Event Day Toolkit

YOU ARE REGISTERED!

WorldDenver celebrates one of the largest International Women's Day events in the U.S. This year we are recognizing Women in National Security, including those in defense, public health, cybersecurity, aerospace, diplomacy, and the many other roles through which women around the world keep us safe.

Use this toolkit to learn more about the history of International Women's Day, event day tips, fun recipes, and resources for security programs and STEM scholarships. Learn more about WorldDenver and becoming a member at WorldDenver.org. Be sure to share your photos during the event on social using #worlddenverIWD2021.

Interested in event sponsorship or have questions? Contact Lauren Osga Lauren@worlddenver.org or 720-330-9287.
To tell a woman everything she cannot do is to tell her what she can.” – Spanish Proverb

WorldDenver is a non-profit, non-partisan community organization dedicated to advancing a deep understanding of global affairs and cultures. Supported by individuals, businesses, and foundations, WorldDenver engages globally-minded Coloradans in a direct, personal dialogue with each other and with elected officials, civic leaders and professionals from around the world.

Our Mission is to strengthen and expand the community of engaged global citizens and organizations in Colorado through education, cross-cultural exchange, and personal interaction with international leaders, professionals and students.

Become a WorldDenver Member!

DISCOUNT CODE*: IWD2021
WORLDDENVER.ORG/JOIN

$50 $45 Young Professional
$75 $60 Individual
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$1,000 $900 Diplomats Council: Attaché
*Code valid through March 31, 2021
March 8 has been the global date for IWD since 1914 when women across Europe held rallies to campaign against the war and to express women’s solidarity. It is a day to inspire women and celebrate their achievements, but also to highlight areas where work remains to be done in business, politics, education, health and combating gender-based violence.

**Why 8 March?**
Ask Julius Cesar and Gregory XIII! Before the Revolution, Russia had not yet adopted the Gregorian calendar. Russia (where International Women’s Day was established in 1913) was facing unrest as a country exhausted by war, widespread food shortages and escalating popular protest. The nation’s 1917 International Women’s Day demonstration was held on March 8 of that year — Feb. 23 in the old Russian calendar, thus named “The February Revolution.” If you had been visiting Petrograd (now known as St. Petersburg), there would have been tens of thousands of women with banners marching, demanding bread, eventually forcing the abdication of the tsar and ending the Romanov dynasty.

**First Key Years of the Movement**
Officially recognized by the United Nations in 1977, International Women's Day first emerged from the activities of labor movements at the turn of the twentieth century in North America and across Europe.

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

But the first milestone of woman's day in the US was actually much earlier - in 1848. Indignant over women being barred from speaking at an anti-slavery convention, Americans Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott gathered a few hundred people at the 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.

**1910: Europe's turn**
The Socialist International in Copenhagen, Denmark established a Women's Day to honor the movement for women's rights and to build support for achieving universal suffrage for women.

**1915: Tired of war**
As the First World War rages, a huge gathering of women is held in The Hague (The Netherlands) on 15 April. Participants include over 1,300 women from over 12 countries.

**1917: The right to vote in Russia**
Against the backdrop of the war, women in Russia again chose to protest and strike for "Bread and Peace" on the last Sunday in February (which fell on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar). Four days later, the Czar abdicated and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote.
Today: The celebration spreads
After World War II, 8 March started to be celebrated in a number of countries. In 1975, during the International Women’s Year, the United Nations began celebrating 8 March as International Women’s Day. Two years later, in December 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women’s Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States, in accordance with their historical and national traditions. Since then, the United Nations and their agencies have worked tirelessly to secure gender equality worldwide with great outcomes achieved: in 1995 the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a historic roadmap signed by 189 governments, focused on 12 critical areas of concern; and the inclusion of Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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). New Zealand was the first self-governing nation to allow women to vote. In the first known campaign of its kind, the Egyptian Society of Physicians went against tradition by declaring the negative effects of female genital mutilation. This was in 1920!

