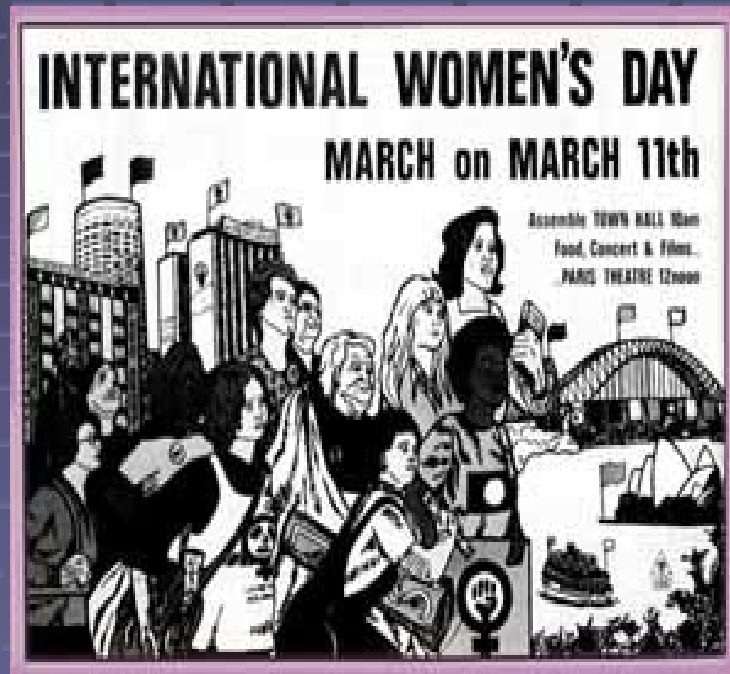


International Woman's Day



March 2006

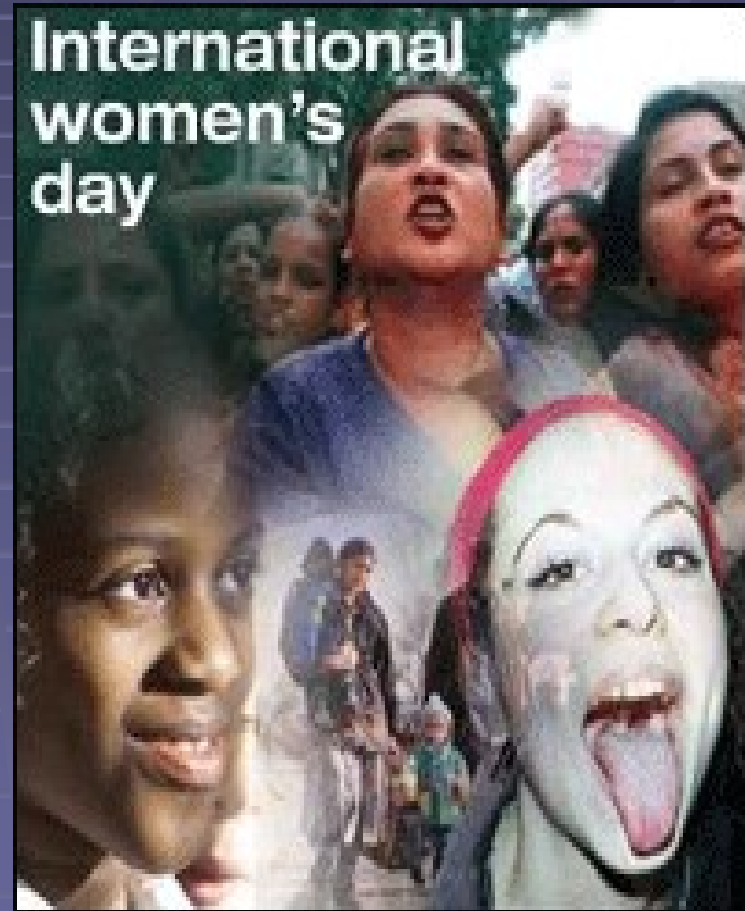
Kazem Alamdari

Rosa Hidalgo

What is International Woman's Day?

It's a global celebration ■
for the economic,
political, and social
achievements in
women

Celebrated for over 95 ■
years





March 8, 1857 - Garment workers in New York city staged a protest against inhumane working conditions & low wages. ■

March 8, 1908 – 15,000 women marched through New York city demanding shorter work hours, better pay, voting rights & an end to child labor. ■

