OMNI International Women's Day (IWD)
NEWSLETTER #4, March 8, 2012. Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace. (OMNI began its celebrations of International Day of Women in 2007. See also OMNI Newsletters on Women’s Equality Day, August 26, 19th Amendment Day.)

MARCH IS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

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http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/ For a knowledge-based peace, justice, HUMAN RIGHTS, and ecology movement and an informed citizenry as the foundation for change.

Contents of #3, March 8, 2011
Code Pink
International Women’s Day Worldwide

Contents of #4, 2012
United Nations
NOW Honors IWD
Women’s Funding Network
Women Thrive Worldwide
UUSC for CEDAW

International Women's Day

International Women's Day (8 March) is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. This date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

International Women's Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men. In ancient Greece, Lysistrata initiated a sexual strike against men in order to end war; during the French Revolution, Parisian women calling for "liberty, equality, fraternity" marched on Versailles to demand women's suffrage.

The idea of an International Women's Day first arose at the turn of the century, which in the industrialized world was a period of expansion and turbulence, booming population growth and radical ideologies. Following is a brief chronology of the most important events:

1909

In accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day was
observed across the United States on 28 February. Women continued to celebrate it on the last Sunday of that month through 1913.

1910

The Socialist International, meeting in Copenhagen, established a Women's Day, international in character, to honour the movement for women's rights and to assist in achieving universal suffrage for women. The proposal was greeted with unanimous approval by the conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, which included the first three women elected to the Finnish parliament. No fixed date was selected for the observance.

1911

As a result of the decision taken at Copenhagen the previous year, International Women's Day was marked for the first time (19 March) in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, where more than one million women and men attended rallies. In addition to the right to vote and to hold public office, they demanded the right to work, to vocational training and to an end to discrimination on the job.

Less than a week later, on 25 March, the tragic Triangle Fire in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working girls, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This event had a significant impact on labour legislation in the United States, and the working conditions leading up to the disaster were invoked during subsequent observances of International Women's Day.

1913-1914

As part of the peace movement brewing on the eve of World War I, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1913. Elsewhere in Europe, on or around 8 March of the following year, women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with their sisters.

1917

With 2 million Russian soldiers dead in the war, Russian women again chose the last Sunday in February to strike for "bread and peace". Political leaders opposed the timing of the strike, but the women went on anyway. The rest is history: Four days later the Czar was forced to abdicate and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote. That historic Sunday fell on 23 February on the Julian calendar then in use in Russia, but on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar in use elsewhere.

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 for coordinated efforts to demand women's rights and participation in the political and economic process. Increasingly, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

The Role of the United Nations

Few causes promoted by the United Nations have generated more intense and widespread support than the campaign to promote and protect the equal rights of women. The Charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco in 1945, was the first international agreement to proclaim gender equality as a fundamental human right. Since then, the Organization has helped create a historic legacy of internationally agreed strategies, standards, programmes and goals to advance the status of women worldwide.
Over the years, United Nations action for the advancement of women has taken four clear directions: promotion of legal measures; mobilization of public opinion and international action; training and research, including the compilation of gender desegregated statistics; and direct assistance to disadvantaged groups. Today a central organizing principle of the work of the United Nations is that no enduring solution to society's most threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment, of the world's women.

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Help End War on Women in Honor of International Women's Day
|NOW National Organization for Women to jbennet now@now.org 2011

Dear James,

Happy International Women's Day. Today NOW cheers the strides women have made since the first International Women's Day 100 years ago. And we reaffirm our pledge that we will win full equality for all women.

Your donation can help us achieve this goal. The challenges before us are extraordinary. Many countries and cultures still view and treat women as second-class citizens. The global business of sex trafficking exploits millions of girls and women each year. In some parts of the world, rape is commonly used as a weapon of war.

And here in the U.S., we are facing an unprecedented "war on women." It is being called that for good reason. The House of Representatives voted to essentially zero out funding for Title X family planning clinics, which provide life-saving services like mammograms, pap tests, HIV and STD screening, as well as birth control. They also are poised to slash international family planning assistance. This is a public health nightmare in the making, and an all-out attack on women's access to basic reproductive health care.

NOW chapters around the country are working with allies to organize demonstrations, letter-writing campaigns and visits with their representatives. We're doing everything we can to stop these measures, but we need your help. By donating today, you can help NOW put a stop to the "war on women."

There's a long list of legislation we must defeat, like the bill many call the "Let the Women Die Act," which allows public hospitals to let a pregnant woman die rather than perform a life-saving abortion; and the bill known as "Stupak on Steroids," which permanently outlaws public funding for abortion care and imposes tax penalties on companies and employees whose insurance covers abortion; and then there's the one we're calling the "Public Health Nightmare Act," which permanently eliminates Title X family planning programs.

The House also voted to decimate funding for essential programs like prenatal care, women's and children's nutritional assistance, job training and college tuition assistance. Think this is "shared sacrifice?" Hardly. The House measure actually increases military funding and enshrines tax breaks for
the wealthiest while imposing the greatest burden on those who can least bear it -- predominantly women.

We're fighting back against these cruel cuts, and your contribution can help make a difference. This International Women's Day, NOW is calling on Congress and President Obama to vigorously defend the health and dignity of women everywhere. We're also reiterating our call for the long-overdue U.S. ratification of CEDAW -- the most complete international agreement on basic human rights for women. The individual atrocities and indignities committed against women every day will not stop until the larger war against our sex is ended and women's full equality is guaranteed. Please join us in making this a reality.