Read more: United Nations International Women’s Day
IWD CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

As you read about International Women’s Day in different countries and cultures, consider how you might want to celebrate in your own work or personal life! These different International Women’s Day customs across countries are significant not just because they honor women around the world, but because they represent the diverse values and traditions at play in a global context.

Argentina
In Argentina, IWD has been celebrated since the early 1900s by giving and receiving flowers and other gifts. In 2016, women gathered outside the Congress in Buenos Aires with slogans painted on their bodies, demanding the implementation of policies to prevent femicides. Women also took to the streets in 2017, 2018 and 2019 to fight for gender equality, social change, and equal pay – with a focus on reproductive rights, due to Argentina’s restrictive abortion laws. On March 1, 2020, it was announced that abortion finally set to be legalized in Argentina – making it the first major Latin American country to do so.

Armenia
In Armenia, IWD marks the start of an unofficial ‘Women’s Month’ running until ‘Motherhood and Beauty Day’ on 7 April. Up until 2011, the day was a holiday for all, but it became a working day after the National Assembly decided to adopt 8 March as Women’s Day.

Brazil
In major Brazilian cities, you may see IWD demonstrations and festivities in the streets, some of which are political in nature. However, the central focus in Brazil is generally the celebration of feminine beauty. Many shops and businesses have special offers for chocolates, flowers, and beauty products, and it’s customary for men to offer small presents to their female friends, colleagues or family members. Brazilian children also play a role in IWD festivities. It’s common for younger kids to create notes or small crafts for their mothers or sisters, and high school students may be assigned to write a letter to a woman they love or admire.

China
China celebrates not only IWD, but also Girls’ Day, which is recognized on March 7th. International Women’s Day is celebrated with small gifts and a shortened workday, but it is largely focused on honoring married women. Girl’s Day became a celebration not just of young girls, but of single women as well, especially university students. On March 7th, many universities host events and competitions for female students, such as dancing or makeup contests. There is also a romantic component to Girl’s Day, where men are encouraged to express their admiration for the women they like.
Women are granted a half-day off work (as advised by the State Council) to mark the celebration, but many employers fail to do so. Celebrations in previous years focused more on women’s health and wellbeing. In 1997, International Women’s Day was celebrated by offering women free medical examinations. And in 2003, women came together in Tiananmen Square to link arms as they marched to Communist Party meetings. In 2016, men in the country’s Guangdong province wore dresses and stilettos to climb a mountain on International Women’s Day. The year before, five women were arrested for planning a protest against sexual harassment. In recent years the celebration has involved dresses and high heels, rather than focusing on women’s achievements.

Côte d’Ivoire
Fashion plays an important role in many sub-Saharan African celebrations. Vibrant fabrics, masks, headdresses, jewelry, and body paint all play a prominent role in cultural festivities. For IWD, a new print is designed each year and released a few weeks beforehand, and many people you pass are wearing the same print in all different styles and designs. Côte d’Ivoire also hosts events that are largely focused on women’s education and economic empowerment. At these events, nearly every person wears their IWD swag, adding to the feeling of camaraderie amongst women and highlighting the broader community’s support for gender equality.

France
Usually in France, the day goes by with very little mention. However, in 2018 women of the country called for everyone (including men) to finish their working day at 15:40pm as a mark of solidarity with their female colleagues. According to recent research, throughout the country women earn 24 per cent less for the same work as their male counterparts, resulting in them effectively working for free every day from 15:40pm onwards. Incredibly, it led to the French prime minister Édouard Philippe presenting 50 different measures in a bid to promote gender equality and combat domestic violence.

India
Each year, India hosts rallies and seminars on women’s issues, with a emphasis on raising awareness and prevention of violence against women. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) often host fundraising events or screenings of documentaries or TV shows on these topics, and grassroots organizations strive to bring greater visibility to women’s issues through local initiatives. At a local charity called Palli Unnayan Seva Samiti (PUSS) India, a group of girls created a dance video along with the hashtag “#pressforprogress” to help advance women’s educational opportunities across the Indian state of Odisha.
Italy
It is customary during “la Festa della Donna” for men to give Mimosa flowers to the important women in their lives, a tradition believed to have originated in Rome after World War II. Mimosa flowers represent femininity, strength, and sensibility because of their delicate appearance as well as their ability to thrive in many different climates and environments. Bakeries sell special cakes inspired by the flower, with citrus flavors and floral decorations. IWD is not a public holiday in Italy, but in 2017 women got to enjoy free entry to museums and cultural sites across the country. In 2018, women also marked the day by protesting outside of hospitals in Milan because of restrictive access to women’s reproductive services.