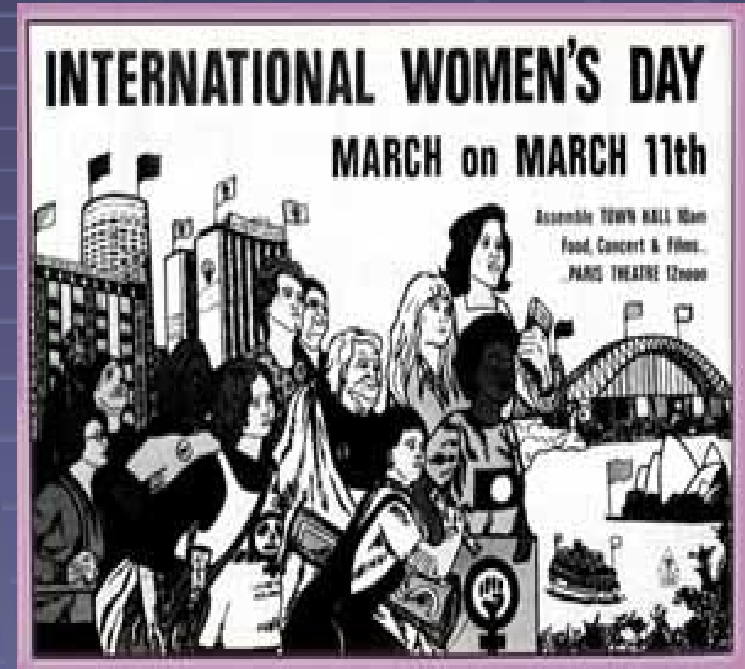
National suffrage organizations

In 1869, Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the National Women's Suffrage Association (NWSA),
an organization dedicated to gaining women's suffrage. Anthony was vice-president-at-large of the NWSA from the date of its organization until 1892, when she became president .

1909 – In an agreement with a declaration

by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Women's Day was observed across the U.S. on February 28.

1910 – Proposal was approved to honor the movement for women's rights & assist achieving universal suffrage for women



Clara Zetkin

In 1910, at the Second International ■
Conference of Working Women, Clara
Zetkin, member of the German Socialist
party, put forward the proposal of
organising an International Working
Women's day. The conference of over 100
delegates from 17 countries then decided
to celebrate Women's Day. Every year
under the slogan "The vote for women will
unite our strength for socialism".



1911 – International Women's Day (IWD) ■
was honored the first time in Austria,
Denmark, Germany, & Switzerland on
March 19.

On March 25 the 'Triangle Fire' in NY city took ■
the lives of more than 140 working women

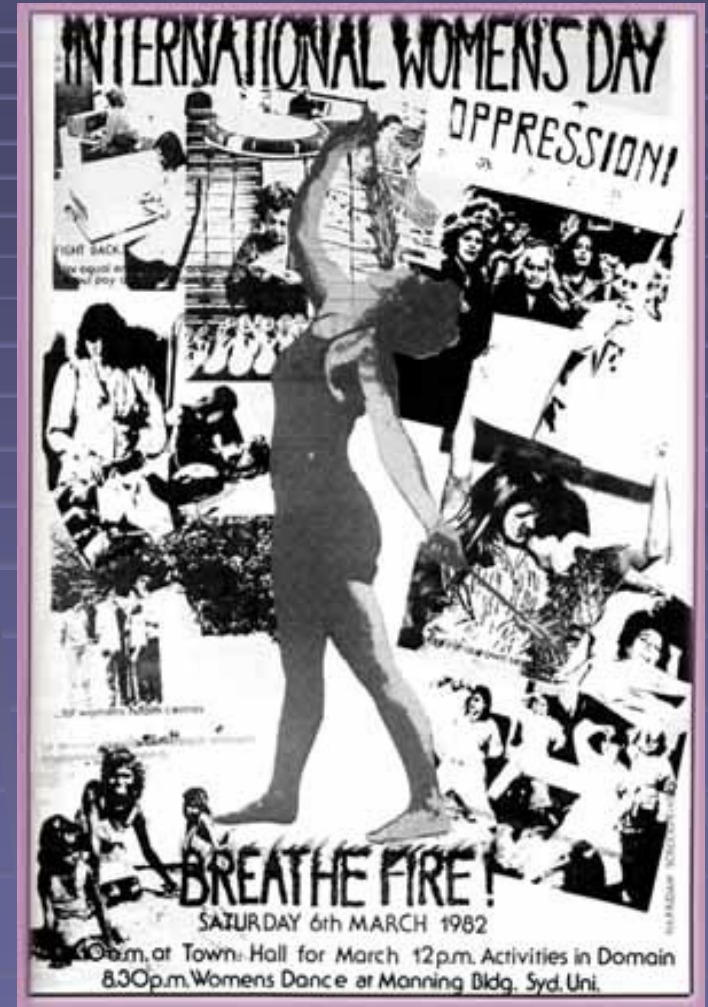
This tragic event drew attention to working ■
conditions & labor legislation in the U.S. which
became a focus on IWD events.

1914 – Women across Europe held rallies ■
to campaign against the war & to express
women's solidarity.

1917 – Russian women began a strike for ■
“bread & peace” in response to the death of
over 2 million Russian soldiers in war.

1918 – 1999 – IWD has grown to become a global day of recognition & celebration across developed & developing countries.

1975 – Designated as ‘International Woman’s Year’ by the United Nations.