Thank you again for your support,

Terry O'Neill, President
National Organization for Women
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(Check this out 2012)
Women's Funding Network 2011

Happy International Women's Day! One hundred years ago on this day, activists marched throughout Europe to demand increased rights and participation for women.

On the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day take a moment to reflect upon the progress that has been achieved during the last century as well as the equality that we are still working to achieve.

Find an event near you by going to internationalwomensday.com or participate in a Join Women on the Bridge event, hosted by Women's Funding Network member Women for Women International.

Thank you for all you do to make every day Women's Day in your community and around the world.

Sincerely,

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Search this site:  

Submitted by admin on March 13, 2011 - 10:04am
Southern Impact

Find out how 12 women’s funds are working to address the critical issues affecting women in the southern United States. In a part of the country too often characterized by its problems, these organizations see enormous potential for women and girls to be the solution.

Read the Report: Common Context and Collective Impact in the South

About Us

Women's Funding Network is the largest philanthropic network in the world dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls. We unite women's funds in a global movement and provide them with tools and resources to maximize their impact.

Learn more about us.

Explore our 2010 annual report.

Network in Focus

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota funds innovative social change programs to advance women’s equally. Read our interview with their President & CEO Lee Roper-Batker.

Who We Are

Join us in creating a better world for women and girls! Donate Now

Connect With Us

Join us on Twitter and Facebook for regular updates on our member women's funds plus news about women and girls around the world.

Sign up for our daily news round up!

2010 Annual Report
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omen's Funding Network
Honor International Women's Day Today

Women Thrive Worldwide to Dick

thrive@womenthrive.org

Dear Dick,

Today marks the 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day. Right now, around the world, thousands of events are being held to recognize all the progress women have made over the years and inspire us to push for even more.

Please help us spread the word about this special day!

Tell a friend Tell the women in your life about International Women’s Day.

Facebook Sample status: Happy International Women’s Day! Celebrate women’s achievements around the world. Get involved at www.womenthrive.org/IWD

Twitter Happy International Women’s Day! Celebrate women’s achievements around the world. Get involved at www.womenthrive.org/IWD #IWD

Check out our photos from last week’s International Women’s Day Congressional breakfast focused on helping women to feed the world.

Today, Women Thrive Worldwide is hosting a joint American Jewish World Service and Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (MFAN) conference to address gender integration in effective development. And tomorrow, Ritu Sharma, Co-Founder and President of Women Thrive Worldwide, will be speaking at CARE's International Women's Day conference.

To do more this International Women’s Day, check out some of the great projects offered by our coalition partners.

Empower Women Economically

Join BeadforLife’s MARCH out of Poverty campaign, an effort to eradicate extreme poverty in Uganda. Women in Uganda work hard to roll beautiful bead jewelry out of recycled paper and harvest shea nuts to make shea butter. Women worldwide sell these items and educate themselves and others about extreme poverty. The profits return to Uganda and fund health care, housing and business training initiatives. The beads and shea butter become income, food, medicine, school fees and hope. Learn more about Bead for Life.

Support Single Moms

Join Project Single Moms for their National Advocacy Week March 28-April 2nd. Supporters around the country will be reaching out to their state and local legislators to educate them on the issues and needs of single mothers in America. Learn more about Project Single Moms.

Submit a Story
Put your hero on the map! Submit a story, poem, letter, or other creative expression to World Pulse and honor a woman hero in your life.
Tell World Pulse about a Hero Among Us.

Stand up for Peace
Reminder: join Women for Women International today on a bridge. This campaign calls on women and men around the world to stand together on bridges to demand equal rights for women. This year's campaign focuses on women in Afghanistan- their right to participate equally in their country's peace negotiations, to run for political office, and to earn an income to support their children and families. Join Women for Women International on a bridge today.

Please consider making a special donation to Women Thrive Worldwide today so that we can empower the future women leaders of the world.

Women Thrive Worldwide

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(202) 884-8396 • thrive@womenthrive.org • www.WomenThrive.org
1. WomenThriveWorldwide's Channel - YouTube
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Women Thrive Worldwide Promotional Spot 2011 ... Women Thrive Worldwide is the leading non-profit organization shaping U.S. policy to help women in ...
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In 1998, Ritu Sharma co-founded Women Thrive Worldwide with Elise Fiber Smith. Under Ritu’s leadership, Women Thrive Worldwide has put the concerns of ...
3. Women Thrive Worldwide | InterAction
www.interaction.org/organization/women-thrive-worldwideCached
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Women Thrive develops, shapes, and advocates for policies that foster ... in the belief that women are the key to ending global poverty, and empowering them is ...
UUSC is committed to women’s equality of all kinds — legal, social, political, and economic. Tomorrow on March 8, International Women’s Day, UUSC’s Shelley Moskowitz will deliver thousands of signatures from UUSC activists urging the United States to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). There’s still time to tell Congress to support CEDAW — send a message to your senators today!

Celebrating Women and Girls: Construction Engineers, Activists, Future Leaders

Women and girls are at the center of so much of UUSC’s work. This International Women’s Day — and every day — we honor their myriad accomplishments. Read about Mimine, the construction engineer who has led the building of an innovative eco-village in Haiti, a project of the Papaye Peasant Movement supported by UUSC. And, in a new set of Flickr photographs, meet more of the women and girls we work with around the world to advance women’s rights.