Madagascar
In Madagascar, festivals and demonstrations hosted in its capital, Antananarivo, tend to be bigger and more political in nature. By contrast, celebrations in smaller villages tend to be more informal, with women dressing in traditional garb and dancing together in the streets.

Nepal
IWD in Nepal is marked as an official holiday, so women get the day off work. In 2017, the country’s capital of Kathmandu held a rally to send a message that women can “become what they want”. People took to the streets in their work uniforms to protest women earning on average 24% less than men across the country. Women marched again in 2018 and 2019, some wearing all-white ensembles as they protested for women’s rights.

Philippines
Last year in the Philippines, women wore pink T-shirts and purple hats to protest against the country’s president, Rodrigo Duterte – whom they claimed was one of the worst women’s rights violators in Asia. While handing out red and white roses to women, the protesters rallied in Manila’s Plaza Miranda.

Poland
In recent years, IWD has witnessed women taking to the streets of Poland to protest the country's strict anti-abortion laws.

Russia
Russia has recognized IWD day as an official holiday since 1965. Initially, the day had strong political motivations, and it was meant to celebrate women’s contributions to society, democracy, and progress toward equality. Today, its celebration is more symbolic; much like Valentine’s Day, men can be seen purchasing bouquets of flowers days before the celebration. Many offices mark the day with a work party the day before with team lunches and giving gifts. From a young age, school children are taught about the celebration with the boys being tasked with giving gifts to girls in their class.
Saudi Arabia
The kingdom of Saudi Arabia celebrated its first ever Women’s Day in 2017. However, it’s not celebrated on 8 March, but rather on 1-3 February; the three-day event takes place in the capital of Riyadh and sees royalty and citizens coming together to discuss women’s rights. Under current Saudi law, a woman must ask her male guardian for permission to marry, travel or study. According to Arab News, the introduction of the day hopes to “celebrate the Saudi woman and her successful role, and remind people of her achievements in education, culture, medicine, literature and other areas.”

South Korea
Dressed in all-black outfits, South Korean women protested on the streets of the country's capital of Seoul in 2018 – all holding #MeToo placards. The day was marked in protest as a direct response to the #MeToo movement gathering speed in the country after a female prosecutor in January 2018 began speaking openly about workplace abuse and sexual misconduct. Additionally, women gathered outside the Japanese embassy in the city on the eve of IWD, to highlight the “comfort women” – referring to 200,000 girls who were instructed to work in brothels before and after World War II in the country.

Spain
In 2018, for the first time, Spain marked IWD by women workers going on strike. Across the country over five million females refrained from going to work for 24 hours to highlight gender inequality and sexual discrimination. Taking to the streets, women chanted “if we stop, the world stops.”

Tukey
In Turkey, IWD has been marked in recent years by women taking to the streets protesting growing violence and sexual abuse by men.

Uganda
IWD has been celebrated in Uganda since 1984, with the country officially announcing it as a holiday in 1991. The government picks a theme to focus on every year. In 2015, the country focused on improving women’s health. In 2017, the country turned its attention to encouraging women’s empowerment at work. In 2018, they highlighted the work of female police officers in the Ugandan capital of Kampala by having them control the traffic.

Check Out These Resources
International Women's Day Around the World
International Women's Day Fashion
International Women's Day - Vogue UK
While travel is restricted and we are confined to our homes and neighborhoods, there are many opportunities to explore virtually! We’ve come up with a list of influential historical women - not a complete list by any means - and virtual tours of museums, national parks and landmarks. We hope you enjoy!