Women and United Nations

Since 1975, International Women's Year, ■
March 8 has been celebrated as
International Women's Day, “to
*commemorate the historic struggle to
improve women's lives*”. It is celebrated
around the world at the local and national
levels.

2000-2007 – IWD is now an official holiday ■
in Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus,
Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan,
Ukraine, Uzbekistan, & Vietnam.

It also became an occasion for men to ■
express their sympathy and love to the
women around them.

Some issues IWD have focused on

About 25,000 brides are burned to death ■
each year in India because of insufficient
dowries.

Rape is used as a weapon of terror in many ■
of the world's conflict.

More than 100 million women and girls worldwide

More than 100 million women and girls worldwide are believed to have been genitally mutilated, the U.N. health agency said. The mutilation usually involves removal of the clitoris. Those

who practice it believe it tames a girl's sexual desires, maintains her honor and increases her marriageability.

An estimated 3 million women and girls undergo genital mutilation each year, according to UNICEF. Nearly half of the girls affected annually are in Egypt and Ethiopia, but groups continue the rite in at least two dozen other countries.

The number of women forced or sold into prostitution is estimated worldwide at anywhere between 700,000 and 4,000,000 per year. ■

Violence against women is the most common but least punished crime in the world. ■

It's estimated that between 113 to 200 million women are demographically "missing" ■

Two-thirds of the world's 800 million illiterate adults are women as girls are not seen as worth the investment, or are busy collecting water or firewood or doing other domestic chores. ■

Two million girls aged from five to 15 join the commercial sex market every year. ■

Domestic violence kills and injures more people in the developing world than war, cancer or traffic accidents. ■

Seventy per cent of the world's poorest ■
people are women.

Violence against women causes more ■
deaths and disabilities among women
aged 15 to 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic
accidents or war.

Women produce half the world's food, but own less than two per cent of the land. ■

Of the more than one billion people living in extreme poverty, 70 per cent are women. ■

Almost a third of the world's women are homeless or live in inadequate housing. ■

Half of all murdered women are killed by their current or former husbands or partners. ■

Every minute a woman dies as a result of pregnancy complications. ■

Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, yet earn only a tenth of its income. ■

One woman in three will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. ■

43 million girls are not able to go to school. ■

**Divya, India: 90 PER CENT OF ■
CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL IN INDIA
ARE GIRLS**

**Maggy, Burundi: EIGHT OUT OF 10 ■
PEOPLE DISPLACED BY CONFLICT
ARE FEMALE**

**Musarrat, Pakistan: VIOLENCE AT ■
HOME CAUSES MORE DEATHS THAN
CANCER, MALARIA AND WAR**

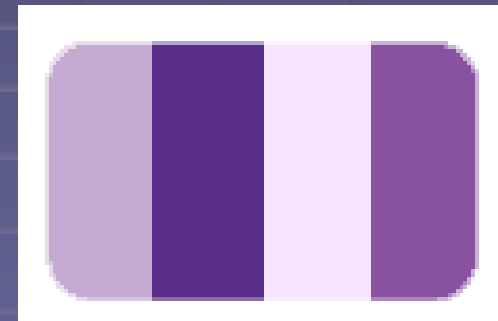
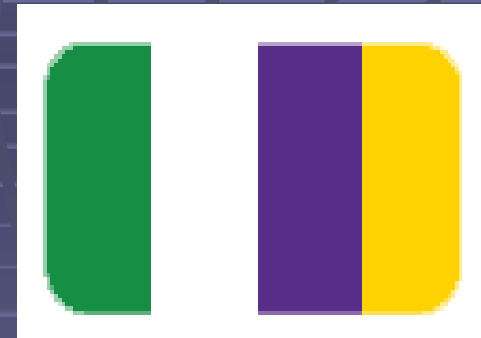
Last year, one million HIV-positive women died of AIDS-related illnesses because they could not get the drugs they needed. ■

Human Rights Watch, in reports on 15 countries including Afghanistan, Brazil, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Togo and South Africa, has identified violence against schoolgirls, child domestic workers and those in conflict with the law as on the rise. ■

Women across the developing world are the victims of systematic abuse. ■

Colors

- The official IWD colors
- The colors originated from the Women's Social & Political Union (WSPU) in the UK in 1908.
- Many woman's groups use purple as their predominant representative color.



Companies supporting IWD

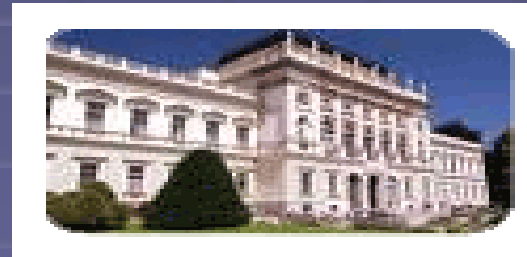
Organizations ■



Governments ■



Universities ■



Top Companies ■



How IWD is celebrated globally





The UN

The theme of International ■
Women's Day for 2006 was
**"Women in decision-
making : meeting
challenges, creating
change".**

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