the women of Papua New Guinea, who, as the first climate refugees, expressed a heartfelt wish to leave behind a healed world for their granddaughters. This message underpinned the urgency of our cause and the broader impact of our collective efforts.
- This event was a testament to the power of uniting voices, engaging music and a shared vision, all coming together to create a truly memorable experience. As we move forward, these gatherings serve as a reminder of the powerful impact we can have when we unite in support of women's empowerment and gender equality globally.
- Watch the full recording [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

The fact that Women's Day is celebrated on March 8th is strongly linked to the women's movements during the Russian Revolution (1917).

Websites

- [Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [UN Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#)
- [UN Women](#)
- [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#)

Publications

- [Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women](#)
- [Gender equality in the 2030 agenda](#)
- [UN Women Library](#)

Related International Days

- [International Day of Women Judges](#) 10 March
- [Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict](#) 19 June
- [Girl Child](#) 11 October
- [Elimination of Violence against Women](#) 25 November
- [Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation](#) 6 February





GREAT READS

De Colores Means All
of Us: Latina Views for
a Multi-Colored
Century
by
Elizabeth Martínez

A Decolonial
Feminism
by
Françoise Vergès

Pleasure Activism:
The Politics of Feeling
Good
by
adrienne maree
brown



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young adult, and
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