Take a tour of where these historic and influential women hail:

- Marie Curie - Poland/France
- Rosa Parks - Tuskegee, Alabama, U.S
- Jane Austen - Steventon, Hampshire, England
- Boudicca - Iceni tribe of modern-day East Anglia, Britain
- Emmeline Pankhurst - Manchester, England
- Malala Yousafzai - Mingora, Pakistan
- Aisha Fofana Ibrahim - Sierra Leone
- Zitkala-Sa, aka Gertrude Simmons Bonnin - Yankton Indian Reservation

Virtual Museum Tours:

- The Louvre - Paris, France
- Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum - New York, U.S.
- Van Gogh Museum - Amsterdam
- National Museum of Anthropology - Mexico City, Mexico

Virtual National Parks and Landmarks:

- Kenai Fjords National Park - Alaska, USA
- Great Wall of China - Beijing, China
- The Colosseum - Rome, Italy
- Pharaoh Ramesses VI Tomb - Luxor, Egypt
- The Catacombs - Paris, France
- Mount Everest - Nepal and China
- Mars - A whole different planet!
Dishes & Drinks

Our Top Picks

Food
- Croque Madame Secretary
- We Demand S'More Rights
- Rocket Ship Salad
- Malala Mac 'n Cheese
- The 19th Amendment Apple Pie
- Women in the Mili-Cherry
- Women on (Cheese) Boards
- App Developer

Non-Alcoholic
- Security Blanket (hot cocoa & coffee!)
- Feminista Chai
- EmpowHER-mint Mojito
- Side Hustle Car
- No Pink Tax Lemonade

Cocktails
- Equali-TEA
- Long Island Equi-TEA
- Ruth Bader Gin'sburg
- Patriarchy Smash
- Intersectionality on the Beach
- Pay Women More-garita
- Gloria STEIN-em (aka your favorite beer)
- Michelle-ada Obama
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE:
- Schools, Colleges, & Degrees
- Accredited Schools in Colorado

COMPUTER SCIENCE:
- Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES:
- Cyber REACH (Research Education Adventures for Community College and High School Students)
- DoD CySP (Cyber Scholarship Program)
- NSA/DHS National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE)
- Cybersecurity Graduate Certificate

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER:
- International Security MA Program
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) MA Program

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
- Colorado School of Public Health

WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY ACADEMY:
- Summer Diplomatic Academy (Online)
- One-Year Certificate in International Diplomacy (Hybrid)
LOCKHEED MARTIN:
- Stem Scholarship (Deadline April 1)
- Vocational Scholarship (Deadline March 11)
- College Internship Search
- High School Internships - request more information (high-school-internship.gr-space@lmco.com)

MSU DENVER AND UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
- University of Colorado at Boulder- Masters of the Environment
- MSU Aviation and Aerospace Science Programs
- CU Denver School of Public Affairs: Criminal Justice, Graduate Certificates
- BS or BA in Public Health

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE:
- University of Colorado at Boulder- Masters of the Environment
- Colorado College Environmental Program
- Grad School Programs in Colorado
- Internships across the U.S.

U.S. MILITARY:
- Undergraduate College Opportunities (Navy)
- Army Education Benefits
- Air Force Degree
- Army ROTC: Colleges, Scholarships, Curriculum & Courses
INTERNSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

US STATE DEPARTMENT:
- Internships & Fellowships
- Other Student Programs
- Educational Resources
- WorldLearning Youth Ambassadors Program

NUCLEAR THREAT INITIATIVE:
- Summer Internships

GIRL SECURITY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM:
- Become a Mentor
- Be Mentored

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE:
- Internships across the U.S.
TEACHERS & STUDENTS

LOCKHEED MARTIN:
- STEM Education
- Code Quest
- CyberQuest
- Career Predictor

NASA TEACHER RESOURCES:
- Artemis handouts and activities
- Orion handouts and activities
- Space Launch System handouts and activities
- JunoQuest informational game
- Perseverance lessons and activities

GIRL SECURITY:
- School, Gov., Corporate, and Org Programs

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
- Resources for Students & Educators

NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION (NICE):
- Educator Training & Curriculum
- Career & Professional Development
- K12 Education & Games